

Not for Publication

For Members only

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Tuesday, December 21, 2021 / Agrahayana 30, 1943 (Saka)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Reg: Lok Sabha Mobile App

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are informed that a Mobile App has been devised for your easy use, through which you can have an access to the telecast of the proceedings of the Parliament as well as other important Parliamentary Papers on your devices such as mobile and tablets. Through this App, you can see the materials related with Parliament functioning, particularly today's papers, Live TV, Parliamentary business, Question-Answers, Debates, Circulated Papers, Members related information, Bulletin Part-I, Bulletin Part-II, working of the Committees, information related to Bills etc. This App will be of great use to you. I would like to request all of you to get this Mobile App downloaded by the people of your respective parliamentary constituency also, so that you can showcase your conduct in Parliament to the people of your constituency.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

HON. SPEAKER: In our parliamentary tradition it is not proper to try to adjourn the House in a planned manner, raise slogans and carry placards. I am asking all the hon.

Members to go back to their respective seats. Today, I will provide you enough time and opportunity to place your views on every issue.

THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.

I, being the representative of the Government of India, would humbly like to move this resolution before this august House on the auspicious occasion of Amrit Mahotsav in the 75th year of India's independence which seeks to raise the age of marriage for women to bring the same at par with that of men. In this respect, the enactments relating to age of marriage of parties such as the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872, the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936, the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, the Special Marriage Act, 1954, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 do not agree.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the introduction of the Bill said:* A lot of discussion is going on in the country on this issue. The Government has neither held any discussion with any stake holder nor consulted any state so far and has brought this Bill suddenly in a hurry. We demand that this Bill should immediately be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: I oppose the introduction of this Bill. Various personal laws will be affected by this Bill. This Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee for greater scrutiny.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I oppose the way in which the Government has brought this Bill in a hurry. This Bill needs comprehensive discussion among all stakeholders. The minorities are totally opposed to this Bill.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: This Bill is unconstitutional and violative of Article 25 of the Constitution. This Bill is an attack on the personal law and the fundamental rights of the people of this country. The Government should withdraw this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: The basic purpose of legislation is to see whether the law is enforceable. To acquire the citizenship, 18 years of age has been prescribed by the Constitution. The rural population, especially the uneducated and unemployed girls, will have to wait up to 21 years of age for getting married. So, I would like to know whether this law is enforceable or not.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: This is a retrogressive amendment. This is against the right to freedom under Article 19. What have you done for the 18 years old? The women's labour force participation in India is lower than Somalia.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: We had come after preparing for the Bill which was shown to us till yesterday. Now, this Bill has been introduced by circulating the Supplementary List of Business. This method is not correct. This Bill needs to be discussed properly. I would like to request that arrangements should be made to send this Bill to JPC.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: The Government is aggressively bringing in Bills without consulting with the Opposition. This Bill needs to be scrutinised and all the stakeholders should be consulted. We must unanimously pass any reforms, if they have got to do with women. The government must send this Bill to the Standing Committee for detailed discussions.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI: It is very important that such an important Bill has to be sent to the standing committee or to the Select Committee. They have to review it, ask for opinions from civil society and then bring in this Bill.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: It is not good for the Government to introduce the Bill all of a sudden and get it passed without discussion or debate. It is undemocratic.

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) *replying said:* In the 19th century the age of marriage for girls was 10 years. Till the year 1940, age of marriage was enhanced from 12 years to 14 years. In the year 1978, girls would be married on the attainment of 15 years of age. This is for the first time that through an amendment, both male and female are being empowered to take their matrimonial decision on the attainment of 21 years of age in pursuit of affording a sense of equality among women. The research shows that between the year 2015 and 2020, as many as 20 lakh child marriages were stopped from being held. The National Family Health Survey – 5 data indicates that sixty per cent daughters have been found to be in the family way at the age of 18 years in the year 2015. The Supreme Court itself holds that it is a Secular Act from the stand point of Muslim

Personal Law, Hindu Marriage Act and that women belonging to all religions, all castes and all communities should be conferred upon equal rights for marriage purposes. I, on behalf of the Government, would like to request that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee. The introduction of this Bill is a crucial move in the history of our country. The Prime Minister has also been happy on introduction of this Bill in the House because chances of girls of the age of 15 to 18 years being pregnant and facing miscarriage go up to nearly 10 per cent. I, on behalf of the sisters of the country, would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the Prime Minister for this historic move and do appeal to the House to let me introduce this Bill.

The Bill was introduced.

BILL REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

THE PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI) moved that a Bill further to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 be referred to the Standing Committee.

The Motion was adopted and the Bill was referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee.

DEFERMENT OF A BILL

THE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS, THE COST AND WORKS ACCOUNTANTS AND THE COMPANY SECRETARIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL) : moved that the Bill further to amend the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980, be referred to the Departmentally Related Standing Committee.

The Bill, by leave, was deferred.

Utpal Kumar Singh
Secretary General

© 2021 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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>.