

## RAJYA SABHA

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### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Tuesday, February 06, 2018/ Magha 17, 1939 (Saka)

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### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS -

*Contd.*

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** I want to say that the Hon'ble President has not put forth the major issues. Communication of the justice should be given in the language of party seeking justice. This is very important. Language in the High Court should be the language which can be understood by both the parties. Tamil should be the official language in the High Court of Madras. Karnataka should release the Cauvery water at the earliest so that Tamil Nadu can survive as an entity. The Central Government should immediately take steps to release water and constitute the Cauvery Water Management Board and the Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee. There was no mention about the Sivakashi fireworks industry in the Address. Exemption should be given to the fireworks industry. The use of fireworks is deeply rooted in our culture. Many developed countries are using fireworks. The manufacturers of fireworks in Tamilnadu are using safe materials therein. Exemption will save the livelihood of firework manufacturers. Apart from this, issue of fishermen was also missing from the Address. Government of India should register it's objection against Sri Lankan Navy's belligerent actions. The International Maritime Boundary Limit is an issue, which is yet to be settled. It is a long pending issue. The

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\*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

President mentioned about health insurance sector but this is a Tamilnadu model. Mid-day meal was the pioneer scheme of Tamilnadu. Our state has reduced the number of dropouts. Our Chief Minister had started a scheme for electrification. Even remote villages of tribal areas are electrified. This scheme has made a good impact in Tamilnadu. This scheme is also followed by you. Now one more thing. The Hon'ble President has not mentioned the interlinking of the rivers. Godaveri, Krishna and Palar rivers has to be interlinked. Chennai is in need of additional trains for its suburbs but this issue was missing from the Address. Our former Chief Minister had done enormous work for the upliftment of women. She had given nine month's maternity leave apart from financial benefits. She introduced the Cradle Baby Scheme to save the abandoned girl babies. We are giving much protection to women. Our Public Distribution System is the best implemented systems. There was a mention about Food Security Act in the Hon'ble President's Address. But our state had introduced this Act foremost. Our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma started giving free rice. Her government started pension to the old age people. The Centre should enhance its share in this programme. We want more share from the Centre to take care of mentally challenged people. We have been asking for assistance for Ockhi Cyclone- hit areas. There are three companies for crop insurance but crop insurance fund has not been released. On account of this our farmers are suffering. NEET has already been mentioned here. We want the NEET abolished; it should go away from our State because there is one medical college in every district.

**SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:** Hon'ble President in his Address has talked at large about the issues related to cleanliness, women empowerment, agriculture, housing, economic growth, etc. As regards women empowerment, I would like to inform the House that Odisha Government is providing Rupees 5000/- to each pregnant woman under a scheme named 'Mamta' for mothers. Similarly, if we talk about poverty alleviation, the number of poor in Odisha has reduced by 24.6 per cent during the last decade. Odisha has accomplished the target of doubling the income of farmers. In

President's Address a mention has been made of record production of food grains in the country. In this regard, I would like to say that Odisha is the third biggest state in the country from the food grains procurement point of view. Odisha Government's target is to take electricity to all households by 2019. A mention has been made of contributions of tribal community in freedom movement of the country in the President's Address. I would like to inform the House in this regard that the Tribal Community of Odisha has also given lots of sacrifices in freedom movement. I would like to demand the Government that a Tribal Museum be constructed in Odisha in view of the contributions made by Tribals of the state. If we talk about roads, according to Ministry of Road Transport, Government of India, Odisha is ahead of all states in the country in implementing PMGSY. Besides, construction works of more than 500 important bridges have been completed under Biju Setu Yojna. Odisha Government is promoting sports. World Cup is going to be organized in Bhubneshwar this year itself. This is a matter of pride for us. In the field of employment, around 5 lakh youths have been connected with skill development. A 1300 Kilometer long new pipeline has been laid for the supply of drinking water which is benefiting 10 lakh people. Odisha is doing very good jobs in health sector also. 9 new medical colleges are being established. A commendable development has been achieved in education sector in Odisha. 160 model schools have been established for the children of rural areas of the state. Odisha is much ahead in implementing business reforms. Now, I would like to put forth before the house some such issues which needs action to be taken by Central Government. The foremost issue is related to Mahanadi issue. I demand the Government to constitute a tribunal to resolve the Mahanadi issue. The second issue relates to Polavaram Project. We are not against Polavaram Project, but this matter is connected to lakhs of those people who are affected by this. Further work on this project should commence only after arrangements are made to provide proper compensation to them.

**SHRI RAM CHANDRA PRASAD SINGH, making his maiden speech, said:** I am on my legs to speak in favour of the motion of thanks on President's Address presented by Hon'ble BJP President. First of all, I would like to extend thanks to the Prime Minister on behalf of my party. Recently, a human chain had been organized in Bihar on 21 January and the Prime Minister made a mention of it in his 'Man ki Baat'. I thank him a lot for this. The women of self-help group of Bihar said that unless people keep drinking in our homes, we cannot make development. Hon'ble Chief Minister implemented prohibition. This improved the law and order and incidents of domestic violence and cases of accidents came down. Prohibition should be implemented throughout the country. Unless people create an atmosphere of peace in their mind, our country cannot progress. People spent their money saved after prohibition in improving their standard of living. Now our Government has decided to stand with dowry prohibition. For the first time, heads of 10 countries of ASEAN came here on the occasion of Republic Day. First time, we have won in the International Court of Justice which got the mention in the President's Address also. Unless you improve your democratic position, nobody is going to pay heed to you abroad. Today, people give us importance everywhere. ISRO launched its 100th satellite and 104 satellites were launched at one point of time. We got the recognition due to the works of our scientists. Now we don't go to anybody with a begging bowl for foodgrains. The President mentioned about social democracy and economic democracy in his Address. Toilet is not only the toilet but it is a big medium to reduce inequality in the society. Toilet is a social change and social justice. It had a great impact on the society. People are attracted towards it and it is a very good scheme. Cleanliness Programme will be a big success throughout the country. This will bring a big change in the society. With regard to 'Ujjwala Yojana', the women of rural areas of the country feel that now they also have the gas connection, which is completely a clean fuel. It is a very big programme. When 8 crore families would be provided with gas connections, a very big impact would be visible in the society. Under rural electrification, a speedy work is going on in Bihar. Under

'Saubhagya Yojana' there 4 crore people would be provided with electric connections. This would have a suitable impact on the society. Concrete drains are being constructed in the rural areas. The Central Government should pay attention towards this also. There is 'Har Ghar Nal Jal Yojana' in Bihar which should be implemented throughout the country. It has been announced about the farmers that they would be provided one and half times MSP of their cost. It needs a complete change. A new agricultural policy needs to be framed wherein the farmers would be centrally focussed. An arrangement should be made for the farmers of the guarantee of minimum income per hectare. An arrangement of the guarantee of atleast Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 income should also be made per acre in one year. In the elections of 2005 in Bihar, the Central Government got the Bihar Assembly dissolved through Governor. The opposition alleged that there was no mention of Sardar Patel's name in President's Address. But these people remembered Sardar Patel in 1991 when they awarded him 'Bharat Ratna' at 25th place. There is only a nursery at Aurangzeb road on his name. I request the Government that a big memorial may be made at Aurangzeb road in Delhi of Sardar Patel. If Sardar Patel was there, Kashmir problem would not have been there. Had there not been Sardar Patel, then today there would have been 565 Kashmirs, not one. In 1990 Backward Commission was constituted. First time, Government has constituted a Commission wherein it is stated that most backwards amongst backwards would be provided their rights. We should not have the appeasement policy but the policy of empowerment. You thought that Shah Bano case should be made in such a way and lock of the disputed site should be opened that all would be happy. Once you open Pandora's Box, you don't know what would happen. All together should make such an atmosphere in the country that development for all can be done.

**SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA:** There is a lot, which needs to be done in this country. Only a beginning has been made in making what might be called a 'New India'. The *dalali* culture which once defined the political system has been thrown out today. This is not to say that political corruption has ended. This is only to say that today

India has made a certain stride forward in actually showing that we too can be law-abiding. Sir, demonetization exercise of November, 2016 was wrongly criticized by many distinguished economists. They did not look into one thing that a political economy is not defined by the GDP alone. There is also a factor called 'morality'. The most important thing about the demonetization which I think is that for the first time a system was in place whereby certain institutional obstacles were created for the generation of black money, the parallel economy. It is a fact that between November, 2016 to now, 1.8 million additional taxpayers have been added for direct taxes and it is that widening of the net today which has made it possible for people to actually believe that taxes can be brought down, and Sir, this is a very important point. A huge amount of 24,800 crores of undisclosed income has been unearthed, and I think, this is one of the biggest achievements. Today, this Government has introduced a culture whereby each paisa of the Government is accountable. It is a reality that Rs. 57,000 crore has been saved on account of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Why is it that we are not celebrating the fact that 2.3 crore fake ration cards and three crore fraudulent LPG connections have been unearthed? This is a saving of the people who have paid taxes. It is a culture of awareness. I would like to emphasise on a fact that we have today a political culture which is growing whereby people's money is treated as sacrosanct and people are taught that it helps to be compliant and this is helping to shape India's larger image.

**SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP:** Firstly, on behalf of my party I would like to thank Hon'ble President of India for delivering his Address in Hindi which will further promote Hindi language. The Address talked about holding simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Legislatives in the country. I do agree that ours is a big democratic country and holding elections at regular intervals is very expensive and it consumes much time and resources. There is no doubt that it affects development badly. Keeping in mind the different tenure of the various State Assemblies, I would suggest that all the opposition parties be taken in to confidence in this regard. So far as the issue of *Triple Talaq* is concerned, I too want that this bill be passed at the earliest, but all the doubts regarding the provision of

punishment be removed at the first instance. The country has progressed a lot since independence and this Government has made its contribution in it, but our challenges and problems have increased side by side. We have made progress in education sector but declining standard of education and growing impatience and indiscipline among students is a matter of great concern. We all have witnessed many incidents in the recent past which corroborate this concern. Ours farmers are facing numerous problems like, expensive fertilizers, seeds, diesel, pesticides, blue bull, etc. and they are also not financially strong enough. This Government has promised to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 and I do wish so, but the Economic Survey says that the financial conditions of farmers has been stable for the last three years. The Government should look into the reports of crops being infected by cancer and extensive research be done in this regard. We need more plantation for curbing ever increasing pollution, particularly in Delhi. The problems of adulteration be dealt with sternly as it is affecting our health badly. I congratulate the Government for conferring the constitutional status to the OBC commission at the Centre and at the same time, I would demand reservation in parliament and State Assemblies for OBC people.

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**Desh Deepak Verma,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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\*\*\*Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.