

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, September 2, 2013/Bhadrapada 11, 1935 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Relinquishment of Office by Secretary-General (Shri T.K. Viswanathan) and his Appointment as Honorary Officer of the House

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that Shri T.K. Viswanathan relinquished the office as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha on 31st August, 2013. Shri Viswanathan, who was first appointed as Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha on 1st October, 2010 has thorough knowledge of constitutional matters which helped the Presiding Officer and the Panel of Chairmen in smooth conduct of the proceedings of the House.

Shri Viswanathan was instrumental in organizing the 5th Conference of Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians and the Regional Conference of the Inter Parliamentary Union, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Seminar as also the 7th Women Speakers Conference and the Sixtieth anniversary of the first sitting of the Lok Sabha.

He sincerely worked for the welfare of officers and staff of the Secretariat.

Shri Viswanathan paid special attention to the preservation of heritage character of the Parliament House building.

In recognition of his services, I have great pleasure in announcing that Shri Viswanathan has been appointed as Honorary Officer of the House.

I am confident that hon. Members will join me in wishing him good health and success in the years ahead.

Hon. Members, Shri S. Bal Shekar, Secretary in the Lok Sabha Secretariat will, for the time being, be performing the duties of the Secretary-General.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.01 ½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay the minutes (Hindi and English version) of the 10th sitting of the Committee on Absence of the Members from the Sittings of the House held on 23 August, 2013.

11.02 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K. Narayan Rao and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...*(Interruptions)*

11.02 ½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri M. Sreenivasulu Reddy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): I have given a notice for adjournment. ...*(Interruptions)* Entire proceedings should be stalled and Bodoland issue has to be discussed in this august House. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members, who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within twenty minutes.

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

...*(Interruptions)*

(i) Need to undertake construction of roads under Central Road Fund in Dewas Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA (Dewas): In my Parliamentary Constituency Dewas (M.P.) about 8-9 roads were

*Treated as laid on the Table.

sanctioned from Central Road Fund by Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways during the last 2-3 years, but the Government of Madhya Pradesh instead of constructing these roads sanctioned for Dewas and Shajapur constructed roads in other areas of the State. That is why, I had to file PIL in Indore High Court. In its response, the High Court issued instructions to the Government of Madhya Pradesh and Government of India to the effect that these roads should be got constructed at the earliest in public interest by resanctioning them.

Therefore, I request the Central Government and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to issue sanction orders and instructions for construction of concerned roads in compliance with the instructions of the court.

(ii) Need to enhance the salary of Anganwadi workers in Andhra Pradesh at par with the amount paid in other States

[English]

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (Karimnagar): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the need to take steps for the overall welfare of workers in Anganwadi Centres in Andhra Pradesh.

As the Government is well aware that, under ICDS, there are 7073 total number of projects all over the country and 387 projects are there in Andhra Pradesh. Their working hours are from 9 a.m to 1.30 p.m. but they stay beyond 3.00 p.m. as the parents will return from the fields by 4.00 p.m. sometimes. For this work, they are being paid an amount of Rs.3,700 per month only and the Central share is Rs.3000/- and the State's share is Rs.700/-. The credit of the raising of salaries from Rs.1,500/- in 2004 to Rs.300/- in 2009 goes to the Congress and UPA Government. They will conduct 80% of BPL survey. But it is sad to note that Anganwadi workers are not provided PF facility and other retirement benefits at par with Government employees. They are treated in a bad manner and in the present days, even contract employees including labour in Municipality are getting minimum of Rs.6000/- pay with PF facility. With regard to the comparison of payment. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala State Anganwadi workers are paid with Rs.5600/- and odd. In Pondicherry, it is Rs. 15,000/-. That means, the payment to Anganwadi workers is very much low in Andhra Pradesh and such situation is leading to discrimination of Anganwadi workers. Even MNREGS worker is getting an amount of Rs.15,000/- to Rs.20,000/- per hundred days. Hence, in view of the above factual situation, I request the Hon'ble

Minister for Health & Family Welfare to intervene in the matter to raise the salaries of the Anganwadi workers in Andhra Pradesh on par with other States to raise their living standards by treating them at par with Government employees by providing other benefits on top priority.

(iii) Need to provide adequate resources required for construction and repair of roads by P.W.D. and B.R.O. in Uttarakhand

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the construction of road by B.R.O. and P.W.D. in calamity affected Uttarakhand State. Owing to natural calamity, roads have been washed away in the State and B.R.O. is constructing these roads, but the work of B.R.O. is not satisfactory. It is doing the work at a very slow speed. On the other hand, just few days back a report has published in the news paper that China is constructing road at Mana border. In this situation, tardy construction of roads by B.R.O. is a matter of concern. Similarly, the pace of construction of roads by P.W.D. is also very slow. In this time of calamity to normalize the life of local residents and to make food supply for the army in an emergency, construction of roads needs to be expedited. Similarly, the employees and officers working during calamity should be given some incentives so that their morale could be raised. I also request that the "khachchar roads" that have been washed away due to calamity should be reconstructed at the earliest so that foodgrains could be supplied to far-flung villages.

I request the Central Government to provide adequate resources to P.W.D. and B.R.O. and instruct them to complete the construction of road at the earliest by expediting the same.

(iv) Need to expedite the laying of Angamali-Sabari railway line in Kerala

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): I request for immediate intervention of Government for speedy completion of laying of Angamali-Sabari railway line in Kerala. The completion of laying of this railway line could bring the hilly backward regions under rail connectivity and infrastructure development. Moreover millions of Sabarimala pilgrims will be benefitted with this line. Even though the laying of the line was proposed long back, the work on this line has not

attained much progress. It is a matter of concern that budget allocation for this line is reducing every year. Since long time the land owners in Ernakulam district have been waiting for compensation against their acquired land. It requires Rs. 153.91 crore for compensation to landowners in the first phase. The current estimated cost of the project is Rs.1556 crore and the Railways have proposed that the State Government should bear 50% of the cost. But the State Government is not in a position to bear 50% share of the project. I humbly request the Government to take immediate measures to speed up the works and complete the project without further delay.

(v) Need to take stringent action against the agency responsible for food poisoning in Ajmer-Ernakulam Marusagar Express train and ensure supply of hygienic food

SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP (Kollam): It is reported that more than 50 travellers in the Ajmer-Ernakulam Marusagar Express suffered from food poisoning due to the food items served from the pantry car of the train on 17-8-2013. Many of them were totally exhausted due to stomach ache, vomiting and diarrhoea by the time they were hospitalized at two different stations. What the Food Inspectors could see in the pantry car of the train on 18-8-2013 was more horrible as food items were piled up just near the door of the toilet and worm and fly infested rotten meat pieces lying there. Chapatis meant for travellers were lying on the floor. Similar incident occurred in the same train three years ago.

The people who travel to and from Kerala are facing difficulties due to lack of frequency in train services as well as old and dilapidated rail coaches. Food served is of inferior quality and the quantity is very less than the prescribed amount. The blankets are never dry cleaned resulting in spreading of contagious diseases. Many a time the bed sheets are just folded properly and reissued again. But it is more fearful and dangerous to eat poisonous food cooked and served in our trains. The contract for serving food in Marusagar Express has been given to a private agency from Kolkata.

Food poisoning in trains has become common since the day Railways decided to limit its direct supply of food and gave the job to private agencies on contract basis. Recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee years ago to restructure the catering system by giving priority to social justice and the needs of travellers have been ignored.

IRCTC is not doing its job well to ensure hygienic food. Railways is earning Rs.2000 crore per year from the catering contract. Still it is really pathetic to see that no action is being taken to ensure hygienic and quality food to the passengers. Adequate quantity of food is also to be ensured.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Railways that stringent action should be taken against the agency responsible for the food poisoning in the Marusagar Express so that similar act of callousness is not repeated. The Agency's license should be cancelled immediately. The policy of cooking food in the base kitchens of the railways should be encouraged.

(vi) Need to implement water conservation schemes in Sultanpur parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY SINGH (Sultanpur): Irrigation is quite necessary for agricultural development. I would like to tell the House with regret that no fund has been provided during the last three years by the Central Government for Water Conservation Schemes in my Parliamentary Constituency, Sultanpur. As a result, water is not released in canals on time and the canals are in broken condition at many places and consequently, over-flowing water of canal is destroying the crops of poor farmers. On the other hand, farmers are not able to do sowing and other crop work due to non availability of water from canal on time. Although water is a State subject, action should be taken at central level. There is no information of accelerated irrigation benefit programme and other irrigation area development works in my Parliamentary Constituency, Sultanpur. In reply to my letter, the Hon. Minister of Water Resources has stated that the Central Government maintains no data at district level. The question arises is when there are no data at district level, at which level the irrigation development of the district would be taken care of.

I would like to know from the Government as to why the schemes like water conservation have not been implemented in my Parliamentary Constituency, Sultanpur during the last three years. Water Conservation Schemes should be implemented in my Parliamentary Constituency at central level because the farmers of this district are not getting the benefit of water conservation schemes.

(vii) Need to undertake gauge conversion of railway lines between Mehsana and Taranga in Gujarat

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mehsana): Gujarat is a leading State in India in view of industrial development and its GDP rate is highest among all. The Government of Gujarat, industrial and other institutions and passenger unions have requested the Central Government repeatedly through correspondence for constructing new railway lines. Their applications have been sent to the concerned Railway Divisions for approval.

The Government of Gujarat has requested the Ministry of Railways to start gauge conversion of 17 railway lines and expedite its completion. I regret to say that despite the assurance of the Government, gauge conversion of Mehsana and Taranga has not been done till date.

Therefore, the Government is requested to initiate proper action in the above matter without delay.

(viii) Need to provide stoppage of New Jalpaiguri Express (Train No. 12523/24) at Hasanpur Road Railway Station in Bihar under East Central Railway

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria): Hasanpur Road station under East-Central Railway Hajipur (Bihar) is one of the important railway stations. A sugar mill is also there. Large numbers of passengers commute from Hasanpur Road station. In the absence of stoppage of New Jalpaiguri Express (Train No. 12523/12524) at this station, railway passengers are facing huge difficulty.

Therefore, the Minister of Railway, Government of India should provide stoppage to New Jalpaiguri Express at Hasanpur Road Station in the public interest.

(ix) Need to provide more centres for the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (Coimbatore): The Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination is conducted every year. A record number of 4.5 lakh candidates apply for this examination. The Indian Civil Service serves as the backbone of India and carries great respect and responsibilities. India's best brains vie for entry into the Indian Civil Services as officers. Even though corporate jobs may offer the best of salaries and perks, a majority of youngsters and their parents still crave for entry to the

prestigious Indian Civil Services held by the UPSC. The very fact that a big share of every year's top posts in the Civil Services Examination are bagged by professionals from various streams shows that the IAS is still the dream job for many.

Out of the candidates who have been finally selected for service all over the country, 10 per cent are from Tamil Nadu, the highest number for any State.

Over 4.5 lakh students - 27,000 of them are from Tamil Nadu alone - took the preliminary examination from various parts of the country this year, out of which 50,000 were selected for main examination.

In the circumstances, I would like to tell that in Tamil Nadu there are only two centres for writing the Civil Services Examination, i.e., Chennai and Madurai.

The poor and middle class students go either to Madurai or to Chennai to write the preliminary examination from far away places of Tamil Nadu.

I, therefore, request the Government to introduce more centres like Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu for writing preliminary examination.

(x) Need to formulate a comprehensive plan for development of Kandhamal district of Odisha and also take steps for construction of railway line between Berhampur and Phulbani in the State

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Kandhamal is one of the most socially and economically backward districts. The area is worst affected due to naxal activities and the tribals are always under threat and fear. The area is full of forest and natural resources but no concrete measures have been taken for developing / utilizing the available resources which could improve living standards of tribals. This area is yet to be connected by Rail line, even after a lapse of 65 years of Independence. Sincere efforts should be made to develop Tourism and Forest related industries, which could help in checking extremists' activities and also improve economic condition of Kandhamal and adjoining districts in Odisha. A railway line should be started on this route on priority.

I request the union Government to come out with specified development plan and special financial package for the development of this backward district. Although Berhampur-Phulbani Rail line has been surveyed 5 years ago but the work is yet to be started.

(xi) Need to develop Brij tourist circuit connecting religious sites associated with Lord Krishna to boost tourism in the region

[Translation]

SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY (Mathura): The devotees of Krishna and tourists from the country and abroad visit Brij regularly every year. The main places of Brij, like Vrindavan, Govardhan, Barsana, Nandgaon, Gokul and Daudi, etc are the centres of faith of lakhs of people, but in the absence of facilities for them their belief gets hurt. Thousands of devotees come for "Darshan" in Banke Bihari temple every day, but due to mismanagement they face lot of difficulties. Here, Rasliila and Parikarma of Brij Chaurasi Kos are organized on regular basis, but if better facilities could be provided to the people there, more tourists would be attracted towards Brij.

The Ministry of Tourism has formulated Buddhist Circuit Development Scheme on the lines of Sufi, Sikh and Jain circuits to attract foreign tourists from Buddhist countries during 12th Five Year Plan under the scheme to boost religious and spiritual tourism. Therefore, I demand from the Government that the scheme of Brij circuit should also be formulated on the lines of these circuits.

11.04 hrs.

**NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2012**

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we take up Item No.3 – Shri Oscar Fernandes.

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Madam, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, be taken into consideration:-"

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Sixty-third", the word "Sixty- fourth" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 1

That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2012", the figure "2013" be *substituted*."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988, be taken into consideration:-"

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Sixty-third", the word "Sixty- fourth" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2012", the figure "2013" be *substituted*.

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: We shall now take up the amendments made by Rajya Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I shall now put the Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 made by Rajya Sabha together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, for the word "Sixty-third", the word "Sixty- fourth" be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, for the figure "2012", the figure "2013" be *substituted*..

The motion was adopted.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the National Highways Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2012, as passed by Lok Sabha, be agreed to.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

11.05 hrs.

SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS FROM THE SERVICE OF THE HOUSE UNDER RULE 374 A

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Sarvashri A. Sai Prathap, N. Kristappa, Anantha Venkatarami Reddy, L. Rajagopal, M. Sreenivasulu Reddy, M. Venugopala Reddy, K. Narayan Rao, Dr. N. Sivaprasad, and Shri K. Bapiraju, I name you under Rule 374A..

You may forthwith withdraw from the precincts of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

11.06 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very indecent behavior.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Sir, this is a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

14.0 ½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri M. Venugopala Reddy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Aruna Kumar Vundavalli.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity... (Interruptions) Sir, this is regarding a very

serious matter...(Interruptions) [Translation] Whatever is happening now in Andhra, you give me an opportunity to speak regarding that ...(Interruptions) What is happening in Andhra, I am trying to present the facts before you...(Interruptions) you give me an opportunity to speak...(Interruptions) what is happening in Andhra, I am trying to put forth the facts before you ...(Interruptions)

[English]

With the permission of the hon. Deputy-Speaker, I would request all the hon. Members to please cooperate and understand what is happening in Andhra Pradesh ...(Interruptions) It is the responsibility of the House to know what is happening in Andhra Pradesh...(Interruptions)

14.02 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

Suspension of Members from the service of the House

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you may please withdraw from the House as you have been suspended from the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Speaker by invoking the Rule 374A named you earlier this morning and by the provisions of that Rule, you were automatically suspended from the service of the House for five days starting from today. As such you cannot enter the Chamber of the House and shout slogans. I once again request you to withdraw from the House forthwith and allow smooth conduct of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 3rd September, 2013 at 11 a.m.

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, September 3, 2013/Bhadrapada 12, 1935 (Saka)