

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Introduction of the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018.

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

Respected Madam, with your kind permission, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology for the purposes of establishing the identity of certain categories of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, undertrials, missing persons and unknown deceased persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology for the purposes of establishing the identity of certain categories of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, undertrials, missing persons and unknown deceased persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Madam, I do vehemently oppose the introduction of the Bill under the nomenclature ‘DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2018’ as the Bill provides that the DNA samples can be collected from any accused, whether he has given it voluntarily or is compelled to give his DNA under direction of the court. Secondly, this is a gross violation of the provision of the Constitution and against the Fundamental Right to Life. The collection of DNA can be misused by police officials to create evidence against the accused.

So, I would suggest to the hon. Minister that this Bill should not be introduced in such a supercilious manner and there is a need of more scrutiny to be done by experts. The Bill should also take into consideration the holistic and comprehensive nature of this legislation. So, I would suggest that the Bill should be sent to the competent authority for further scrutiny so that the hon. Minister can bring the legislation in a befitting manner, suggest to send to Standing Committee.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Respected Madam, let me inform the hon. Member that this Bill has gone through scrutiny of every possible expert, every possible Ministry and even a committee headed by hon. Home Minister himself in which the Law Minister was there, the Finance Minister was there and I was also there.

I think, this Bill started its journey at the time of the NDA Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and all these years, it has gone through so many scrutinies and this Government has also ensured that all these privacy concerns etc. are 100 per cent addressed in the Bill. I think, if you read the Bill meticulously, you will yourself be convinced that after so many years and such a long journey by the Bill, it is the need of the hour to bring this Bill for this country to ensure that there is a regulation for the DNA testing laboratories and DNA data bank. I can assure this House that all the privacy concerns have been adequately addressed in this Bill. If the Member wants details, I can read those details also.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology for the purposes of establishing the identity of certain categories of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, undertrials, missing persons and unknown deceased persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I introduce the Bill.