

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES

(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 / Chaitra 16, 1944 (Saka)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: Situation in Ukrain - Contd.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR) *replying said:* The conflict in Ukraine has had significant consequences for the global economy and for our national economy. Keeping these factors in mind, the Government believes that in terms of diplomacy, India continues to press forcefully for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to violence. So, the Prime Minister himself has spoken to the Presidents of Ukraine and Russia in this regard. Similarly, the ground situation also calls for urgent humanitarian relief. So, we have already provided 90 tonnes of relief material. The House will be glad to know that supply of more medicines to Ukraine is underway and delivery should start very soon. So, we will work with the international community and partner countries to mitigate the economic hardships that are resulting from this conflict. Obviously, our focus is to soften its impact on our own economy. I would like to assure the House that we will also step forward where global demands for food grains and other materials are concerned and we will do it in a manner that is helpful to the global economy. Let me say that overall, therefore, India's approach will be to promote dialogue, to end the conflict, and to mitigate economic distress for itself and for the world. Regarding 'Operation Ganga', I would like to emphasize that our country was the first to start the evacuation process and would also like to say that till date no country has executed such a large-scale evacuation. Our 20 thousand citizens came back and we also brought back the citizens of other

countries to India. No other country has been able to achieve this. We used 90 planes to bring back our citizens. This has encouraged other countries as well. As far as the advisory is concerned, I would like to apprise this august House that if our advisory does not have any effect or people do not take it seriously, then I would like to ask how did our four thousand civilians fled before the war? They were able to flee because they understood the importance of advisory. Our remaining 18000 citizens and students could not come to India due to the dilemma arising from the inputs received from the Ukrainian government and universities. I would also say that if we claim to be aware of the mentality of the students, then we should also understand this dilemma. I would also say about Operation Ganga that we faced unprecedented challenges during Operation Ganga. Similarly, the embassy also continued its work from Kyiv initially and from Lviv when many of our people were trapped on the western border. Thus, we must recognize that this 'Operation Ganga' was a collective effort. I would also say that our ministers' visit to other countries has helped us in getting the appropriate attention from those governments. That's why I would like to praise them because it reflects the team spirit of our Government. As far as students are concerned, there will be relaxation for them on the basis of the results of the academic assessments and the student will be awarded the degrees in Ukraine. In addition to Hungary, we have been in touch with Poland, Rumania, Czech Republic and Kazakhstan because they all have similar models of education. All our embassies are at work and, obviously, our effort will be to see that our students are assisted as much as possible. With regard to education loan, Government has asked the Indian Banks' Association to assess the impact of the conflict and initiate consultation in regard to the repayment of loans. Similarly, with regard to payment mechanism, the Finance Minister would finally have to take a call. Again, we took a decision that flights from Ukraine would only come to Delhi and Mumbai and I would compliment every State Government in this regard. Every State Government made excellent arrangements so that the movement of students from airport to their homes was very smooth. I would also applaud what the students have done, and the courage and the endurance that they have shown. Furthermore, nobody has any doubt where India stand on this matter. Now, the world order will change partly because of the consequences of this. So, we have to be stronger and we have to reduce our dependency on the external world. And I have a firm belief that 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is not just an economic policy, 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' is a Bharat, which looks after its people and which is capable of running 'Operation Ganga'.

The discussion was concluded.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) Promotion of natural farming

SHRI GANESH SINGH: A provision has been made in the Budget to provide incentive to the farmers doing natural farming. The Government of India is going to launch a pilot project to promote natural farming for 10 kilometers on both sides of the Ganges river. I would like to demand from the government that rivers like Narmada, Tamas, Semraval, Ken, Betwa should be included in the pilot project for natural farming in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to demand especially for the inclusion of Tamas, Semraval and Satna rivers of Satna district in this scheme.

(2) Establishment of a DRDO lab, ordinance factory, Sainik School and Defence Recruitment Centre at Deoghar

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Deoghar has been included in the list of tourist destination by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. This is religious and cultural capital of Eastern India. I request to set up a Military Station for which land is available near the ongoing DRDO centre project at Deoghar (Jharkahand). I also request to set up an Ordinance Factory, DRDO Lab, Defence Recruitment Centre at Deoghar and a Sainik School at Godda.

(3) Need to curb pollution in Indira Gandhi Canal and also to grant Membership of BBMB to Rajasthan

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN: The water of Indira Gandhi Canal has become impure for drinking and irrigation due to industrial units of Rajasthan. Indira Gandhi Canal, which has become a lifeline for the desert areas of Rajasthan, is now becoming the cause of diseases. The maximum impact of this pollution is being seen in Hanumangarh and Sri Ganganagar districts. I request the Union Government to grant BBMB membership to Rajasthan like Haryana and Punjab.

(4) Need to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas in Rajsamand Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI: A large number of military families and Union Government employees reside in my Parliamentary Constituency, Rajsamand and there has been a constant demand to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya here for high quality education. Therefore, I would like to demand from the Government that Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened in the district headquarters Rajsamand, Merta, Bhima and Jaitaran.

(5) Plight of Jute Mills and Jute growing farmers

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The jute industry in West Bengal is going down and the employees of this industry have lost their jobs in large numbers. The bureaucracy is fully responsible for the plight of jute farmers and jute mills. I request the hon. Textile Minister to look into the matter and save jute mills and their workers.

(6) Alleged irregularities in the storage of paddy in Chhattisgarh

SHRI CHUNNILAL SAHU: The paddy of the farmers of Chhattisgarh is purchased by the Gramin Co-operative Society. Paddy purchased in the month of December is now being picked up in March. It is my request to the Government that the negligence shown by the administrative officers in this regard should be investigated and the members of rural cooperative societies should be protected from financial loss.

(7) Need to accelerate pace of construction work of Rewa - Singrauli rail line, part of Lalitpur - Singrauli Rail Line Project

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK: Lalitpur-Singrauli rail project is very important for my rail-less parliamentary constituency Sidhi and the dream of the region is about to come true. I request that the concerned officers should be directed to expedite the works of Rewa to Singrauli part of Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line so that the project can be completed within the stipulated time frame.

(8) Need to continue the services of Poshan Sakhi in Jharkhand

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH : In the year 2016, 10388 Poshan Sakhi were appointed in the six districts of Dhanbad, Giridih, Dumka, Godda, Koderma and Chatra in the state of Jharkhand under the ICDS sponsored by the Union Government. Poshan Sakhis were made unemployed by the Jharkhand government. I would like to demand from the Union Government and the State Government that instructions should be given to continue the services of these 10388 Poshan Sakhis.

(9) Construction of Rajasthan Sabarmati Link Canal

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL: Under my parliamentary constituency, Banaskantha district, the ground water level has receded in Dhanera, Dantiwada, Lakhni, Deesa, Tharad, Amirgarh, Danta, Palanpur and Deyodar tehsils and this groundwater level is continuously going down. Due to this, farmers are facing a lot of difficulties in irrigation. Atal Bhujal Yojana is being run by the Government. Under this scheme, a provision has been made for the construction of Rajasthan Sabarmati Link

Canal. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister that action should be taken at the earliest to strengthen the irrigation system in my Parliamentary Constituency.

(10) Construction of a bridge for pedestrian traffic across rail lines in Naroda railway station in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

SHRI HASMUKHBHAI S. PATEL: Naroda railway station is being renovated. There is no way to walk from outside on either side of this station. Due to this, school and college students and employed people have to go over the station track. I request the Railway Minister to construct a foot over bridge at Naroda railway station at the earliest.

(11) Re: Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers whose lands have been acquired for fencing purpose in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA: Fencing has been done at several bordering places in Jammu and Kashmir for which lands of farmers have been acquired. These farmers have lost their employment. Compensation should be given to them at the earliest.

(12) Re: Road accident insurance plan for licensed vehicle drivers

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Drivers get killed in road accidents in the country. Accidental insurance coverage should be provided to the drivers at the time of issuing license. I request the Government to implement driver accident insurance plan in the country.

(13) Re: Declaration of State road from Mannarkkad to Coimbatore via Attappadi and Chinna Thadagam as sub-highway to National Highway No. 966

SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN: It has been a long pending demand of the people to declare the State road from Mannarkkad to Coimbatore via Attappadi and Chinna Thadagam as sub-highway to National Highway No. 966. This will pave the way for overall development of this tribal area. Therefore, it is urged that the said State road may please be declared as sub-Highway to National Highway No. 966 urgently.

(14) Re: Price of life-saving drugs

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: The Government has allowed a price hike of more than 10 per cent for scheduled drugs. With this, over 800 drugs will see a price rise from April. I urge upon the Government to reverse this decision.

(15) Re: Setting up of a trading point along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in Murshidabad district, West Bengal

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: A trading point along the Indo-Bangladesh Border in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal to facilitate commercial exchange with Bangladesh should be set up.

(16) Re: Naming of Centrally-sponsored schemes by Andhra Pradesh Government

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: Almost, all the Central schemes are being renamed on the personal name of the Chief Minister and his family names in Andhra Pradesh. I request the Government to take swift corrective action in the matter before it goes out of control.

(17) Re: Sanction of an integrated cold storage for Potatoes in Arambagh Parliamentary Constituency

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR: West Bengal is a major potato-growing State of India. Farmers store their produce in cold storages. West Bengal has vast growth potential in the horticulture sector and there is a requirement to shift from cold storages to integrated cold chains to realise its full potential. So, I request the Government to sanction an integrated cold storage for potatoes in my constituency of Arambagh.

(18) Re: Hike in prices of Petroleum products

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: The petrol and diesel prices across the country are continuously rising. Every citizen of the country is in anguish and deep distress due to spiraling fuel and gas prices. I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter and take immediate steps to check the steep hike in the prices of petroleum products daily.

(19) Re: Regarding construction RoB, VUP and CUP on N.H. 52 in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Work on widening of N.H. 52 from 2 lanes to 4 lanes in my Parliamentary Constituency, Churu is to begin. During inspection of the road, the officers found that VUPs and CUPs are required to be constructed at several places. So, I request the Government through this August House to construct ROB, VUPs and CUPs as required at all these places.

(20) Re: Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G) in Odisha

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: The Ministry of Rural Development opened Awas plus window to identify the eligible households left out from the Permanent Wait List (PWL) of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (G) upto 7th March, 2019. Our State of

Odisha could register only 35,000 households within the stipulated period. After Cyclone Fani, Awas plus window was opened for 14 affected districts during September- October, 2019. I request the hon. Minister of Rural Development to allow opening of the Awas plus window for one month to accomplish the migration of data from Rural House Portal list to PWL through Awas plus and also include 1.84 lakh PMAY Special houses to the Cyclone Fani affected families as committed by the hon. Prime Minister in May, 2019.

(21) Re: Resolution of water disputes between Rajasthan and other States

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: On 31.12.1981, the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan signed an agreement on sharing of the excess water of Ravi and Beas rivers. Rajasthan is not getting its due share of water in view of the geographical situation of Rajasthan, it is necessary to resolve the pending water dispute at the earliest.

(22) Re: Start of several flights from Belgaum

SHRIMATI MANGAL SURESH ANGADI: Belgaum airport is the oldest airport in Karnataka. Belgaum is an educationally and industrially forward city. It has often been the persistent demand of the people to start the daily flights on the routes Belagavi-Bangalore (morning flight), Belagavi-Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Belagavi-Darbhanga-Gaya (Bihar), Belagavi-Shirdi (Maharashtra), and Belagavi-Varanasi with stress for the start of cargo services too. Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to please look into the matter.

**THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY
SYSTEMS (PROHIBITION OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES) AMENDMENT
BILL, 2022**

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR) *moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:* India implements its international obligations responsibly and this is recognized by the international community. Weapons of Mass Destruction and Delivery Systems Act, 2005 prohibits unlawful activities in respect of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons, and their delivery systems. The initial focus was on export controls of goods technologies because we thought at that time in 2005 mainly in terms of trade. In recent year, however, international regulations relating to weapons of mass destruction have been strengthened. So, the proposed Bill is intended to prohibit financing of prohibited activities under the

Act or any relevant Act in relation to weapons of mass destruction. This Bill is in our national interest and our global interest. It strengthens our credentials and image. I commend it for consideration.

SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY *initiating said:* The new legislation prohibits the financing of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The entire Bill speaks about a person who finances weapons of mass destruction. But, organizations and countries also finance them. This Act applies to foreign citizen share we have extradition agreements with the foreign countries. The government of India needs to do more about countries financing weapons of mass destruction against India. Pakistan and China have the modern acquisitions whereas the Indian Air force with a sanctioned strength of 42 fighter squadrons has now come down to 28. The Government should take a very serious note of this. I would like to mention about delivery systems. Please do not go by an earlier definition of delivery systems. Today, all fighter aircrafts, in Pakistan and China, are capable to deliver weapons of mass destruction. The Government of India must take appropriate measures on that. From its inception, the institution of the National Security Advisor and the Deputy National Security Advisor is being somehow restricted to the Indian Foreign Services or Indian Police Service. It would be very appropriate if a military expert will also be the NSA or, at least, the Deputy NSA of this country.

COL. (RETD) RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE: The threat of mass destruction weapons is increasing day by day all over the world. The responsibility of the government of a country is to keep the citizens of the country safe. That is why this Amendment Bill has been brought to secure this country. The weapons of mass destruction create havoc on a large scale. These can be chemical weapons, biological weapons, radiological weapons and nuclear weapons. This bill has been brought to keep an eye on manufacturing as well as financing of the said weapons and the people involved therein. The International Anti-Terror Alliance is being formed by the Prime Minister. In the world order, India is emerging. Under the changing global order, India is changing and becoming stronger. India is constantly motivating the forces of the world to make such laws so that the terrorist does not find a place to hide anywhere. The law of 2005 was very limited. It was just focused on manufacturing thereby applying to the manufacturers of the said weapons. Money laundering and funding of weapons of mass destruction are connected to each other and that is why it is very important to focus on who is financing it. We are close with some of the countries that go with the ideas of weapons of mass destruction and many times they have used or are likely to use weapons of mass destruction or chemical weapons or biological weapons. That is why our country needs to be fully prepared so that we can keep our citizens safe to every extent.

SHRI A. RAJA: I am happy that the Government has brought this Bill to strengthen the earlier legislation which was brought during the UPA Government in 2004 and 2005. Ever since Independence, India's Foreign Policy has been in pursuit of global nuclear disarmament. Though we got the status as nuclear weapons state, we did not mitigate our stand that our objective is nuclear weapon free world. Keeping in view the rising menace of weapons of mass destruction all over the world this Bill is aimed to fulfil a limited purpose, namely, to prohibit financing of any activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and freeze such accounts if any. Everybody in the House has welcomed it. Just making legislations, I think, cannot be a holistic approach to curb the menace. State-wise legislation is essentially needed. But what is needed more is a collective and holistic mechanism through the United Nations or any other forum not only to curb the menace but to implement this type of legislation in a proper manner irrespective of State boundaries. The Government has to think what type of mechanism we can put forth before the United Nations to address these issues in a holistic manner. A few years back, the United Nations Security Council requested all the States to adopt measures to criminalise the assistance of acquiring weapons of mass destruction. I think that this Bill has been brought to fulfil this obligation of United Nations Security Council.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: This Bill has been brought forward in the interest of national security and national interest. So, we support the Bill. This Bill has been brought to prohibit financing of any prohibited activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. This Bill has been brought forward in a hurry because only on 4th April, the United Nations, meeting at Geneva, expressed deep concern over proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. There are eight countries in the world which have got weapons of mass destruction. This includes India and Pakistan and five of these countries are signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). India has not been a signatory to it, though we are for disarmament. Now the important thing is to ensure the safety of our country in future. The main point is to tighten our own homeland security. The External Affairs Minister, made a comment today that the world order is changing. He said that he will be on the right side of the world order. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what world order is he talking of, and which side we be. On the internet a video is shown in which a college boy can assemble together a small nuclear device. The point is not that but the point is to have vigilance. We must defend ourselves.

***DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:**

* Please see supplement.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: I am on my legs to support the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022. Our country is witnessing a rise in the terrorist activities in which many Indians lose their lives. Terrorist activities are happening not only in our country but all over the world. In such a situation, bringing this bill by the Government with an intention to establish peace and security in the world is a welcome step. The 17-year-old law of the year 2005 has been amended for the first time through this bill. This Bill is intended to curb the illegal use of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological and other equipment. An important decision has been taken by the National Security Council in the United Nations to amend the 17-year-old law and move towards a new direction by bringing new suggestions. All countries should exercise restraints and should not take illegal action. Terrorist activities should not be supported, nor encouraged and rather it should be banned. India is sending out a message to the entire world through this bill that it is high time for the weapons of mass destruction to be eliminated.

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: The Bill seeks to provide for provisions against financing of proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction and their delivery system so as to fulfill our international obligations. Terrorist financing and financing for proliferation of weapons of mass destruction can result in loss of reputation in the international market, loss of donor functioning, loss of foreign direct investment and loss of credibility for the financial sector. Therefore, identifying, assessing and understanding proliferation financing risks on a regular basis is very much essential. In this direction, India reaffirms that disarmament is a primary goal of Chemical Weapons Convention and should remain a priority till the complete destruction of all chemical weapons is achieved. India is a responsible nuclear weapon State and is committed, as per its nuclear doctrine, to maintain a credible, minimum deterrence with the posture of no-first-use and non-use against the non-nuclear weapon States. The present Bill is in our national interest and in accordance with our international obligations.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: I rise to support the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022. In Resolution 1540 (2004), the Security Council decided that all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. The Resolution requires all States to adopt and enforce appropriate laws to this effect as well as other effective measures to prevent the proliferation of these weapons and their means of delivery to actors, in

particular for terrorist purposes. Nonetheless, detecting proliferation-relevant illicit financing is even harder than detecting money laundering or terrorism financing. The risks posed by Weapons of Mass destruction stem not only from ready-made bombs, nuclear, chemical or radiological material but also from dual-use goods and technology that are traded, shipped and used globally. One of the most important areas for the Government to work upon is on informing the private sector promptly to match changes in UN designations of entities and individuals. If the UN Security Council designated new entities or individuals as proliferators, but a given country failed to update its lists, what happens is that these financial institutions continue to trade with these entities because they are not made aware of these changes in time. So, that is also something that needs to be considered.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I stand here in support of the Bill that we are discussing today. India has always had a very good and a positive image of a peace-loving and peace-making country. India's definition of weapons of mass destruction is for nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. So, can we expand it? I would like to request that we should consider on broadening the definition of the Weapons of Mass Destruction. I would like to talk about some other issues which nobody else has mentioned the zoonotic diseases. It is like a pandemic. There is a story that COVID-19 was attacked which is probably on the globe. Could we have a broad discussion on this? I think that terror-financing is such a thing that must be stopped. We support this Bill completely but we must definitely be very careful about the new technology coming in. We all are raising our concerns just to make sure that it is a flawless Bill and make sure that India is known for what it really is.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: I have a few quick points that I would like to make. I suggest for consideration of the hon. Minister to attach a schedule to this Bill and list the Acts, Agreements, and Convention etc which come under the purview of this legislation. We have seen umpteen times statements coming from Russia. If signatories to the Convention are blatantly breaking it, then, what is the use of this Convention? We are going to have the Ninth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention this year. I wish to know what would be the approach of India in this Conference, In the light of ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, I wish to know the kind of mechanism and the national strategy what is in place in the event of a chemical or biological attack. Several hon. Members have also asked is about the Corona virus questioning whether it is a biological attack or not. I am fully with the hon. Minister and the Government to ruthlessly crush financing any activity which help in making weapons of mass destruction and their delivery.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: As the hon. Minister explained that it is essentially to make us legally complaint with the mandates of the United Nations Security Council and the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. Could the Minister actually, throw light as to what steps the Government has taken measures after launch of Brahmos incident to ensure that something of this sort does not get repeated in future? In the year 2018, in the Bodh Gaya blast case, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Act was invoked by the National Investigation Agency. Could the Minister enlighten us whether chargesheets were field in terms of these relevant Sections of the WMD Act? My last point would relate to our no-first-use posture. There has a certain amount of ambiguity with regard to this no-first-use posture. It would be enlightening to hear from the Minister as to whether we continue to maintain a no-first-use posture or is there any rethink in Government which he would like to share with the House?

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: I rise here in support of this new amendment Bill. In fact, there is a need to amend the said Act to provide against the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems so as to fulfill our international obligations. The Bill would give the Government of India powers to freeze, seize or attach funds or other financial assets or economic resources owned or controlled wholly or jointly by such person. This amendment Bill shows the deep commitment of the Government of India to our counter-terror measures. We all know the devastation and destruction that the weapons of mass destruction carry. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has high intention to procure chemical weapons and biological devices, particularly in Pakistan and Yamen. So, we cannot say that the threat or the risk is over. We have to be much more vigilant than ever before. There are also rogue States. Sometimes they try to fund the terrorist activities. The United Nations Resolution 1540 talks about CBRN that is, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons. In case of biological attack who will be the first responder. I would like to know whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre will respond to such situation. The Chinese who got some Sanskrit manuscript from Tibet- have said that they were going to use it for building interstellar spaceships. Prof. A.V. Krishnamurthy also said that they believed that some of our texts especially Vedas and Sanskrit texts have the references of our spacecraft. Can we study these Sanskrit texts so as to find out some defensive mechanisms?

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: India should stand for protecting the national interests, common goodness and peace of the entire world. We have always advocated for total disarmament. At the same time, we were deadly against the misuse of it-whether it is chemical weapon, biological or toxin weapon. The UN Security Council

Resolution 1540 requires all States to adopt measures to criminalize assistance to non-State actors. We are committed to ensure that these do not fall into the wrong hands, especially the terrorists and non-State actors. India has an impeccable record in this regard and India will continue to work to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I fully support this amendment Bill, subject to certain specific clarifications from the hon. Minister. I have stated that the weapons of mass destruction are against international peace and security. The disarmament policy of the Government of India has to be, therefore, highlighted at all the international forums. We have to salute our forefathers for devising consistent policies in respect of nuclear disarmament. I would like to know whether the provisions of the original Act were not sufficient to deal with this subject. If a person or a company who is financing the proliferation of the weapons of mass destruction and their delivery, section 17 will be attracted.

SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH : I appreciate our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for transforming our nation as a global leader through several significant strategic initiatives. The web of terror financing has expanded manifold and it is important that we protect our nation from such insane terror or militant attacks. What action was taken against those people who financed the Mumbai attacks in the year 2008? I support this Bill in anticipation that these terror financing networks will be wiped off from our country as well as across the borders. I suggest the hon. Minister that we must encourage the use of technological innovations and policies to improve our counter-proliferation efforts. We must be prepared to combat the use of new mechanisms of financing these weapons, like the use of blockchain technology which supports cryptocurrencies like bitcoin, etc. .

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL : The whole world is concerned that nuclear weapons are not used. The Bill bars individuals from financing any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. To prevent such financing, the Bill empowers the Centre to freeze, seize or attach funds, financial assets, or economic resources. Nuclear non-proliferation has become far more challenging today than before. Today, the people obtain illegal licenses and the cases of illegal weapons are increasing day by day. In Ganganagar district, the responsible administrative officials issued fake arms licences taking crores of rupees and a case of fake arms licences was reported in Alwar. I would like to make a suggestion here that a representative of the Centre may also be nominated in the Committee which issues arms licences.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR : India is a responsible nuclear weapon State and therefore, the Indian Government must view nuclear weapons as part of a comprehensive national security strategy that includes diplomacy, arms control initiatives, and conventional forces to maximise stability and peace in the region. Cyber warfare technology is spreading rapidly. India's nuclear weapons-related systems should be ready to respond to cyber threats. India needs to take a lead in ensuring the Biological Weapons Convention is effective in its aim at curbing use of biological agents or toxins. I want the Minister to clarify as to how the Government plans to revamp production at DRDO.

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV : This Bill seeks to prohibit financing of any activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. To prevent such financing, the Bill empowers the Centre to freeze, seize or attach funds, financial assets, or economic resources. The need of this Bill was felt to fulfil India's international obligations and I congratulate the Government for bringing this Bill.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI : I support this Bill. It has been the history of our country that we have always spoken out against such things at the international stage. Today, I would like to compliment the scientists of my country for maintaining secrecy when nuclear tests were conducted in our country. The problems of leakages from nuclear plants, etc., should also be taken care of.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY : I support this Bill. No other country normally stands with us when our country faces any problem. Be it Pakistan occupied Kashmir issue or Aksai Chin issue, how many countries stood in our favour? There was a case of weapons dropping in Purulia but we could not complete that investigation because we did not have a strong law to confiscate anyone's property or freeze bank account. Whether it is a chemical weapon, a biological weapon, a nuclear weapon or matters of cyber security or cryptocurrency, we all needed to work together with the world to help in the FATF resolution and support the United Nations to stop such abuses.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY : It was enunciated by our country long back about what needs to be done for the people across the world to stem the rot arising out of the nuclear proliferation. It is alarming to note that still, the world possesses more than 13,400 nuclear weapons. So, disarmament is the best protection against such dangers. We have to prepare ourselves for any eventuality. From 1925 to 2017, 10 International Treaties on Weapons of Mass Destruction have been signed. We can't fight it just by passing laws. Whatever steps are taken to keep our country safe and secure, we will support them without any hesitation.

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UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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

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Not for Publication

For Members only

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SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES

(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 / Chaitra 16, 1944 (Saka)

**THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND THEIR DELIVERY
SYSTEMS (PROHIBITION OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES) AMENDMENT
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***DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:** The objective of this amendment is to punish those who manufacture weapons of mass destruction, to seize financial sources of those persons or organizations which support such unlawful activities and to see that funds are not collected to support such activities. Our country is fighting terrorism for so

** Speeches made by other hon. Members have already been included in the Synopsis (Main).

* Original in Telugu.

many decades. If terrorists get hold of weapons of mass destruction, we all know the consequences. We should respect the resolution of United Nations and also make other countries to honour this resolution. I thank Union Government for making efforts in strengthening our country's capabilities.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR) *replying said:* Through this Bill we are upgrading a law, which is 17 years old. Updating laws and terminating antiquated rules, both are part of good governance. All the hon. Members understand the importance of FATF. Today, the FATF evaluates whether countries are responsible in terms of their financial policy. The FATF has a recommendation number 7 which says that countries should implement targeted financial action to comply with Security Council Resolution and that they should freeze without delay funds and assets and ensure no funds and assets are made available, directly or indirectly, to any person or entity dealing with WMD. In this Bill we are referring to persons not to entities. I would like to inform that 'persons' is defined to include any company or association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not and it covers entities, companies and organizations. With regard to the second issue of its necessity, I would like to state that FATF and the current requirements need a very specific reference to financing. Our effort today is to give legislative backing so that this is not a one-by-one *ad hoc* measure, but there is a legal statutory way of dealing with what is a continuous problem. I want to emphasise that the whole purpose of this exercise is to make a very specific change in additionality in law so that this country's record, this country's reputation, and this country's security is ensured by financial measures which the Government is in a position to take. With regard to a question whether businesses by mistake will get caught in this situation that they did not know or something wrong was done or no one told them, I would say that anybody who is dealing with this business, who is looking at anything which involves weapons of mass destruction, their technology, their equipment, our reach out, and the nature of the business would alert them to it. So, I think the possibility that somebody would by mistake get caught in a financial law is something which is not realistic. It has not happened in the last 17 years and so I think hon. Members should be confident that that is something which would not take place. There was also an issue whether this would affect legitimate research and development. That is again not the case. This is a very specialised area. I think the country's scientists and the Government are very aware of what they are doing. Another question was that there was a reference to aid and to abet, and if there is aid and abet in the existing law, why should you have a specific reference to finance. The judgement of the Finance Ministry, the Law Ministry, and even the Foreign Ministry is that aid and abet were not sufficient, that it required something very specific on finance. The FATF

required it. There were references to extradition agreement. It is a very different matter. We are dealing with the security of the nation. We are today in diplomacy very focussed. I would make the point that today there are big challenges. A lot of the challenges are there in disarmament, in arms control, and in the proliferation domains. The House will appreciate that since 2014, we have become a Member of the MTCR, we have become a member of the Wassenaar Arrangement, and we have become a member of the Australia Group. So, our role in global arms control, disarmament, proliferation regimes, and initiatives is very strong today. Our reputation is very good, and I believe that the passage of this Bill will strengthen both our national security and our global reputation.

The motion was adopted.

The Bill was passed.

Utpal Kumar Singh
Secretary General

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debate of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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