

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 / Chaitra 02, 1943 (Saka)

Tributes to Martyrs Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today, that is, the 23rd of March, 2021, is the 90th anniversary of the martyrdom of the legendary heroes of our freedom struggle, Sardar Bhagat Singh, Shri Rajguru and Shri Sukhdev, who laid down their lives on this day in the year 1931, displaying great valour, undaunted courage and exemplary patriotism towards our motherland.

These martyrs not only strived to free our nation from the clutches of colonial rule but also envisioned a just and equal society devoid of communalism, hatred, economic disparity and retrogressive ideas. The trio have become household names in our country as shining beacons of selfless sacrifice and patriotism. The ideas and values they stood for have inspired all of us and will continue to inspire the generations to come. On this occasion, let us resolve to uphold the cherished values. These martyrs lived and laid down their lives for the cause of the nation.

(One minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs.)

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

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need for Better Handling of Covid-19 Related Bio-Medical Waste

DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Post the Covid-19 outbreak, the disposal of Covid-19 related bio-medical waste has become a threat. Cities where Covid-19 cases are higher in numbers, face a problem of contaminated personal protection equipment like PPE, masks, gloves etc.. The direct impact this bio-medical waste has on the air, water, soil and animals, cannot be overlooked. In fact, the unscientific disposal of Covid-19 bio-medical waste by corporations and private contractors is worrisome. The safety guidelines are hardly followed. Failing to tackle this bio-medical waste is likely to increase environmental and public health risk. So, I request the Government to take immediate steps to implement proper techniques for Covid-related biomedical waste management and bring in systemic participation of the recycling industry so that relevant authorities can improve the operational practices of the entire bio-medical waste management landscape.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Need for Proper Implementation of Benefits under the Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for Minorities

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: If the Prime Minister's 15-point programme for minorities had been properly implemented, people could have risen above the poverty line. One of the points of this programme is that state governments have to earmark 15 per cent of Indira housing to minorities, but this is not happening in many states. The government should instruct the state governments to allocate budget for minorities proportionate to their population. Also, many states do not have a Minorities Commission, so a Minorities Commission should be constituted there. In addition, the Chief Secretary of that state should be instructed to review this 15-point programme every three months, so that the development work can be done well.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need to start a Direct Train from Amritsar to Ayodhya

SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Shri Ayodhya Ji and Shri Amritsar Sahib are two big world famous religious cities. Today the construction work of a grand temple of Shri Ram is going on at Shri Ayodhya Ji, as all Indians have great reverence for Shri Ram. Shri Amritsar Sahib was established by Guru Ramdas Ji. There is the world famous Shri Harmandir Sahib, Shri Durgiana Temple, Shri Jallianwala Bagh, the great place of martyrs at Shri Amritsar Sahib. Along with this, there are Shri Valmiki Shrine and many other world famous sites there. About three lakh people visit Shri Amritsar Sahib daily. Therefore, I demand from the Government to start a train between Shri Ayodhya Ji and Shri Amritsar Sahib, so that people can visit these two religious places.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Need to Establish a Consulate in Mizoram for Myanmar and Bangladesh

SHRI K. VANLALVENA: I would like to mention that during the British Administration, whenever we went to Kolkata from Mizoram, we used to go, via., Chittagong through this Khawthlangtuipui River. However, since 1947, this waterway has been blocked. And, the Union Government is preparing to open trade centre here. This will be very helpful for the people of the North Eastern region. We have 318 km. long boundary line with Bangladesh. About 60 per cent of this boundary line is river and this boundary line has been blocked to enter Bangladesh. Whenever we go down to Bangladesh or to Myanmar, we have to first go to Kolkata because there is no consulate office in our State. So it is difficult to go to Myanmar and Bangladesh. Therefore, I request the government to establish a trade centre and a consulate office in our State.

(Shri Subhash Chandra Singh, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti associated.)

5. Need to keep in Abeyance the Implementation of Prevention of Anti-Social Activities (PASA) Regulations in Lakshadweep

DR. L. HANUMANTHAI: Lakshadweep is a small and beautiful Union Territory. It has a population of around 70,000 only and the crime rate in that territory is very low. With regard to the implementation of the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act, (PASA), a notification has been issued on 28.01.2021 asking for the opinion of the people of Lakshadweep. The implementation of the PASA Act would amount to violation of principles of natural justice and it would also amount to the infringement of the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India. As the existing laws are more than sufficient to deal with the crimes and not very serious crimes have been reported so far, therefore, the proposed PASA Act is unwarranted in a peaceful territory like Lakshadweep. Therefore, I request the Government of India to keep it in abeyance.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Need to support the Resolution of Sri Lankan Tamils at the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) in Geneva

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: We urge the Government of India to instruct our Indian Delegation to vote in favour of the Resolution of UNHRC in Geneva, asking for an inquiry into the crimes committed against minority Sri Lankan Tamils in Sri Lanka in the past and in the present. Unless we vote against the crimes meted out on the innocent Sri Lankan Tamil people, we cannot ensure their fundamental rights now as well as in the future. It is not for Tamils alone that we are voicing our support. It is more than a issue of one's race. It is an issue of justice and peace. When we support the human rights of people in other countries like Palestine, we have a duty to support the cause of the Tamil population of Sri Lanka also. It is our moral duty and responsibility towards establishing permanent solution for peace because a warlike situation in any place of the world threatens the peace of the whole world. We can establish peace only through justice. Hence, I urge the Government of India to be with the side of the Sri Lankan Tamil people who are longing for justice.

(Shri S.R. Balasubramoniyam, Shri T.K.S. Elangovan, Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Subhash Chandra Singh associated.)

7. Plight of Manual Scavengers

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: As regards the plight of manual scavengers, we have raised this issue many times. But, there has not been much improvement. Officially, 50 deaths were reported earlier. Non-officially, death toll is a lot more. It is a pity that today we are still talking about deaths of manual scavengers. We have not yet been able to provide them protective gears and we have not done away with manual scavenging. It is an embarrassment for the country. A member had brought up a Private Member's Bill. But, there has been no response. We need a response. The Government should rehabilitate these scavengers. Societies discriminate against them. These people need dignity. And, all people, especially the contractors, who do not provide them proper protective gear, need to be punished. I think some kind of response should come from the Government that has launched Swachh Bharat.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Need to Recognise the Rights of Women Farmers of the Country

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: I want to raise the issue of women farmers who continue to be invisible, neglected, discriminated and engaged in difficult working conditions in agriculture. Recently, women farmers demanded that the Government recognize them and uphold their rights. Their demands have to be addressed both at the policy level as well as at the implementation level. Currently, we have about fifteen crore women farmers engaged in various agricultural activities. Many of them are widow farmers whose husbands had committed suicide. It is, therefore, very essential that the women farmers have to be recognized officially. The Oxfam Report says that the agriculture sector employs 80 per cent of all economically active women in India. But, only 13 per cent have land rights. The entire data set of census operations identifies farmers as per their land holdings

and that is the crux of the problem. Therefore, I demand that we must fix a definition of farmer that includes all these activities like a joint registration of land, a registry of women farmers, equal access to credit, better access to technologies and quality seeds.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Phasing out of non-medical teachers in Medical Colleges

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: I wish to draw the attention of this august House to the problem which is being created with regard to the Masters of Science Teachers in medical colleges. Non-medical teachers, after having served medical colleges for decades, are suddenly being removed. That is being done in the middle of pandemic, when we need all hands on the deck. Non-medical teachers have already been reduced by 50 per cent. This is a serious issue not only in respect of teachers, but also for imparting education to medical students when even student services may be required if the pandemic continues to reoccur. I do not know what has gone wrong that without formulating a policy, we thought of removing Non-medical teachers to the extent of almost 50 per cent. I hope the Government will take serious note of this and come out with a policy.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Decision to close down 125 Years old Sambalpur Road Railway Station in Odisha

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Today is the day when 100 years before Mahatma Gandhi first visited Odisha, and in Odisha, he could visualize the poverty of the whole country. The Sambalpur Railway Station is a century old railway station and bears the memory of Gandhiji's visit to Sambalpur. Sambalpur was an important centre of administration since the British time. This station came up full-fledged in 1895 and continued since then. It is also giving good revenue to the Railways. But, the Railways has decided to permanently close down it. I would request the Government to reconsider the decision and allow the Sambalpur Railway Station to continue further.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

**11. Need for Renovation and Conservation of Gadakhai Heritage
Project under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for
Small and Medium Town (UIDSSMT) in Cuttack district
of Odisha**

***SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH:** Barabati fort, built in 11th century, is our proud heritage. Today, it represents our glory of thousand years. An amount of Rs. 17.25 crore was sanctioned in the year 2008-09 under UIDSSMT for the city of Cuttack. Barabati fort was also brought under its ambit for renovation, modernization and restoration. This heritage project was to be implemented jointly by the ASI and the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC). The part of work assigned to the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has been completed but the ASI is not allowing anyone to undertake development works despite the request made by the State Government. The hon. High Court of Odisha has also issued direction in this regard but despite that nothing has happened. There is an indoor stadium in this fort where inter-State sports activities are held. People have also been using this stadium for morning walk. However, it is totally bereft of any infrastructure or maintenance and it is in a very dilapidated condition. I urge upon the Central Government to direct ASI to declare the deadline by which they are going to complete the project.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

* Spoke in Odia.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand for Implementation of Entitled Financial Aid to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, as Amended in 2016

SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: In the year 2016, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Rules, 1995 were amended and the amount of the financial assistance to the victims of violence was increased four times and the financial assistance in the cases of murder was enhanced to Rs. 8.25 lakh. In addition, in case the deceased person being an earning member of the house, provision for pension with dearness allowance to his widow/dependent, free education till graduation to his children, etc. were made. However, many State Governments are not complying it yet. I request the Central Government to issue guidelines to all the states to follow this rule.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Demand for Establishing a Government Medical College in Rayagada

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI: Rayagada, a backward district in Odisha, is known as the most famous region of the State. It has long and glorious historical records. Setting up a Government Medical College in Rayagada is a long-standing demand of people of Rayagada which will also help the nearby districts. Seventy per cent of the population of Rayagada district are from SC and ST community. They are totally dependent on Government hospitals. There is no nearby Medical College available for them. Rayagada is a befitting place for the establishment of a medical college. It has now been declared as a Railway Division and is connected to all the metro cities of India by railway. I urge upon the Central Government to consider this demand.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Concern over Problems/Delay in Filling up of Vacancies in Government Departments

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Recently, due to the slowing down of the server of the Staff Selection Commission, many irregularities have emerged in the Combined Graduate Level (CGL) Examination as well as in other examination programmes. Many of the vacancies pending since 2017 have not yet been filled by this commission. This is a serious issue. The Central Government is requested to pay more attention towards the recruitment in government departments.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Demand for Parity of Prices of Bio-Ehtanol Produced from Rice vis-a-vis Bio-Ethanol from Sugarcane

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Under the provisions of the Central Government's Bio-fuel Policy, the Government of Chhattisgarh is moving forward to produce bio-ethanol from surplus paddy. The State Government has sent a proposal to the Central Government to fix the selling price of bio-ethanol produced from paddy equal to the selling price of ethanol produced from sugarcane, but so far no step has been taken by the Central Government. I request the Central Government to accept the proposal of the Government of Chhattisgarh to take necessary steps to fix the price of bio-ethanol produced from paddy equal to that of ethanol produced from molasses, shakkar, sugar and syrup.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand for Re-Survey of Eastern-Rajasthan Canal Project and its Implementation as National Project

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: The area of Rajasthan covers 10.41 percent of the total land area of the country. However, Rajasthan gets only one percent of the country's water resources. The State Government has sent a proposal to the Centre for an important project, ERCP, for irrigation and drinking water of 13 districts in which important dams of Dausa, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur, Dholpur, Alwar, Tonk, Bharatpur and Jaipur rural have not been included. Due

to this, these districts will not be fully benefited. My demand is that the Government of Rajasthan should be requested to fix the cost of the project with respect to itself and get a no objection certificate from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for diversion of water of Kunnu, Parvati, Kalisindh rivers and submit it for consideration of HPSC at the Centre. I also demand that after re-surveying this project it should be declared a national project.

(Shri Om Prakash Mathur, Shri Subhash Chandra Singh and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

6. Demand to Include Hastinapur in Krishna Circuit and Connecting it to Meerut-Panipat Railway Line

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: In the last year's budget, the Central Government has approved Rs 500 crore for the development of Hastinapur and the establishment of the Indian Institute of Heritage and Archeology. But the actual development of Hastinapur will be possible only by connecting it with the railway line. Currently, Hastinapur is not included among the places selected by the Central Government for the Krishna circuit. Connecting Hastinapur with Kurukshetra will lead to an unprecedented growth in tourism in this region and will also create jobs in large number. I urge the Central Government to connect Hastinapur with the Meerut-Panipat rail line and include it in the Krishna circuit.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Demand to Honour Child Martyrs who Laid Down their Lives during Freedom Struggle

SHRI RAKESH SINHA: The country is going to celebrate the 75th anniversary of independence. During the independence movement, young children played a leading role in the anti-imperialism struggle. They had an extraordinary sense of maturity and nationality. The fighters who laid their lives in the resolution to hoist the tricolour at Patna Secretariat were just 12-15 years old. My demand from the Government is that on the occasion of 75th anniversary, information regarding child freedom fighters should be

collected and a National Museum be established for them. Also, monographs on these child martyrs should be published with mutual coordination of Department of Publication, National Archives and National Book Trust.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Demand for Instituting Bhagat Singh Chair in Central Universities

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Shaheed Bhagat Singh is venerated in all political streams of thought in India. Instituting a Chair in his name in every Central University in India would enable a systematic study and development of Bhagat Singh's philosophical ideas. The Chair would work towards translation of the writings of Bhagat Singh and will encourage scholars to organize seminars, symposia. I demand from the Central Government to institute Bhagat Singh Chair in all the Central universities.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Demand to Enhance Mandays and Budgetary Allocation for MGNREGA in Tripura

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: The widespread disruption of economic activity caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic has forced many people to turn to MGNREGA in rural India. But the insufficient increase in wage rate does little to provide relief to them. The Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Tripura before Assembly elections and had assured that the MGNREGA mandays would be increased from 100 days to 200 days and wages would be increased to Rs 340. But, the Government has not fulfilled it and only 15 to 16 mandays are given to the workers across the State. I urge upon the Central Government to reverse the decision and appeal to the State Government to support tribal farmers. I also demand that MNREGA employment be enhanced to 200 days for each household, payment of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act be insured and the budgetary allocation to MNREGA be increased.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Demand to Change the Name of Bombay High Court to Mumbai High Court

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: The city of Mumbai has been named after the name of Mumba Devi. Our demand to change the name of Bombay High Court to Mumbai Mumbai High Court is pending with the Central Government. My demand from the Government is that it consider this matter seriously.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

#1. GOVERNMENT BILLS

#(i) The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2021

#(ii) The Appropriation Bill, 2021

#(iii) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2021

#(iv) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2021

#(v) The Puducherry Appropriation Bill, 2021

#(vi) The Puducherry Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2021

#II. The Budget — General Discussion

#(i) The Budget (Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir), 2021-22

#(ii) The Budget (Union Territory of Puducherry), 2021-22

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): I move that the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2021-22, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration and be returned.

[#] Discussed Together.

I also move that the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2020-21, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration and be returned.

I also move that the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2020-21, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration and be returned.

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I also move that the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Puducherry for the services of the financial year 2020-21, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration and be returned.

I also move that the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union territory of Puducherry for the services of a part of the financial year 2021-22, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration and be returned.

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: The difference between total expenditure and total receipts in the budget is very huge. How will this revenue deficit be met? There were problems due to corona disease, these problems have not only come before the government, but the citizens of this country have also suffered a lot. People hoped that they would get some benefit. Central excise duty has been increased drastically, its burden will be on the common man, on the countrymen. The government was talking about increasing GDP, that GDP, i.e. Gross Domestic Product did not increase, rather the prices of gas, diesel and petrol have increased. Corporate tax has been

reduced in the new budget. The central GST is also increasing, the excise is also increasing, but when it comes to providing relief, it should also be seen how badly the income of the people of the country has been hit by the Corona. The income tax estimate has been reduced by 28 per cent. This shows how much the income of the people of the country has decreased and how the common citizen of this country is going through a difficult period. The target of disinvestment in the year 2020-21 is three and a half times higher than that in 2019-20. When the PSU moves into private hands, it will not be service-oriented, rather profit-oriented. This will not provide any benefit to the common citizen of this country. We have to think what should we do for the countrymen in this difficult time? The budget for central sector plan/project is being increased by 18 per cent. The provision for rural-local bodies has been reduced by more than 13 per cent to just Rs. 44,901 crore. The local bodies of villages will not get the expected benefit from this. It has been the attitude of this government towards farmers that in the budget of 2021-22, fertilizer subsidy has been drastically reduced. The budget related to the welfare of women has been cut by 26 per cent in 2021-22. The budget happens to be for the welfare of the people, but that tradition has been changed. The budget can't be election-oriented. The NFHS states that a large number of children have been found to be suffering from childhood stunting in 13 states, but the nutrition budget has been cut by 27 per cent.

DR. SUDHANSHU TRIVEDI: I support the Appropriation Bill and the Bill presented in the context of the budget of Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry. The Appropriation Bill is meant to authorize the Government to take money for special needs from the Consolidated Fund. In view of the requirements of the last one year, there will be no objection to the items for which money has been taken from this fund. Three lakh crore rupees were given to FCI and additional allocation of foodgrains made under PMGKAY and Atmanirbhar Bharat and free supply of grains and pulses made to 80 crore people for eight months. 26,000 crore rupees has been given for 'MNREGA', which seems very reasonable in view of the problem of migrant workers and this decision of the Government is absolutely

correct. In almost every region there has been a positive development in the third quarter. These are the official figures from the government. There has been a very good production in agriculture. That is, even in this difficult period, grain production in this country was substantial. During this period we also tried to increase the daily wages under MGNREGA. 'Oxford Economics' has revised India's economic growth rate projection for the year 2021 to 10.2 per cent from the previous estimate of 8.8 per cent citing the receding Covid-19 risks and the shift of the monetary policy outlook. But I would like to say that there is a need to be free from the mindset of such researchers who are always pessimistic and negative about India and keep cribbing about the country on the basis of reports published in foreign reports. If you look at something from a positive perspective, you will see a lot. If we talk about Jammu and Kashmir, then a big change has come that democracy has percolated to the grassroots level and there is a provision to strengthen the same in this budget as well. The Central Government has made a provision of 200 crores for the Development Councils and the Block Development Councils. Over and above, a provision of Rs 1,313 crore has been made to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and urban local bodies. A provision of two hundred crores has been made for the Youth Mission, which is an important step to give a new direction to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to move forward. The sum and substance is that all aspects of life of Kashmir have been taken care of in the Budget. Along with this, special attention will be paid to the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Yatra which starts in June-July this year. Our government has also taken an important step for the migrants in Kashmir. 6,000 posts have been created there and 3,841 of them have been filled. That has also been done with the aim of rehabilitation of those Kashmiris who are displaced. Therefore, whether it is loans, cash assistance or free rations, an attempt has been made to improve the economic condition of Kashmir by offering a variety of packages. I want to say one more thing that out of all the states in India, there is only one state, which has the same name since ancient times, and that state is Kashmir which is the name mentioned in the Nilmat Purana, and the Rajtarangini of Kalhan. It is also written in Kashmir. The old names of

all the other states were different. This means that Kashmir was also a symbol of the ancient eternal culture of India. I will say that today is Ram Manohar Lohia's birthday. He was a socialist, but he had spoken about the economic policy of neo-socialism of India instead of Western socialism. He had said that India has to go according to India. Now I would just like to say that the world followed the economic policy of the communists for a very long time. We also pursued the economic policy of the capitalists, but where does the world stand today. Therefore, we do not need to see any outside model, neither communist nor capitalist. There should be only one principle - nationalism. We just need to move in that direction.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: You know very well that last time when the Budget was presented, our party, AIADMK, supported it. We are still supporting it. In spite of so many difficulties faced because of Covid pandemic, the Government put in a lot of efforts to prepare the Budget and presented it in such a difficult situation. The Prime Minister wants to develop this country. The Budget presents the idea as to how to develop this country economically, in agriculture, in defence, etc. When we are giving so much assistance for Sri Lankan Tamil's rehabilitation, the Sri Lankan Government has to fulfill its commitment on devolution of power to the Tamil minorities there. We are proud to say that for the first time an Indian Prime Minister visited Tamil area of Sri Lanka to see whether our assistance is being properly utilized or not. I want to speak about Puducherry also. If there are unemployed youths, and if you do not give them any opportunity, some kind of unrest will happen there. I have seen that a lot of money is allocated for employment creation in the Budget. They have done something for the MSP. I appreciate what they have done in the Budget. Under GST, still, we have to get a lot of money from the Central Government. I request them to allocate more money to Tamil Nadu.

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: While supporting this Bill, I would like to highlight some issues regarding financial relations between Centre and States . My first issue is about percentage of Central share in SDRMF. As per the recommendations of the

Fourteenth Finance Commission, the sharing pattern in SDRF ought to be in the ratio of 90:10 for the Centre and States respectively. But the Union Government accepted the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission with modification that the percentage share of the States will continue to be as before, that is, 75:25. As per the Disaster Risk Index, the score of Odisha is 90 out of 100. I want to know if the government will allow sharing pattern of 90:10 in SDRMF as a special dispensation for Odisha? My third issue is about the funding requirement for telecom infrastructure for the state of Odisha. A reliable telecom system is a must for governance and disaster mitigation in a State like Odisha. The private telecom operators do not invest in the rural areas of the State as there is no viable business case for them. Therefore, the Government should make an effort in building a reliable ecosystem for the delivery of digital services up to the Gram Panchayat level. There is a steep increase in State's share of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Coming on the Cess on coal, the Centre has raised the Clean Environment Cess on coal from Rs.200 to Rs.400 per tonne. The State Governments have requested for renaming the cess as "Environment and Rehabilitation Cess" and for earmarking of 60 per cent of cess to coal bearing States. The entire proceeds of the cess would be used for GST Compensation Fund which is meant for all the States' share in the Coal Cess. A number of Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) across India, including those of NTPC Ltd., have very high power cost and obsolete technology. DISCOMs are forced to continue with Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with the TPPs due to lack of any inbuilt Exit Clause. It is, therefore, requested to terminate the PPAs for which consent of the DISCOMs have not been taken. This will reduce the burden on the DISCOMs.

SHRI JOGINIPALLY SANTOSH KUMAR: The discussion, including 79 Grants and Appropriations, is a part of gross additional spending. The Union Budget has not proposed any radical reforms in the existing fertilizer subsidy regime. In fact, the Budget presented by the Finance Minister has the backdrop of COVID Pandemic. Our GDP growth steadily decreased from 8.1 per cent in last quarter of 2017-18 to 3.1 per cent in last quarter of 2019-2020.

But, the positive aspect is that we have been able to bounce back in the third quarter of 2020-21. The Appropriation Bill includes Defence Services. With our standoff with China, the Government keeps its purse strings loose for Defence expenditure despite the pandemic. The capital expenditure on Road Transport and Highways, is equally high and noteworthy. Tax devolution to States are heavily impacted as there is reduction in revenue receipts of the Union. With these words, I support the proposal of the hon'ble Finance Minister and recommend the Bill to be passed and returned.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: The Finance Minister has done a great job. I will call it as tremendously great job in presenting an expansionary budget. However, in the idea of expansion, Andhra Pradesh is missed out. The Central Administrative Tribunal which is very important is yet to be constituted. Andhra Pradesh needs Central Government assistance to build mega textile parks in Anantapur and Nellore districts under MITRA scheme. The hon'ble Minister of Rural Development has delisted the works relating to coffee plantation from permissible activities under MGNREGA.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: During this corona period, many small industries have closed down and the profitable companies are being sold by the government. The Consolidated Fund is being spent for appropriation. An organization of the United Nations has published the International Happiness Index. In it, survey of 149 countries was conducted in which India is at 139th position. Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are above us in ranking. The ground reality is that the man of the country is very unhappy. Agriculture has a better contribution to our GDP in this difficult situation. Our production has been very good this year as well. Until the situation in the construction sector and real estate improves, the situation will not improve.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Today we are bringing Appropriation Bill for the functioning and expenses of Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir. Bihar has been made the third world of this country. Without Bihar, the country will not reach the global level. Bihar does not have an investment environment and there are no employment opportunities. Bihar is not just a voting and labour

providing state, but it is a state of aspirations. 'MNREGA' has been very effective in the Corona times. The government should develop a new approach in this regard. Under this, man-days, wages and avenues of engagement should be increased. Education and health-related allocations need to be reconsidered. In this Corona period, the digital divide has increased a lot which is difficult to bridge. The government is selling PSUs. This type of regime is not good.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: In the year 2014, the Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The State of Andhra Pradesh has been suffering with deficit Budget and financial constraints. The present Government came to power on the basis of assurances given to the public for giving the Special Status to the State. They have forgotten everything. The Union Government refused to give the status to Andhra Pradesh. Now, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has reduced the tax share from 4.3 per cent to 4 per cent. It is a double whammy on Andhra Pradesh. So, additional grants may be given to Andhra Pradesh. The DPR for Polavaram and the project cost is yet to be approved by the Finance Minister. It may be approved and the project may be completed before April, 2022 deadline. Unfortunately, the present Government kept aside the Polavaram project and halted it for some time. The Central Government is also not taking much care with regard to allocation of funds. Now, There is no mention about the allocation for AIIMS, Mangalagiri, in the Budget. Railways Minister announced new railway zone for Vizag, in 2019, but no funds have been allocated till now. Central Government's Cabinet has taken a decision to privatize the Vizag Steel Plant. It was in profits till recently. No captive mines had been allocated to this. Had the captive mines been allocated, the Vizag Steel Plant would have run smoothly without any debt or loss. The financial status of Andhra Pradesh is in mess. The gross debt of Andhra Pradesh, as per CAG, is Rs. 3.73 lakh crores. These issues have to be addressed. The funds which were utilised for other purposes can be diverted, and many funds which were meant for the beneficiaries, have not been given. Similarly, NREGA funds have not been released. I request the Finance Minister

to see that the funds which were already released to the State Government may be released to the concerned persons.

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: In the first quarter of 2020-21 due to the epidemic of Covid-19, our situation with regard to GDP had become extremely pathetic. There was negative growth in GDP due to nationwide lockdown, but our fiscal policy continued to operate according to the need to improve the economy. Through various schemes, the government has taken a lot of steps to give a boost to the country's economy. The government tried to accelerate the economy through economic packages at regular intervals. Efforts were also made to strengthen the economy through three packages under "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme". In the budget for 2021-22, our biggest emphasis has been on health services. Our health plan outlay is 137 percent higher than the year 2020-21 and Rs. 35,000 crore has been provided in the budget for 2021-22 for the vaccination so that the population of 130 crore of the country can be vaccinated and no poor vaccination should be deprived of it. A provision of Rs. 64,180 crore has been made to improve the health system. A provision of Rs 17,788 crore has been made for Rural Health Mission and Rs. 11,024 crore for Urban Health Mission. It has been the priority of the Prime Minister that tap water be made available to every household. 2.86 lakh crore rupees will be spent on 'tap water'. We have introduced a new Scrap Policy to scrap old vehicles under which we have introduced a new scrap policy for vehicles which have exceeded the age limit of 15 years and which increase pollution. Seven textile parks will be set up in three years to give a boost to the textile industry. 20,000 crore has been arranged for infrastructure development. Under 'Bharatmala Project', construction of 13,000 km long units has been started at a cost of Rs 3.3 lakh crore. The complete plan for 2030 has been prepared under the National Rail Scheme. The Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors are to be built in it. Metro rail will be expanded for urban infrastructure development. At the same time, urban bus service will be started. A new project of Rs. 18 thousand crore will be started for public buses. One crore more new beneficiaries will be added to the Ujjwala Gas Scheme. Our government will connect 100 districts with the city gas distribution

system. The target of agricultural credit has been increased to Rs. 16.5 lakh crore. 100 new Sainik Schools will be opened for education in the country. A target has been set to improve the quality of 15 thousand schools. A provision of Rs 3,768 crore has been made for digital census, this is also a major step. Rs 1,18,545 crore will be given as revenue loss to 14 states which have occurred loss due to GST. The government has also tried that the taxpayers have not to pay any additional tax.

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: I want to say on the budget of Puducherry that funds that are allocated to election for Legislative Assembly, tackling of Covid and other day-to-day administration need to be approved. I support that. Allocation for Puducherry is not even the half of what the 14th Finance Commission has recommended. An additional provision of just Rs. 7.42 crore has been provided in the education sector for purchase of free textbooks for Government schools. This amount should be significantly higher given the huge crisis created in the education sector after the Covid pandemic, particularly, for the students from weaker sections. According to the 14th Finance Commission, Puducherry was to receive Rs. 2,731 crore but it received only Rs. 1,545 crores, The BJP Government has not really thought through while allocating the Budget on Jammu and Kashmir. Two years have passed since the abrogation of Article 370 but the Government has no plan to allocate more money to Jammu and Kashmir. The government should have given more and more money to Jammu and Kashmir for its progress. The tourism industry and handicraft industry in Jammu and Kashmir is dead since it has become an UT. All small businesses have suffocated. More than five lakh people connected with the tourism industry have lost their jobs. The unemployment rate in Jammu & Kashmir has risen to 21.9 per cent from 16 per cent in the past two years. Jammu & Kashmir is based on tourism but the Government has allocated only five crore rupees to tourism. You want digital India, but you disconnected one entire region from the Internet. Jammu & Kashmir was made a Union Territory to control the law and order there. Ladakh has not been given a budget till now.

SHRI SANJAY SETH: There is no tax levied in this budget. A lot of employment provision has been made in this budget. Pucca roads are being built in our country, which is leading to development. The Finance Minister has given an economic package of 20 lakh crore rupees for this work during the period of Corona. Banks have also given full support. That is why people's businesses have started again. Work is progressing very rapidly in the MSME sector. Today the government is giving its guarantee on loans. Today smart cities are being built. During the time of this epidemic, the 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana' was launched by the government so that no one had to starve. During the Corona period, women were provided money through Jan Dhan accounts. In corona period every person has ordered goods from shops through digital banking. This has also been a major achievement of this government during the Corona period. No new tax has been imposed this time. People above 75 years of age are exempted from filing income tax returns. Apart from this, a faceless assessment has been made in it. People are getting income tax refund very easily. Roads are being built in Kashmir under the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana'. So far as railways is concerned, the world's highest bridge is being built there. The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link will be completed by December 2022. Soon, electricity and water will reach every house in Jammu and Kashmir. A provision of funds has been made for cleaning the lakes to promote tourism there. Affordable houses are being built in Jammu and Kashmir. You can also see these figures. Banks have provided loans to youth in Jammu and Kashmir. A financial package has been given to promote the MSME sector of Jammu and Kashmir. Additional funds have been provided for covid vaccination. I am confident that Kashmir will now become self-sufficient. I support this Appropriation Bill.

SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: In this House it was mentioned that economy of \$ 5 trillion will be achieved by 2024, but our GDP is going down. Manufacturing sector is facing deficit. Even for Chandigarh, the budget allocated is much more than that of Delhi. Delhi is being treated step-motherly. There should be some budget specially for the health schemes and the amounts which have been

spent by Delhi Government to control Covid. Every PSU is running in profit. They are doing a very good job. But they are being sold to meet the deficit because the Government has failed to generate revenue and create employment opportunities. Excise Duty is increasing every year. I will request the government to consider reducing the duty on petrol. Powers of the State Governments are being taken away either through change of elected Governments or through amendments in the Acts. This should be stopped.

SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: In the Corona period, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has faced very big challenges. The Covid epidemic was the country's most serious problem. Modi ji took appropriate steps in time and imposed a lockdown. He has made the country self-sufficient by imposing lockdown. The developed nations did not follow the lockdown that caused them to suffer losses. To counter the Corona epidemic, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi consulted with the Chief Ministers and got more and more production of the equipment required to control the disease. Our country has a very large population, but in comparative terms, the death rate is remained low here in corona period. Modi ji has given a huge economic package even in the time of this disaster, which has brought relief to all areas. Food grains have been supplied continuously to the people. It seems to me that the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, should be given the title of Best Corona Warrior. Money was directly sent to the Jan Dhan accounts of women and they were able to live their lives in the time of this disaster. In addition, 40 crore farmers and the elderly people have also benefited directly. For the corona vaccine, we have made a provision of 35 thousand crore rupees in this budget. People are being vaccinated for free. Efforts have been made for corruption-free good governance and to double the income of farmers. The minimum support price has also been doubled. Under 'Ayushman Yojana' every person has got insurance of up to five lakh rupees. There are 'Skill India', 'Startup India' and 'Mudra Bank' for the youth. They can make themselves independent. Arrangements have been made for education for all and we are empowering the women.

In order to have more companies in the field of insurance, FDI has been increased from 49 per cent to 74 per cent. This is a budget of common man and this is a very good budget.

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