

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, February 07, 2018/ Magha 18, 1939 (Saka)

WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rule 255 talks of withdrawal of Member: “The Chairman may direct any member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately from the Council and any member so ordered to withdraw shall do so forthwith and shall absent himself during the remainder of the day’s meeting.” Dr. Ramachandra Rao, I am invoking Rule 255 and also directing you to please conduct yourself by going back to your seat or withdraw from the House immediately.

DISPENSING WITH QUESTION HOUR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, normally, I am not in favour of doing away with the Question Hour because it is the Members’ right but in this particular situation where the House is in agreement to do away with the Question Hour and take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President’s Address, I am accepting it.

Everybody should stick to the time that is allotted to them and their parties, and, there is no question of further extending the time. Let me make it very clear because as per the schedule, the Prime

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

Minister will come and reply to the debate in the House. Please keep this in mind and adhere to the time that is given to all of you.

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Deteriorating Security Situation in Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: There must be detailed discussion on the deteriorating situation of Jammu & Kashmir. The situation of Jammu & Kashmir has gone from bad to worse but the Government has not been admitting the same. It is very unfortunate that one militant of Pakistan origin was freed by some other militants yesterday from the hospital which is situated in the heart of the city. This incident not only reflects Government's functioning, but also it is not good for the country. It should be kept in the mind that this kind of incident does not recur in future. I express my deep sorrow for the two constables who were killed in this incident.

SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: I am associating myself with the incident because it is demoralising our security forces, and the people of Kashmir are tired of the same and we have to create a situation where the Kashmiri Pandits could go back.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Issue of Involvement of a Former Union Minister in the 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots in Delhi as revealed in Recent Sting Operation by a News Channel

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Before 34 years, Sikhs were massacred but no justice have been provided to them so far. I would like to submit a new evidence in this regard. A person confessed that he had killed 100 sikhs. One man cannot kill 100 sikhs without others' help. It should be investigated into. He confessed that he was instrumental in according bail to Mr. Sajjan Kumar otherwise it would not have been possible. In Delhi, more than 5000 Sikhs were killed and it continued for three days, but neither the police nor the army was called. You are not ready to listen even to the confession.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need to eliminate Manual Scavenging in the Country

SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Even after more than seventy years, many dry latrines still exist in the country and more than 7 lakhs of those latrines are manually serviced. The people, engaged in this particular profession, are from poor and disadvantaged sections. Although there is a legislation to look after the interests of this particular section of people, but action taken in this regard, has not been adequate. It is needed to bring in stricter laws to see that these people are properly identified. More than 400 people have died due to manual scavenging in the last 3-4 years, but not a single person has been punished. We need to amend law and provide a comprehensive rehabilitation package for these manual scavengers.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Deteriorating Condition of the Real Estate Sector

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: In the recent past, the real state was on the boom. Laws were enacted in this regard and prices of the real estates have been considerably reduced. Earlier the State Governments used to increase circle rate for stamp duty. People used to pay stamp duty as per circle rate but used to make purchasing as per actual rate. Now, this is against the Income Tax law. As per the law, no purchasing will be carried out below circle rate. This has created a lot of problems for the farmers. They are not able to sell their agricultural land. The Government is not going to help them in case of emergency because this Government is anti-farmers. It is a major problem before the country. Many farmers of the country have said this and it is equally true. Hence, Government should find out a solution to this problem. The Government should make a statement in the House in this regard.

(Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo and Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad associated.)

5. Concern over Quality of Education in the Country

SHRI HARIVANSH: Human civilization has attained this height due to knowledge and education. As per the National Achievement Survey of the Ministry of HRD conducted in 1.1 lakhs schools of the country, knowledge of subjects like Mathematics and language is going down. As per the annual Status of Education Report, 2017 around 14 per cent rural students fail to recognise India's map, 36 per cent students fail to tell capital of India, 21 per cent students do not know the name of their states. As per a survey by Narcotics Bureau, 12 per cent of children below 15 years, are taking drugs. This issue is above party politics. Hence, I urge the Government to take some concrete and time-bound steps in this regard.

(Shri Husain Dalwai, Shri Ravi Prakash Verma and Shrimati Kahkashan Perween associated.)

6. Pathetic Condition of Cooks Employed in Government Schools

SHRIMATI SAMPATIYA UIKEY: I come from a remote area. I would like to mention that economic condition of cooks, engaged in mid-day meals of schools, is very pathetic. NGO's extend their help in serving food to children in major cities whereas cooks render their services for the same in rural areas. In view of the above, I request the Government to increase honorarium for the cooks.

(Smt. Chhaya Verma, Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra and Shri Alok Tiwari associated.)

7. Need to declare the Birthdays of Swami Vivekananda and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as National Holidays

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Today, I would like to say something on Swami Vivekananda ji and Shri Subhash Chandra Bose ji. We cannot forget their contribution as both are the great sons of India who have brought glory to the country. I would like to put forward two demands before the Government. Birthdays of these great sons of India should be declared as national holidays, and Information

about them should be published in books to enlighten the future generations about these great people.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Need to withdraw the Increased Excise Duties on Petrol and Diesel

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Unprecedented price rise of petrol and diesel is putting more and more burden on the people. In many cities, petrol prices have touched Rs.80/-. So, I demand the Government to withdraw the excise duties which have been imposed since 2014 and urge to take steps to regulate the prices of petrol and diesel and withdraw the deregulation regime.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Concern over Deaths and Destruction due to Underground Fire in Koyalanchal, Jharkhand

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: The incident of underground fire in Koyalanchal and consequent land slide is not unique in nature. Such incidents, occurred at Indira Chowk, Sandvadeedh and Kendvadeedh, took many lives. Hundreds of people have died and have been displaced. The situation has turned from bad to worse due to absence of a solid policy and rampant corruption in BCCL and collusion of its officers with criminals, contractors and mafias. People living in such danger zones should be shifted to safer places. I demand that families of people, who have died in such incidents, should be compensated and provided jobs.

10. Need to pass the Women Reservation Bill for Empowerment of Women

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: I would like to raise a very important subject. 50 per cent of population of the country constitute women of the country. They need to be given reservation in Lok Sabha. As of now, only 11 per cent women have found place in Parliament. India stands at 149th place in terms of women representation as per an estimate of United Nations which is much

below compared to the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan. Hence, I request that the women should be given 33 per cent reservation and decision to this effect be taken before 8th of March, 2018.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Problem being faced by Businessmen due to sealing of Commercial Establishments in Delhi

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Emergency-like situation has arisen due to on-going ceiling drive in NCT, Delhi. Such ceiling drive has not only affected around seven lakhs businessmen of Kasturba Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Chawdi Bazaar and Gandhi Nagar but workers employed in shops, labourers, rickshaw pullers and adjoining shops are equally affected. Traders are being harassed despite depositing conversion charges. Hence, I request the Government to bring an important Bill in this House in this regard and such ceiling drive should be stopped in the interest of the traders of Delhi.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Need to recognise Doctor of Pharmacy Graduates as Medical Practitioners

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Doctor of Pharmacy is a six-year doctoral course which was introduced in India in 2008 by the Pharmacy Council of India. The objective of the Doctor of Pharmacy is to provide rationalized therapy to the patients and improve the quality of therapy and patient's life. Initially, the course should have been recognized by the Medical Council of India and not the Pharmacy Council of India. I request the hon. Minister of Health & Family Welfare to recognize Pharm.D. graduates as Clinical Pharmacists for better future of about 20,000 Pharma.D. graduates and students. As many MBBS doctors are not willing to go to the rural areas and serve the patients, these Pharma.D. graduates can be sent there and asked to serve in the rural areas and can be conferred with the MBBS degree after completion of the fixed tenure.

13. Concern over Missing Oil Tanker with 22 Indian Sailors at the Coast of Benin, West African country

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Even after five days of the missing of oil tanker with 22 Indian sailors on board, there is no trace of this merchant ship which lost its contact at Benin, West Africa. No contact has been established with the vessel so far and there have been no reports of a ransom call. It is suspected whether the Marine Express carrying 13,500 tonne of gasoline may have been hijacked by pirates in the pirate-infested Gulf of Guinea. I request the Government of India to take up the matter very seriously with the authorities in Nigeria and Benin and to closely monitor the situation and get in touch with their counterparts in Nigeria. International authorities like International Maritime Bureau's Anti Piracy Reporting Centre should also be involved to find out the fate of the vessel and to ensure the safety of Indian crew members. I request the Government to extend all help in this regard and make a statement on this issue in Parliament at the earliest.

14. Need to make Tamil as Official Language of the Madras High Court

SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: I wish to speak about a very important issue. Recently, the Central Government through the Law Ministry, rejected the demand of Tamil Nadu for using our own language, Tamil in the Madras High Court proceedings as an Official Language. The Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution and forwarded it for the approval of the hon. President but the Ministry of Law and Justice stated that the Supreme Court has decided not to accede to the proposal. Article 348, clause (2) clearly states that the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of Hindi language, or any other language used for any official purposes of the State, in proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State. Despite being the first language of the world, Tamil is considered to be inferior to any other language of the world. It is an insult not only to the Tamil people, but also to the whole country because Singapore and Sri

Lanka allow their citizens to use Tamil as official language. Therefore, I would request the Government to reconsider the Resolution sent by the Tamil Nadu State Legislative Assembly and do justice to the Tamil people.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Need to list the SC/ST Reservation (Post and Services) Bill, 2008 in the Current Session

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Many Bills relating to the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes are pending in Parliament. SC/ST Reservation (Post and Services) Bill, 2008 is pending in Lok Sabha for the last four years. SC/ST Reservation in Promotion Bill and Bill relating to curbing manual scavenging is also pending. Hence, I request the Government to give priority for early passage of such Bills.

(Shri Husain Dalwai, Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo and Smt. Chhaya Verma associated.)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS -
Contd.

SHRI R.S. BHARATHI: Though I thank the President for the Address, I would point out that the State of Tamil Nadu has been totally neglected therein. In Tamil Nadu, the farmers of delta area are fighting to get water for decades and the State Government as well as the opposition has been consistently requesting to the Central Government for the same but till now, no concrete steps have been taken in this regard and it has also not been mentioned in the President's Address. For decades, we have been enjoying reservations which have been now struck down in the NEET examination imposed by the Central Government. I request the Honourable President to sign the Resolution passed by the State Government. I request the Central Government to kindly waive the farmer loans and bring water to delta areas. Regarding Triple Talaq, it has been mentioned in the President's

Address that the women folk are very much happy about it. But, So many associations of the Muslim community are protesting against this. Government is interested about the women of the Muslim community only. What about the entire women community? The Bill about women reservation was unanimously passed in this House, but the Lok Sabha has still not passed it. What is the reason?

SHRI AHMED PATEL: The proposer of Motion of Thanks to the President's Address told that all was fine and all was intact but in my opinion every thing is not well and every thing is not intact too. Instead there is a feeling of insecurity in every sector in the country. Today, the condition of the farmers is pitiable in Gujarat itself. The Narmada River is dying. If Government is honest, why is RTI being opposed and why is the Lokpal Bill not being brought. Much has been said about 'Ujjwala Scheme' but it has to be surveyed as to how many people are utilizing the connections out of the total connections which have been provided under this scheme. Tall promises have been made by the Ministry of Transport. But if the separate data of newly constructed roads and those of repaired roads are collected, it will be ascertained that the length of newly constructed roads is very low as being claimed. Insurance scheme is also not going to benefit the farmers and the patients. Fewer Kilometers of roads have been constructed under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana' by this Government in comparison of the erstwhile Government. In the construction of National Highways also, the roads could not be constructed as per the targets under the reign of this Government. The Government should leave arrogance and be tolerant. What is the condition of the farmers and labourers today. Everybody is upset. They thought that this budget will be a populist budget but it has turned flopped. Now they are again in tension. You have lost Rajasthan and some other states. Why are you not conducting by-elections in Uttar Pradesh. You do not want this government to become government in minority. I will reiterate all is not well.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): We should see what works have been done in our government and what was done in their

government. The then President mentioned the prevailing situations and the present President mentioned the truth. The foremost thing is the ease of living for the common man. Vendors used to take money at the higher rate of interest. But today they are getting money at only 8 to 10 per cent under MUDRA. The situation of load shedding in Hazaribagh, which was given by you, has been rectified. We, today have surplus electricity. They are constructing pucca houses with facility of toilets. Hazaribagh city is now become ODF. We have provided insurance cover to them. It is not limited to pakorewalas. It covers every vendor. There have been many people who argue that the middle-class is getting the benefits of the programmes. We have extended the maternity leave. Today it takes only thirty minutes to reach Gurugram due to flyovers and national highways. Today the middle-class is benefiting from inflation rates of 3 or 4 per cent. Earlier it was at 8 or 10 per cent. If you look at taxes, if you ask about what are the benefits we provided to the middle-class, the slab has gone from Rs. 2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs; the home loan deduction has gone to Rs. 2 lakhs. The lowest tax rate has gone from 10 per cent to five per cent. We have put an end to the black economy. People have been provided with bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojna. Old age pensions are being deposited directly in their accounts. They are getting the benefits of gas cylinders directly. 82 per cent villages have been covered today under PMGSY. We have given more financial powers to the Panchayats to take up petty matters. We are constantly developing with the help of all.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Nothing has been mentioned in the Address regarding Uttar Pradesh. This is a matter of concern. With constant ignorance of such a big state, you can make some parts of the country prosperous but not whole of the country. Today farmers are committing suicides in Uttar Pradesh. Their potato crop has been ruined. Demonetisation has left no money with the people. Small business is at the verge of closure as you have allowed hundred per cent FDI in retail sector. As of now, 85 per cent houses in Bihar and 71 per cent households in Uttar Pradesh do not have electricity. Crore of rupees have been spent but Ganga is still dirty. Chambal and Betwa rivers originate from the hills and passes through

the areas which are away from the cities so they have clean water. Yamuna water is dirty. You have made a ministry but nothing has been done. It is very essential to clean the rivers. If there will be no mining in these rivers, they will dry up. No work is being done in the name of cleaning. I am compelled to say that in Uttar Pradesh encounters took place at a large scale, 23 encounters in a day. These encounters were carried on the very next day, the new DGP took over the charge. A Gym trainer youth was shot at while there was no criminal case registered against him. This is the situation. 23 people were shot at from Sharanpur to Balia. A complete anarchy has taken place. The position of unemployment is such that people with Engineering, MBA and P.hd degrees are applying for the post of sweepers. The Central Government had made 1 lakh 13 thousand appointments in 2013. In 2015, only 8 thousand appointments have been made. They had said in their manifesto that we will provide jobs to 2 crore people every year. But, the Seventh Pay Commission recommended that no further appointments will be made in the Class III and Class IV category and the vacant posts would be abolished. There is a big menace with NPA. A fear has taken place in the minds of people that if they keep their money in banks, there is no guarantee for its security. If the bank is likely to be bankrupt, it will confiscate all your money. They had said that they will provide one and half time more of MSP. We want to tell it that they have changed the formula of CACP and said that we have increased MSP by one and half time.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I stand here to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address on behalf of my party. I thought the BJP President was making a maiden speech here and he would rise above politics, but he ended up doing another election maiden speech. I would talk about five schemes. On women, I would talk pointedly about the scheme 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. The numbers on 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme are very interesting. For the scheme, Rs. 280 crores have been allotted this year for the whole country. About 70,000 to one lakh women die every year because of cervical cancer. Why hasn't this Government addressed this issue? It is because the RSS's economic wing wrote to the Health Ministry saying that this should not be done. Now, I am moving on to

health. You have announced Rs.2,000 crore for the NHPS. This is a flawed scheme. These schemes don't work; they are just announcements. As regards agriculture, The BJP Manifesto said in 2014 that they would double farmers' income. The BJP will make it happen in 2022; the Trinamool made it happen in six years, from 2011 to 2016. Now, I come to the President's Address and irrigation. Water is a very major issue. Forty-five per cent of the farm land is not irrigated and yet what we do we put Rs.300 crore for irrigation. If you calculate, it will take you 96 years beyond 2022 to reach your target. On jobs, two in hundred people, who have registered, had got jobs. Now, I come to Swachh Bharat. My colleague made a very nice point today about the manual scavengers. This is the reality of this programme. The first speaker of BJP talked about Police modernization. In 2014, modernization of Police force got Rs.1,600 crore, then, in 2015, got Rs.1,400 crore. This year it is zero. This Government talks about federalism. Thirty-nine major Centrally-funded schemes have been withdrawn. In 658 important schemes, the State contribution has been increased and that of the Central Government has gone down.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: With due respect to the hon. President, I would like to say that the President's speech has the same rhetoric that is being repeated by the hon. Prime Minister and his team during the last few years. They are offering a lot many things but they are delivering nothing. This Government is about to complete four years in office. It is the right time to review the promises that they had made. The slogans like 'good days' and 'sabka saath, sabka vikas' are missing in the President's Address. They have got a lot many PM Yojanas. These Yojanas have delivered nothing. It is good if they are providing eight crore LPG connections to the poor, but, at the same time, during the last 17 months, the price of LPG cylinder has already been increased by Rs.77. In such circumstances, how can the poor afford to purchase the LPG cylinder? Nothing has come out about Black money, Panama Papers and Paradise Papers. During demonetization, they allowed the black-money holders to convert the black money into white. They are allowing certain companies, like Paytm, to make super profits through digital transactions.

Unfortunately, the income of the farmers has not doubled but the number of suicides has doubled.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Not even once it was mentioned in President's Address that what Government is doing for Dalits, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes or proposing to do. This reflects the attitude of the Government towards Dalits, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in the Address. Unless Government brings its schemes for Dalits, and stops atrocities towards them, they can not be uplifted. The people those who were already having employments have also been curbed. The Government stated that the posts vacant for the last 5 years would be abolished. The Public Sector Organisations are slowly being pushed towards privatisation. The Government is trying to abolish the employment provided to Backward Class, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes by many ways. The Government have promoted contractors through privatisation. There is Backlog of Lakhs of posts in the country. The Government is working towards abolishing the posts instead of filling them. The Government is forcing the educated youth to sell 'Pakorras' instead of providing them employment. On hand other countries are reaching upto Moon and Sun, on the other hand we are taking the country to archival time. The Government has no right to talk about women's benefits. Jan-Dhan Yojana is also mentioned in President's Address. There are only two rupees in every account and you are professing it as a very big achievement. The Government is working towards snatching money from them. The farmers' condition is getting bad to worse. Potatoes are being thrown on the roads. Today, Women, Dalits and Farmers are being harassed. If anyone is protesting, he is threatened to be killed. Now all the people of the country have seen your true face and they have recognised it.

SHRI D. RAJA: This Government has been working against the political democracy. It has already deepened the social and economic inequalities. Emergence of a surveillance State is threatening the rights of people. I appeal to all political parties to think over it. The nation is passing through a very critical period. There are crises in economic, political, social and cultural life. The Parliament is

there, but the Parliament's powers are being curtailed. As though the Opposition does not want Triple Talaq. You are making that issue as a big issue. The Parliament should have a legislative scrutiny of the legislation. The Parliament is undermined by not referring Bills to the Standing Committees. It is 'Maximum Government, minimum Parliament'. That is what is happening. I represent people who live in abject poverty. I would like to ask about the share of the working people in the nation's wealth, who build the industries, who work in industries, who cultivate land and produce the paddy or wheat or anything. While the number of billionaires has increased, the number of people living below the poverty line is also increasing. I unable to understand how this Government is working in the interest of Dalits. Is it not a fact that the attacks on Dalits, Adivasis and Minorities are increasing in the country. The Government can make tall claims but, I would ask, is this the 'New India'. We will have to think over. Sedition charges are slapped on student activists and universities are tense in our country. On the one side, Parliament's powers are curtailed, while on the other side, there is attack on intellectuals, artistes, journalists and those who question the Government and criticize the Government. Can we allow fascism to emerge in this country? This is an unprecedented and extraordinary situation. This Government claims it is pro-working class. But, I want to know the decision of the Government regarding National Minimum Wage. Disinvestment of strategic public sector undertakings, FDI in retail trade and FDI in defence production is not in the interest of the country. This Government has been breaking all the strong fundamentals of our economy, I do not think the President's Address recognises the prevailing crisis in our country.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, Hon'ble President should not have compared Deendayal Upadhyaya with Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar strongly believed in the Constitution, I would like to know whether Deendayal Upadhyaya had got the same belief in the Constitution. This Government often uses some catchy slogans, but the fact is that there is no governance in BJP ruled States. There is no mention of increasing incidents of barbaric rapes in the country in the President's Address. It has been

alleged that we had opposed the National Commission for the Backward Classes Bill, but if the Government is serious in this regard, they should move an amendment to the Bill in this House, to include five members from the OBC, one woman member from the OBC and one member from the religious minority community. Actually, they opposed the spirit of representation in the Commission. The President's Address mentioned about the irrigation projects. Sir, they have mentioned that 99 irrigation projects are in progress. People of northern Karnataka are seriously affected and they are facing serious drinking water problem. If the Government believe in sab ka saath sab ka vikas, the Prime Minister should immediately intervene and get the due share of water from Goa to Karnataka. Bangalore is third largest airport in the country. If we compare Shri Narendra Modi's model in Gujarat and the Congress model in Karnataka, in the field of education, Gujarat ranks twentieth among 21st major States and likewise, in the field of the healthcare, twenty-seven out of thirty districts in Karnataka have got a medical college, and so far as private medical colleges are concerned, we have six major medical colleges. What is the status of Mr. Narendra Modi's model in Gujarat? The south Indian people are peace-loving, so don't try to disturb the State.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: I want to speak about the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections. Parliamentary democracy does not only give the fixed term to the Parliament Houses and to State Legislatures; Parliamentary democracy also makes the Government accountable to these elected Houses every minute of their stay in the Government. Parliament does not have even the right to alter the basic structure of the Constitution. I fail to understand as to how such a blatantly unconstitutional idea is gaining currency. I would also like to submit that How will it function in a federal structure where every State has a fixed term? Does the Government want to say that there will be no accountability so far as the States are concerned? I think, the Government is prioritizing stability over democratic principles which is not a good thing. The local issues will not be given due importance. This is a danger to the democracy. I believe this is destructive of the concept that Union and States are equal. This is mindlessly an idea which is brought in for being able to stay in power

and it will also end up only in multiplying the influence of money power and neither of this is good for the nation.

SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: I am thoroughly disappointed with the Address of the President. The President's Address should reflect the realities in the country. There is no reference to our relations with Pakistan and China. The standoff on Doklam, there is no reference. There is no reference to daily casualties of our Armed Forces suffered at Line of Actual Control. There is no reference to the alarming situation in J&K. The Free Trade Agreement signed with ASEAN countries is actually ruining our domestic cultivators and cash crops. There is no remunerative price for our domestic products. Further, there is a proposal for a new treaty, RCEP, involving Japan, China, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and India. For a new treaty, we have to be very cautious because that may ruin our agriculture and the cultivators. All agriculturists are deserting cultivation because it is not profitable. Rehabilitation of Ockhi victims is a must. The Central Government has to come with a package to help these poor fishermen. This is actually a national calamity. There is no reference in the President's Speech regarding the prevailing atmosphere in the country. Attacks are rising on freedom of speech and expression. The Government has to put down this violence and intolerance with an iron hand. Democracy was killed brutally in Manipur and Goa. Democracy should be preserved in this country at any cost and federalism should be preserved. The States should be given their dues. All the cash crop growers in Kerala in distress because of wrong import policy of the Government.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: The Congress is the only party which played an important role in the struggle for the freedom. Nehru Ji started the parliamentary democracy in this country. Baba Sahib Ambedkar started writing the Constitution under the Constituent Assembly in the Parliament. When Ambedkar Ji started writing the Constitution, then they provided the voting rights to all, including the women. Nehru Ji tried to initiate construction of new India. Indira Ji took several decisions including nationalization of the banks. Rajiv Gandhi provided 33 per cent reservation to the women through 73rd

constitutional amendment. Rajiv Gandhi led us to the 21st century. He provided the voting rights to children aged 18 years. The Right to Information, Food Security Act, MGNAREGA, 33 per cent reservation, all these were brought about by the Man Mohan Singh Ji and at the request of Sonia Ji, bill related to 33 per cent reservation to the women was passed in the Rajya Sabha. It is being said that we did not do anything for 60 years. The largest tunnel in India, which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, that tunnel came up during UPA Government. If Congress did not do anything in 60 years, then what you did in the period of three and half years, we could not do that. It was stated that a decision has been taken to provide one and half time MSP to the farmers. In this regard, the report of the Dr. Swaminathan, is required to be implemented. In my State, i.e. Maharashtra 13 thousand people have committed suicide during the last three and half years. To double the income of the farmers, first, loan waivers should be done, and secondly appropriate provision for the same should be made. It was assured that 2 crores jobs will be created; however efforts have not been made to provide jobs to even 2 lakhs persons during approximately three and half years.

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Hon'ble President has discussed various subjects in his speech; however the major issue that has emerged, is protecting the democracy. The democracy is in danger now. Four respected judges of the Supreme Court have collectively stated that democracy in the county is in danger, the democracy in India, needs to be protected. This country has not gained the independence through a sacrifice of fake nationalist. Several people have sacrificed their lives for its independence. Currently a democratically elected Government is not being allowed to run. India won't move forward on the basis of hatred. It will move ahead on the basis of love. Don't try to suppress the voice of the common men. If India needs to move ahead in real sense, then homeless people should be accommodated. If we talk about hatred in this country, then I am sorry to say that democracy is being suppressed in this way. An elected Government is there in Delhi. The Chief Minister of that elected Government is Shri Arvind Kejriwal. What is our fault, if we are trying to run an elected Government in good manner? The whole

country is looking at you. Don't try to spoil it. Democracy needs to be protected. If this Government is not allowing to run an elected Government, then it means that we don't believe in democracy at all. This Government made big promises in its manifesto; however those promises have not been fulfilled. First, demonetization was introduced for the traders, then GST, then 100 per cent FDI in retail was introduced, and now their remaining shops are being sealed. This Government has harassed the elected Government of the Aam Aadmi Party and its representatives. You are not allowing an elected Government to run in Delhi. You got the membership of our 20 MLAs annulled, on naming them as Parliamentary Secretary, whereas nothing happened in other States. You killed the democracy. You are working towards eliminating the democratic institutions. We are working in the interest of the public and will continue to do so. Try to understand the pain of the poor people in this country. It is the country of Lohia, Gandhi, and J. P. Even after 70 years, the people are dying of hunger. The people in the country are dying due to hunger and poverty and tall claims are being made. A mention is made with regard to Mudra loan to youth; however you have distributed loans amounting to crores to the large industrialists. They want to break the country, the democracy is in danger now. We will expose every scam and corruption. We won't let suppress the voice of common men. We will fight against the anarchy being imposed in this country.

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