

**LOK SABHA**

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**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES**

(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

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Friday, July 22, 2022 / Ashadha 31, 1944(Saka)

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**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

(1) ***Re: Need to introduce a train from Etah to Delhi via Agra***

**SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (RAJU BHAIYA):** I put forth my demand to the Minister of Railways to introduce a train from Etah Kasganj, Uttar Pradesh to Delhi via Agra so that the people of my area can easily go to Delhi and Agra for their studies, jobs, employment and business.

(2) ***Re: Bihta-Aurangabad railway line project***

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:** Bihta-Aurangabad new rail project was sanctioned in the year 2007 and the work of the project was to be completed in the year 2011-12. The project will benefit the people of Patna, Arwal, Jehanabad and Aurangabad. I urge that immediate steps should be taken for early completion of the Bihta Aurangabad railway project. For the last many years local people are demanding that in this extremism affected area Daltonganj of Jharkhand should be connected with rail service via Gaya, Sherghati, Banke Bazar, Imamganj, Dumaria. This expansion of rail service will be useful in better local connectivity as well as in insurgency control.

(3) ***Re: Need to provide stoppage of trains at Biswanath Chariali and Gohpur Railway Stations in Assam***

**SHRI PALLAB LOCHAN DAS:** Biswanath Chariali is the headquarters of Biswanath District which is an important city of northern Assam and has a lot of commuters travelling to New Delhi on frequent basis. I request the hon. Railway Minister for stoppage of 20505/20506 New Delhi-Dibrugarh Bi-Weekly Rajdhani Express (*vis* Bogibeel) and 22412/22411 Delhi-Naharlagun Arunachal Express at Biswanath Chariali Railway Station and Gohpur Railway Station at the earliest.

- \* (4) **SHRI RAHUL KASWAN** laid a statement regarding need to frame an effective law to ban fraudulent Ponzi schemes.
- \* (5) **SHRI ANURAG SHARMA** laid a statement regarding need to connect Bundelkhand expressway to Gwalior - Jhansi-Kanpur Expressway.
- \* (6) **SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to include 'Bhuhinhar Munda' Bhuhinhar caste of Jharkhand in the list of Scheduled Tribes.
- \* (7) **SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR** laid a statement regarding need to set up a regulatory board for online games.
- \* (8) **SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN** laid a statement regarding setting up of a Kalari Academy and Museum at Kadirur.
- \* (9) **DR. D. RAVIKUMAR** laid a statement regarding various issues pertaining to implementation of Reservation in jobs and promotion.
- \* (10) **DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY** laid a statement regarding need to grant citizenship to Srilankan Tamils who repatriated to India under the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955
- \* (11) **SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE** laid a statement regarding need to take suitable measures against documentaries hurting religious sentiments.
- \* (12) **SHRI HIBI EDEN** laid a statement regarding price hike of kerosene oil.
- \* (13) **SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL** laid a statement regarding addition of Kalanamak Chawal to the list of special products under Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act (APEDA Act).
- \* (14) **SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL** laid a statement regarding shoddy construction of National Highways in Nagaur parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.

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\* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

**HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON:** I have to inform the Hon'ble Members that the sitting of Lok Sabha on Monday, the 25 July, 2022 will commence at 2.00 pm.

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## THE INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL, 2022

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH)** *moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said* : The area of the Antarctic is spread over around 14 million square kilometers. It is 60 degrees south of the Southern Hemisphere. The living conditions there are also unsuitable. In the winter season, the temperature dips down to even minus 90 degrees Celsius and in summer too, it remains down to minus 10 degrees. Most of the people living here are researchers and scientists and their number is around 1000 to 5000. There are about 40 research centers here. India has established its two institutions there – Maitree and Bharati. In 1959, the Antarctic Treaty was signed and came into force in 1961 and in the year 1983, India also signed it and became a party to it. Now, out of its 54 member countries, there are 29 countries which have been accorded consultative status, that is, they can participate in the discussion on the decisive subjects and proceedings. The basic purpose of this treaty was to demilitarize Antarctica so that there would not be any kind of military action there. In view of that treaty, it is also binding on India to bring here this kind of legislation to deal with the situation arising out of any such violation in Antarctica.

**SHRI JAYANT SINHA** *initiating said*: This Bill is comprehensive and visionary in nature which is principally aimed at keeping Antarctica safe from scientific point of view. This Bill is going to be instrumental in achieving this objective in full. We happen to be its consultative partners and we, as a

consultative partner, are going to enact such laws in our own country as well in order that we may be able to implement the provisions of International treaties signed by us in our own ways. This Antarctica region is linked with several important issues of Climate Change. The entire Antarctica continent is covered with snow. The amount of snow in the Antarctica accounts for as much as 62 per cent fresh water of the world. Global warming is rising at a massive scale. In case there is global warming of the order of 2 or 3 degree centigrade, the magnitude of snow covering the entire Antarctica region shall start melting by slow degrees. In the event of its melting gradually, this can cause colossal disaster. With the melting of Antarctica water level at sea shall start going up leading to the incidence of flood in our coastal cities causing huge devastation. Therefore it is imperative for India and even for the entire world for that matter to envisage the enormity of the problem arising out of the impact of global warming on Antarctica in a scientific spirit. Hence, a scientific mission ought to be launched here in a safe manner and care must be taken that this must not result in any damage to the environment. We have two Scientific centres in place namely Bharati and Maitri . Besides, there is yet another Scientific Centre bearing the name Gangotri which is run on temporary basis. It is no less important though. Rather it is essentially called for. As many as 41 scientific missions have already been carried out. Our Scientific Staff residing in Antarctica is 50 to 60 in number who remain busy with scientific work of various nature. Given that, with a view to keeping the extant scientific centres safe and insulated from the likely impedance in their smooth functioning, we ought to pass this Bill. It merits mention here that we are not the only one to pass a Bill to this effect. So many other countries have had already enacted their own laws by passing Bills to accommodate certain provisions therein to nurture their respective interests. Having said that, I must highlight here that this Bill contains two to three such unique provisions which are not included in the other Bills. In the first place, if there is any scientific expedition to Antarctica, the element of waste management must not be compromised. We have constituted a 14 member committee. If anyone wants to engage himself or herself in any scientific endeavour, approval shall be accorded to this effect only after it is subjected to the process of seeking permission from this very committee. The scope of work shall be rather limited over there.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** The subject for today's discussion is of great importance, not only for our country but also for the whole world. Antarctica is the White Continent of the world, and it is the 5 largest continent of our Earth. Global warming is the incident which we should be aware of. Small

island countries in the Pacific and also in Indian Ocean are in great danger, if the ice of the South Pole melts. The ice of Antarctica is a great wealth for the whole human kind. It is necessary that we also become a party to the United Nations Agreement, about which the Minister has just now mentioned. This Bill aims at promoting Antarctica as a natural reserve that is devoted to science and peace, and to ensure that Antarctica does not become the scene of international discord. That is the basic purpose for which this Bill is being introduced. India maintains two research stations in Antarctica – Maitri since 1989 and Bharati since 2012 – and has launched 41 expeditions to the Continent so far. The Antarctica Treaty was signed in Washington D.C. on the 1 day of December, 1959. India signed the Antarctica Treaty on 19 August, 1983 and received consultative status on the 12 September, 1983. There is a need for the law. While India has been sending expeditions to Antarctica for the last 40 years, these expeditions have been circumscribed by international law. This Bill now puts into place a comprehensive list of regulations related to Antarctica for scientific expeditions as well as for individuals, companies and tourists. I would like to mention that this is a necessity not only for our country, but also for the whole world. We will become a part of the greater brotherhood, the international brotherhood and therefore, I believe that everybody should support this Bill wholeheartedly.

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH** *replying said:* The Antarctic has a special significance also. It has to be ensured that all countries that have set up institutes there, restrict themselves to research only. Since it is an area over which no country has sovereignty, the law of India should apply to the territory occupied by the Indian institutions and that is the very purpose of this Bill. After this Bill is passed, we will have a Committee, which will be headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Committee will also have representatives from the other Ministries. In the wake of passage of this Bill, Indian law will be applicable in the area occupied by the Indian institutes and for Indian personnel living in that Continent. Our laboratories there are located abutting Norwegian institutes which are at the spatial distance of merely 100 kilometres. The Antarctic Treaty was also conceived so that no country may be heading off to this region for the purpose of carrying out oil exploration or mining activity. In all, there are three treaties related to the Antarctic. One is the treaty under which we are bringing in this Bill. Second is Convention of Antarctic Marine Living Resources which is associated with the preservation of the other resources existing there. And the third treaty pertains to Protocol on Environmental Protection.

*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.

*English and Hindi versions of Synopses of Lok Sabha Debates are also available at <http://loksabha.nic.in>.*