

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES

(Proceedings other than Question & Answers)

Monday, December 19, 2022/Agrahayana 28, 1944 (Saka)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) *Re:* Need to construct a road from Panchkula to Shaheed Bhagat Singh Airport, Chandigarh**

SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI: Passengers have to face heavy traffic from Panchkula district to the airport. Often, passengers miss their flights. I request the Hon. Minister for the construction of a road directly from Panchkula to Shaheed Bhagat Singh Airport, Chandigarh.

- (2) *Re:* Need to sanction funds for construction of a railway line from Dehradun to Kalsi in Uttarakhand**

SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH: The survey for laying the railway line from Dehradun to Kalsi has been conducted twice and there is no technical fault in it, but it has not yet received financial approval. Due to the unavailability of a railway line, the traders and tourists visiting there have to face a lot of difficulties. I request the Minister of Railways to accord express financial approval for laying of the rail line from Dehradun Railway Station to Kalsi under Moradabad Division.

(3) Re: Need to set up Fast Track Child Rescue Cells all over the country for tracking and rescue of missing Children

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT: It is absolutely necessary to have a Fast Track Child Rescue Cell (FTCRC) in police departments across India for the safety of children. Crimes against children are increasing day by day. The FTCRC will enable fast registration of FIR and action thereon and because of availability of centralised data, the information related to missing children will circulate in the entire country and to all state borders as soon as the report of missing child is filed. Aadhaar cards of children ought to be issued compulsorily irrespective of the fact that child's birth takes place in a hospital or at home.

(4) Re: Need to develop Madhoganj in Hardoi district, Uttar Pradesh as an industrial area

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: My parliamentary constituency Mishrikh is a very backward Scheduled Castes dominated area. Industries are developing rapidly here alongside the Baghauli to Madhoganj road. For the development of this area, there is an urgent need to develop Madhoganj as an industrial area.

(5) Re: Approval of two Kendriya Vidyalayas in Patnagarh and Titlagarh in Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Permission for opening of two Kendriya Vidyalayas in Patnagarh and Titlagarh sub- divisions of my Parliamentary Constituency is still pending with the Central Government. I request the Ministry of Education to expedite the process of all approvals needed for the opening of the two Kendriya Vidyalayas in Patnagarh and Titlagarh in Bolangir Parliamentary Constituency

(6) Re: Need to observe 3rd January, the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule as Women Teachers' Day

DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA: Mata Savitribai Phule is remembered for her contribution in the field of women's education. Savitribai Phule was a ray of hope for women. In her life span of just 66 years, she became a role model and symbol of self- respect for millions of women. Earlier, I had demanded that the birth anniversary of Mata Savitribai Phule ji be celebrated as Women's Teacher's Day to which Hon'ble Minister replied in writing that 5th September,

Birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan is celebrated as Teachers' Day. So it is not possible. My demand is not that Teachers' Day should be celebrated on January 3 instead of September 5, but my demand is that Mata Savitribai Phule's birth anniversary should be celebrated as Women Teacher's Day on January 3.

(7) *Re: Need to take measures to protect agriculture crops from wild animals in Dhar Parliamentary Constituency*

SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: In Malwa and Neemad zones of my Parliamentary Constituency Dhar, wild animals are causing huge damage to the crops of farmers by completely destroying it. I urge upon the Government to take immediate effective steps to save the crops of the farmers from wild animals.

(8) *Re: Need to declare Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project as a National Project*

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: The Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) will cater to the long- term irrigation and drinking water needs of 41% of the state's population in 13 districts including my parliamentary constituency Jhalawar-Baran by the year 2051. Due to delay in completion of works, the cost is escalating. The state Government alone cannot afford the escalated cost of this project. Therefore, this project should be declared as a National Project.

(9) *Re: Need to include Kushi Nagar Parliamentary Constituency under Swadesh Darshan Scheme*

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY: The area under the Kushinagar Parliamentary Constituency is covered by Buddhist circuit. Millions of Buddhist pilgrims from dozens of countries visit this area every year. I urge upon the Minister of Tourism to include Kushinagar Parliamentary Constituency in the Swadesh Darshan Scheme 2.0.

(10) *Re: Need to Construct ROB, VUP and CUP on National Highway No.52 in Churu Parliamentary Constituency*

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: The conversion of work National Highway No. 52 from 2 lane to 4 lane in Churu parliamentary constituency is in progress. This construction work has created many blind spots on this route where accidents are taking place at regular intervals. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Road

Transport and Highways that ROB, VUP and C.U.P. should be constructed on the said highway as per the requirement under the Blind Spot Reduction Scheme.

(11) *Re: Construction of Bridge and new National Highway in Raiganj Parliamentary Constituency*

SUSHRI DEBASREE CHAUDHURI: The road between Raiganj in West Bengal and Barsoi in Bihar is vital for the overall development of Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Katihar Districts. Construction of a bridge and new National Highway connecting the bridge is very important. This is one of the most important and long-pending demands of the people of my Parliamentary Constituency. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to intervene in the matter for the development of the above-mentioned road.

(12) *Re: Need to include and develop Bhoramdev Temple in Rajnandgaon Parliamentary Constituency under PRASAD Scheme.*

SHRI SANTOSH PANDEY: Bhoramdev Temple in my Parliamentary Constituency Rajnandgaon is the centre of attraction for all. This temple is a reflection of architecture and Parmar art style of Malwa. Hon. The Minister is requested to develop Bhoramdev by including it in the 'Prasad' scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

(13) *Re: Benefits of Fasal Bima Yojana in Ganganagar Parliamentary constituency.*

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN: Due to non-uploading of correct data by banks and insurance companies, many farmers have not yet received the benefit in the form of compensation for the loss due to damage of crops even after depositing the premium. Farmers of Suratgarh tehsil in Sriganganagar district have been deprived of the benefits of this scheme due to non-submission of sowing certificates only. Sowing certificates have not been issued to farmers by the Revenue Department in Rajasthan. Farmers there are also not able to take advantage of this scheme despite being eligible for it. The Union government should immediately take cognizance of this issue and take immediate action in this regard.

(14) *Re: Construction of National Highways in Karimganj Parliamentary Constituency.*

SHRI KRIPANATH MALLAH: Two National Highways have already been declared in South Assam. No tangible action is seen towards materialisation of the two proposed projects namely Badarpurghat- Dullavcherra- Mamit Road and Silchar- Ainakhal Tinmukha- Achimganj road. Therefore, I earnestly request for early commencement of work pertaining to the above two National Highway.

(15) *Re: Welfare measures for persons with disabilities*

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN: The Persons with Disabilities in India are facing lots of problems in their day- to- day life. In order to securing the rights of people with disabilities so that they can participate fully, equally and effectively in society, the Government should launch a national job portal which will provide private as well as government jobs for people with disabilities. The Government should introduce a special insurance policy for people with disabilities.

(16) *Re: Construction of highways in the State of Meghalaya*

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Nongstoin- Maweti- Nongjri (75 km) and Dkhiah- Sutnga- Saipung- Moulsei (84 km) stretches of roads under SARDP- NE Phase 'A' have been approved in- principle and declared as new Highways in the State of Meghalaya. However, no road development has been seen as promised. Slow progress of road construction has also halted the economic activities around the area. I would appreciate it if a Central Team is sent to decide on the said issue and initiate actions to improve roads in the State of Meghalaya and speed up the construction process using innovative techniques at the earliest.

(17) *Re: Need for new passenger and express trains in Tamil Nadu*

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: The Railways can earn additional revenue if extension of the following trains via Cuddalore is made namely 06541/06542: Mayiladuthurai - Tiruvarur- Mayiladuthurai up to Villupuram Junction, 06415/06416 and 06873/06874: Mayiladuthurai- Thanjavur- Mayiladuthurai up to Villupuram Junction, 06403/06404: Mayiladuthurai- Mannargudi- Mayiladuthurai up to Villupuram Junction, 06737/06738 and 06799: Villupuram- Puducherry- Villupuram up to Thiruvarur Junction, 06725/06726: Melmaruvathur- Villupuram- Melmaruvathur up to Mayiladuthurai Junction, 06689/06690:

Mayiladuthurai- Villupuram- Mayiladuthurai up to Mannargudi Junction, 06691, 06692, 066694, 06695 and 06877: Villupuram- Mayiladuthurai- Tiruvarur up to Nagapattinam Junction.

(18) Re: Establishment of a National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Tirupati

SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY: Tirupati is an educational hub and strategically located. It is proposed to establish NFSU campuses across the country. I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to initiate the process for establishment of an NFSU Campus at Tirupati.

(19) Re: Death of an alleged prime accused in the Bogtui arson case

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: The prime accused in the Bogtui arson case died in CBI custody on 12th December. CBI claims that he committed suicide. The CID of the West Bengal Police has registered a case against some officers of the CBI for custody death. We demand that there should be an enquiry by a sitting Judge of the High Court into this incident.

(20) Re: Need to attract investment and set up industries in Bihar

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: The state of Bihar has a wide network of more than 2 lakh kilometers of roads and more than 6700 kilometers of railway lines. There is also an international airport which connects it well with the rest of India and international markets. The Golden Quadrilateral Highway and the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor also pass through Bihar. I urge upon the Minister of Commerce and Industry for more and more investment and establishment of industries in the state of Bihar so that the youth of the state get adequate employment opportunities and the state is able to make optimum use of its resources.

(21) Re: Need to take necessary measures for ensuring mental health of students

SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI: There are several factors causing anxiety and stress in students. Suicides amongst students increased by 4.5 per cent in 2021. We need more initiatives at school level for mental health intervention. Creating supportive social environments and networks is crucial to fight the

stigma against mental disorders. I request the Government to take necessary measures in this regard.

(22) *Re: Need to build a bird sanctuary at the site of Devhat Talaab in Uttar Pradesh*

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Chirping of migratory as well as local birds presents a beautiful scene at Devhat talab but as soon as summer sets in, these birds disappear due to lack of trees as they do not get shade. This location has huge potential of being developed as a good tourist destination. This can also create employment opportunities for the neighbouring villages. Hence I request the government to develop a beautiful bird sanctuary at this site.

(23) *Re: Construction of a railway line from Maheshkhunt To Narayanpur in Bihar*

CHOUHARY MEHBOOB ALI KAISER: The proposed project of a new rail line from Maheshkhunt to Narayanpur via Gogri in my Constituency has been put on hold. This project is very important for my area. Even today, many villages do not have direct connectivity with the district headquarters. Khagaria is one of the 'most aspirational' districts of NITI Aayog. With the construction of this rail line, hundreds of villages will have rail connectivity to the headquarters. Therefore, I request the Government to pay special attention to this project.

(24) *Re: Development of a vaccine for Lumpy disease*

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: The effects of the Lumpy disease have been quite disastrous this year on our agrarian economy. Dairy farmers are at a constant economic strain due to the loss of cattle and lowered milk production. As the loss is huge and severely spread across the country, a centralized plan is needed from the Government to revive the dairy economy. Adequate compensation and medical assistance need to be given to the affected farmers and free and subsidized fodder should be provided to them at the earliest. A comprehensive research should be carried out to study the behaviour of the virus to make vaccines.

THE ANTI-MARITIME PIRACY BILL, 2019- *Contd.*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Minister has already depicted the contents of this legislation inside the House. G-20 has been propagated in a high falutin manner. You should be propagating on G-20 but we cannot let ourselves to be indifferent to the other burning issues, especially the Indo-China border conflict. We should put our focus on Indo-China relations because when we go for discussion on maritime anti-piracy law, certainly, the issue will be coming up. We know that the International Court of Justice has no jurisdiction to try and punish the pirates. That is why, globally, it was felt that a legislation should be framed up in order to punish the pirates who have been plundering and ransacking across the ocean. In 2012, the Bill was introduced but due to the dissolution of the House, it was not passed. The Government should have consultation with all Opposition leaders some time because the interest of the nation does not belong only to the ruling dispensation. Another clause in this Bill provides for imprisonment up to 14 years along with a fine if a person commits an act of piracy. The offences in both the clauses seem to be similar. It is not clear which penalties shall be applied in such circumstances. Another issue is extradition. I do not know how many countries with whom we have this kind of extradition treaty. This is the reason why most of the countries, especially those littoral countries, have their own interests in the oceanic regions. I would like to draw the attention of this Government that the Indian Ocean region is also recognised as an area of Golden Crescent, I do not know how this Bill will tackle this kind of emerging menace across our oceanic region. I suggested that both you and the Defence Minister will be required for having an effective discussion. The issue is that we need more naval power. We are encircled by our hostile country. China has been adopting wolf warrior diplomacy. We are being encircled everywhere. That is why we need a blue-water navy. The South China Sea has already been dominated by China by the Nine-Dash line. To become a superpower, they need two seas. China is going to dominate the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean. The South Asian countries for their energy supply, depend on the maritime supply routes in the Indian Ocean. This is a region where the US-led Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Chinese-led Belt Road Initiative have absolute strategic advantages. The ruling regime does not want to speak on this issue. I am supporting this Bill. There are two-three caveats in it. In the Bill, 'life imprisonment' and 'death' both have been mentioned. So, there is some sort of ambiguity so far as the PMLA, that is, presumptive clauses are concerned. I know

that it is a very difficult task to clarify the issue. When governments across the world are acquiring more extraordinary powers to govern people, it is essential to review the burden of proof, not just in the light of PMLA but also in other laws.

DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR *replying said:* There is a broad recognition that our country requires anti-piracy legislation. I want to, particularly, thank the Standing Committee. Out of 18 recommendations, we have taken almost every one of them on board. Government amendments were moved in the last Session. I think, the most important of this relates to the death penalty issue. There is a range of punishments which have been provided depending on the gravity of the offence for the sake of clarify, let me state that under Section 3.1, whoever commits any act of piracy, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to imprisonment for life or fine or both. As regards the provision for death, there is a provision under Section 3 (ii). Now, as per the Government amendment, that has been amended. I want to assure the House that the concern that there will be a mandatory death sentence is no longer relevant in view of the Government amendment. Members also raised in their remarks, which is that the death penalty should be the rarest of the rare. Many countries will not extradite if there is a death penalty. The second issue is the issue of graded punishment to commit the offence of piracy or aids or abets or conspires or procures, then that person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may go up to ten years. Many hon. Members raised the concern about presumption. There are three very specific conditions relating to presumption. So, I want to say very clearly that this is not a case where you are presumed to be guilty unless you are proven innocent. Some hon. Members raised the question of international cooperation. The whole purpose of the Bill is also to promote international cooperation. We have also now joined the Combined Maritime Force based in Bahrain. For the first time, one of our ships has taken part in an exercise called, 'Operation Southern Readiness' as part of the CMF. We have done EZ surveillance. We have done co-ordinated patrols. The issue of our fishermen was also raised from 2014; the number of Indian fishermen released from Sri Lanka are 2,835, and 2,165 Indian fishermen have been released from Pakistan. I want the hon. Member to be re-assured that there is no step-motherly treatment. The Prime Minister has given attention to the problems of the Tamil fishermen, during his Government, set up a mechanism with the Sri Lankans to take up fishing issues and himself spoken to the President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Today the fishermen are released because somebody in Delhi is taking up the matter. Next issue is whether there should be

the consent of or consultation with Chief Justices when specifying designated courts. In this matter, we were guided by the Ministry of Law and Justice then, issues of the roles of different Ministries being defined. There are already standard operating procedures (SOPs) and contingency plans. Regarding the amendment to the title of the Bill, saying 'Maritime Anti-Piracy Bill' and not 'Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill'. I want to assure him that that is part of the Government amendments. It has been taken care of. Regarding the combined maritime task force, I have already spoken about it. Then regarding encouraging greater security in the Western Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. I want to assure him that we are working with our various partners in the region, and our maritime cooperation there has become very much stronger. The death sentence issue, I have already dealt with. He had referred to the word 'counsels' which was there in clause 4, and he felt that the word 'counsels' was not the right word. We agree with him. The Government amendment has replaced the word 'counsels' with 'conspire'. Regarding concern he expressed that under clause 9, Indian nationals on the board of foreign flag ships, we do not have the jurisdiction to try that. Issue that there should be a replication of words 'aids or abets or procures'. We leave it to the judgement of the courts. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab raised an issue that the presumption should be confirmed by the High Court within 30 days. Issue regarding confirmation by the High Court. Confirmation of the High Court is only after the passage of a death sentence. Issue of legal immunity for acts that are done in good faith, this is a very relevant point. Section 11(A) says very clearly that not all arms and ammunition are by necessary regarded as *mala fide*, if the legitimate authority carries it. The Session Courts will be set up in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court and these courts will be set up in all the coastal States. Shri Alok Kumar Suman has said that we should have consulted more countries before we drafted the amendment. I would like to share with the House that the Standing Committee actually looked at a number of other international legislation and they looked particularly at the legislation in Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the UK because the legal systems were very similar, and many of these countries already had legislation on this subject. Therefore, there was a best practices effort made before we drafted this Bill. The Bill, which we have moved along with the Government amendments, does not provide for differential treatment of citizens of various nationalities. For us, an act of piracy is an act of piracy. Cyber attack is a very serious matter. It is a very legitimate concern. But it is outside the purview of this Bill because this Bill is focussed on piracy. There are separate legislations and separate efforts underway to deal with

cyber attacks. There was an issue regarding a ship situation in Nigeria. It is a ship called 'MV Heroic Idun'. As a number of Members raised this issue, I want to inform them that the crew members have been charged on three counts. Their case hearing is coming up on 10th-11th January. We are providing them legal support. We are giving them consular support. We will do whatever we can to help them in these circumstances. The issue regarding imprisonment, I have dealt with it as well. As regards the rarest of the rare and death matters, this too is something which I have already addressed. Nothing in the proposed Bill will apply to a warship or a Government's own ship employed for non-commercial service. G-20 issue is outside the purview of the Bill. We should not directly or indirectly criticize our jawans. When our jawans are standing in Yangste at 13,000 feet. As per the Bill, for certain offences, death penalty can apply; for certain offences, life imprisonment can apply; for certain offences, 10 years will apply; for certain offences, 14 years will apply. The court will decide which of these offences come under which category. On the extradition and bilateral arrangements, I think Shri Adhir Ranjan Chaowdhury has a very valid point. It is something we have covered under Article 14. On the issue of countering piracy, there is a sense of unanimity in the house. So, I hope that the entire House will support the Bill.

The Bill was Passed

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (FOURTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2022

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA) *moved that* the Bill further to amend The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in relation to the State of Karnataka be taken into consideration.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH *initiating* said: The Bill seeks to include "Betta-Kuruba" community as a synonym of "Kadu Kuruba" in entry 16 in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka. The population of both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has increased. But their quota has not increased. The existing

tribal communities are not getting sufficient reservations. Similarly, allocation under either the Union Budget, TSP, or Department has not been increased. Crime against the Scheduled Tribe communities has increased by 6.4 per cent. Further, violence against Adivasi women has also risen. Women from the Scheduled Tribe communities account for 15 per cent of the total cases of violence against women. According to the guidelines of the NITI Aayog, it is mandatory to allocate an amount that is proportionate to the tribal population. However, the allocation in FY 2022-23 was not proportionate, and the SC/ST Budgets have a shortfall of Rs.40,634 crore and Rs.9,399 crore respectively. The Budget for schemes aimed at creating jobs for the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Budget 2022-23 has been substantially decreased from Rs.89.5 crore last year to Rs.11.3 crore this year. Karnataka is the third highest State with the forest under encroachment in India. The Government's disregard for tribal concerns threatens the process of resettlement of many tribal families in Karnataka. The process of resettlement faced multiple setbacks especially due to the mismanagement of funds. Tribes that live in forests do not have access to education or employment opportunities. Therefore, these tribes are demanding for an internal reservation among Scheduled Tribes to ensure their representation. The tribal community, throughout the country, is facing a severe crisis. But the Government is not addressing such issues, particularly in Karnataka.

DR. UMESH G. JADAV: There is one community called as Koli Community. They are called by different names in that region such as Koli, Kabbaliga, Bestha and Ambiga. All are the different names of the same community. However, some are in the Scheduled Tribes category. Most Gonda community people are in my Constituency. They were STs. Their grandfathers were given ST certificates. Now, their children are not being given ST certificates. I sincerely request the Union Government and the Government of Karnataka to include all these Gonda communities and Kuruba- the Bestha community also in the Scheduled Tribe. Banjara- Lambadi community are spread in 22 States of India. Many States have already recommended that the Banjara- Lambadi community has to be included in ST. I request the Government to consider their request and consider them as ST. If they are not included in the Scheduled Tribe, at least they should get some benefits. Their economic condition, social condition and educational condition are very pathetic. At the all-India level, one special-purpose vehicle should be set up.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: In the post-Independence era, tribal land has gradually been taken away by industries, dams, railways, transport and for such other purposes. Once proud communities living self-sufficiently have now been reduced to landless refugees, struggling to survive. To come under the purview of rehabilitation and getting compensation, the land deed is one of the most important documents. But the majority of the tribal communities do not have land records to establish their claim. Though the Government had sanctioned a record number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools, these institutions have been suffering from a severe lack of teaching staff and poor infrastructure. Has the Ministry taken up the matter with the Ministry of Human Resource Development to fill up the vacant posts as early as possible? On 28th February 2022, the Government of West Bengal had sent a proposal to the Union Government for the inclusion of 11 tribal communities. Till date, no action has been taken. So, I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter and take the necessary steps at the earliest.

SHRIMATI CHINTA ANURADHA: Betta-Kuruba community is spread across the most backward and remote areas of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu districts and has been struggling to be accorded with the ST status for the past 35 years. Thus, I thank the Union Government to bring forward this Bill which provides this community with much-awaited ST status. The Government must formulate schemes to provide more economic opportunities to the tribal communities as well as skill development schemes to overcome poverty and unemployment prevailing amongst them. Betta Kuruba community or other tribal communities live in temporary huts or dwellings. So, the government should work towards providing permanent housing facilities to tribal communities. Andhra Pradesh is undertaking a lot of welfare measures to uplift its tribal community. Hence, I would request the Government to allot more funds to the State to help us in scaling up our efforts towards ensuring a better status for our tribal people.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: The hon. Minister is making efforts to get justice delivered to the people of Karnataka through this Bill, which is a welcome step. I hope that they will do justice to the people of Maharashtra state also. I would like to say something about the Dhangar community of Maharashtra which is in a pitiable condition. They are neither able to provide quality education to their children nor are they able to nurture them well due to their poor economic

condition. According to the phonetics of the Hindi language, Dhangar and Dhangad are the same words. There is no tribe named Dhangad in Maharashtra. There is a clear mention of the word Dhangar in the gazettes of the Government of Maharashtra and many letters from the Government of India, yet the Dhangar community is being denied reservation. That's why I would like to urge the Government to include the Dhangar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes and give them socio-economic reservation. I would like to apprise the hon. Minister of the fact that the Maratha community constitutes about one-third of the state's population. This community has been demanding reservations for many years. Therefore, necessary steps should be taken to provide reservations to this community also.

PROF. ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: On behalf of my Party, I stand here to support any Bill that is progressive and works towards establishing a voice for the tribal population. My state, Odisha has around 24 per cent tribal population. I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider the request of our hon. Chief Minister to include 160 communities of the State in the ST list of the State. Among these, some are new entries and the others are subsets, synonyms, and phonetic variations of the existing ST communities, residing in different parts of the state who are being deprived of the benefits availed by STs, though they have the same tribal characteristics as their respective notified STs. One of them happens to be the Kudumi community in the State, whose population is 30 lakh. They live in the districts like Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Balasore and other nearby places. These deprived communities should also be accorded the status of Scheduled Tribes. With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT: I support this Bill which seeks to include certain communities of Karnataka in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the Constitution. There are still some scheduled tribes in the state of Bihar such as Amat, Bind, Beldar, Dhanuk, Kahar, Gangout, Gorhi, Kevat Kyot, Kaivart, Mallah, Nunia and Turha, which have not yet been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the state. The people belonging to these tribes are still socially, educationally and economically backward. Therefore, these castes should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Apart from this, Rajvanshi, Nagar and Chasore of Bihar should also be given the status of Scheduled Tribe.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: This Bill has been brought to include the Betta-Kuruba community of Karnataka in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The Government

has been bringing separate state-specific Bills for the last four days, while the Ministry of Tribal Affairs could have brought a comprehensive Bill as well. I would like to say that the Gond Kuruba community living in the area of Bidar and Kulbarga along with the Betta-Kuruba caste have also been demanding that they should also be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. A proposal in this respect has also come from the state Government. Hence, necessary steps should be taken to fulfill the demand of this community as well.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: There are a number of castes in my state, who are demanding reservation-such as Dhangar community, Maratha community, Lingayat community and Muslim community. But today provisions have been made to provide reservations to the Dhangar community under this Bill because this community is deprived of the benefits of reservation due to the spelling mistake. There are two ways to solve this problem. The Modi government goes by this new Panda Committee Report and can do it directly. The other way is that the present Government of Maharashtra re-looks at the study undertaken by Shri Panda and makes sure that they have another survey freshly done for the Dhangar *Samaj* and sends it to the Government of India and gets it done. Therefore, the Government is requested to take all the necessary steps to provide reservation to the Dhangar community.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I support the Bill that has been brought in this House for the inclusion of Betta- Kuruba tribes in ST List. Even today, there are several tribes in every state across the countries which have not been constitutionally recognized. Only giving status is not sufficient. I have toured all over the country. I would like to apprise the House about the shortcomings in this regard which need to be addressed. Every state has one officer for SC and ST communities. That officer will have to discharge their duties sincerely. Tribal officers will have to be appointed from the state level to the district level to prevent atrocities against Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and to ensure all facilities for them. There are several schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs but tribal people are not able to figure out which scheme is beneficial for them. Due to the lack of dedicated officers, tribal people are not aware of several schemes. Those who live in the forest do not know about the facilities being provided by the government. I would like to say that in order to monitor this thing, to look after this, the tribal officer who is in the state should be decentralised up to the district level and the block level so that the implementation of Government's policies and programmes can be

Done accordingly. The Tribal Forest Rights Bill was passed in 2006-07. There are many states where it has not been fully implemented. We should also think over it. Children living in the forest are not getting a nutritious diet in some places. Fake certificates of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes are being made and we need to pay attention to it. At the block level, panchayat leaders will have to be informed about which people should be given ST and SC certificates. Assam and the northeastern states have tribal belts, we have 6 tribes in Assam, which should be given the status of scheduled tribes. My parliamentary constitution has a Yobin caste that is on the tribal list of Arunachal Pradesh. But that caste is not on the centre's tribal list. There are many such tribes in Nagaland, Manipur also. I would like to request that if justice has to be provided to the tribals, then a census should be conducted across the country. Wherever there are tribals living in forests, they should be accorded tribal status.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF: I support the proposed amendments to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 but I wish to raise some serious concerns about the plight of our sisters and brothers from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. What is the status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in our country even after 75 years of our Independence? Every day, we happen to read from the newspapers that in one part or the other part of the country, people from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities are facing discrimination in sharing community resources or excluded only because of their Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe status. The atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are increasing across the country. Secondly, even in public institutions where reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities is mandated by the Constitution, they are not getting their due shares. In 45 Central universities of the country 42 per cent of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities are vacant. If the status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in public institutions is this, can we imagine about their representation in the private sector? I request that this House should seriously think of extending reservation to the private sector. This Government has assured on various occasions that it would seriously look into the allegations of under-representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central universities and other higher educational institutions. I request the Government to take urgent steps to appoint a Commission to look into allegations and ensure justice in a time-bound manner.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: Inclusion of a community in the category of Scheduled Tribes would remain an ideal formality unless there is an attitudinal shift in the approach and that shift in the approach is not visible. All these exercises are reduced to a cosmetic exercise as these additions are made for political reasons without intending any benefit for the communities that are proposed to be added to the list of Scheduled Tribes. The scholarships that were meant for the weaker sections and unaided sections have been slashed. The fact remains that the Scheduled Tribes continue to have no access to healthcare, education and means of employment. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir, we have a good population of ST community and what we see is that only an addition has been made for namesake. This population continues to have no access to education. Most of the school dropouts are from that community, the children do not have access to digital education and a large number of students are deprived of the concession that is available in urban areas and by other segments of the population. As regards healthcare, we have least healthcare facilities available for this community. I would request the hon. Minister to do something in real terms for this community and make this exercise meaningful.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Most of the hon. Members are talking about the necessity of bringing a comprehensive legislation. I am also suggesting that a comprehensive legislation will have to be enacted. Would simply adding an entry to the List solve their problems? Their problems are backwardness, geographical isolation, literacy, and health-related activities. If you take all these yardsticks together, they are in very poor condition. The Government has come forward with some welfare measures for them. To an extent, it is very good. We have to ensure that all these welfare schemes are properly implemented. Why the pre-matric scholarship has been stopped? I would request the Government to rethink this. I would like to request the government not to disturb the underprivileged members of society. The other thing is that they are exploited in many ways because they have no education. The important thing is to preserve their culture and identity. The Government must have a vision for that. I would like to humbly state that they are poor people; they are backward like anything; their voices have to be guarded.

SHRI S.C. UDASI: Betta- Kuruba in the State of Karnataka is a small community. They are economically backward. They suffer from lack of education. Their occupation involves collection of forest produce and bamboo. They have

their own dialect with no script. They use primitive hunting tools. They follow animism and are the worshippers of the sun, moon, air, water, plants, trees, animals and earth. They also celebrate the festivals like Suggi Habba and Ugadi. Through this Bill, their living standard will improve, they will get education and their social structure in the hierarchy will improve. Their inclusion is paramount to this country. Regarding reservation which is having a lot of discussion nowadays in the entire country, a holistic approach should be taken so that the communities which are asking for reservation should be considered. One issue was raised by the hon. Member as to what happened to Gonda Kuruba. The Government of Karnataka has also sent a proposal for that to the Government of India which is under consideration.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I fully support this Bill. But I would like to mention that this Government is always a government of contradictions. This Government is giving least priority to the seriousness of the legislative practice. The callous way in which the Bills are being pushed in this House is quite unfortunate. This is a very bad and unhealthy legislative practice. That is why I say that the Government has no business. Several Bills are pending. However, we are discussing four separate Bills of the same character one after the other every day. That means the Government is not giving any serious attention to the legislative practice. Articles 342 and 346 deal with the Scheduled Tribes. What is the impact of a particular community being included in the list of Scheduled Tribes? It means that their culture, traditions, employment, education have to be protected for the welfare of these deprived sections of the society. I would like to say that the Scheduled Tribes and the Scheduled Castes are the most deprived sections of the society compared to Other Backward Communities or other communities. Everything is being rampantly privatised. In such a situation, mere inclusion of a community in this list will not serve the purpose of social justice. You have to change the policies accordingly.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA: If there is any group of Indian people that has been shabbily treated, it is the tribals. They have been disgracefully treated, neglected for the last 6,000 years. The whole history of my people is one of continuous exploitation and dispossession by the non-aboriginals of India punctuated by rebellions and disorder. Different Governments did multiple things. Pandit Nehru ji and Ambedkar Ji brought Constitution reservation. Indira Gandhi ji was considered as the biggest tribal leader in India. She gave land to the tribals.

She gave houses and loans to the tribals. Congress party always believes the tribals must get their rights, but now one by one all their rights are being taken away.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: It is a matter of pleasure that this is the third consecutive Bill relating to Scheduled Tribes. These Bills pertain to different states. On the completion of 75 years of independence, we are celebrating Amrit Mahotsav, but it is unfortunate that even today the posts of Scheduled Tribes in the Central Services are lying vacant. The Jarawa in Port Blair and Pahadia castes in Bihar and Jharkhand are becoming extinct. People of these castes should get a hundred percent reservation. There was a bigger incident than Jallianwala Bagh that took place in Mangarh of Rajasthan. In the year 1913, more than 1700 tribals were martyred. Mangarh should be declared as a National Monument. Scheduled Tribes have been given 7.5 percent reservation. I demand that this limit should be enhanced upto ten per cent.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: I have been the first Tribal Minister in the Government of India. I have got the opportunity to serve the nation twice through this Ministry. I suggest that once the State Government has made a recommendation, it should be treated as final. I welcome the Bill presented by the Hon'ble Minister. Very minor amendments have been incorporated into it. We are including this list basically in English. This should not be done in English, but it should be included in Hindi. There is a demand for Dhangad and Dhangar in Maharashtra. Savar, Lanjia Saora is there and Saura is also there. I did a lot of corrections at that time. The people of that time could not understand this phonetic variation. To get rid of such phonetic variations, it should be in three languages. That's my suggestion. If the State Government makes a recommendation once, it should not be sent to the State Government again. Once the recommendation is made by the State Government, it should not be empowered to withdraw it or repeal it.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: The policy that the government is adopting is a welcome step, but there is a need to comprehend the after-effects of providing reservations. There is a ceiling of 50 percent on the total reservations. Maharashtra has breached that 50 per cent limit. Tamil Nadu has put a cap of 60 per cent. This contradiction also needs to be ended. When we talk about digitization, they do not have access to the internet. How will our tribal people get an education? They need to be educated. What will happen with this reservation? You will get an

Advantage in elections. How will this benefit them in jobs? You are selling all the companies, so how will they get a job?

SHRI NABA KUMAR SARANIA: The Kevat people of Assam, such as Jalai Kevat, and Maloi Kevat people are already included in the Scheduled Caste but Haloi Kevat is still not included in the Scheduled Caste list. So I would like to request that they should be included in the Scheduled Caste list. Also, Garia, Maria, Desi, and Jangoshti castes should be included in the OBC list. Along with this, the Gond community of UP should get its representation in the Legislative Assembly and Parliament. Similarly, after being separated from Jharkhand, the condition of the tribal people of Bihar is not good. They have not been able to get any reservations due to their population data being shown less. So, I would like to request that there should be delimitation in Bihar as well and on the basis of actual data, the tribals should get their rights. As far as Chhattisgarh is concerned, PESA has not been enacted till date due to which more than 5000 naxalites lodged in jails have not been released yet.

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN: I support this Bill. The work undertaken for the welfare of Scheduled Castes during the last eight years had not been undertaken by the previous governments during the last sixty years. I would like to present some data, in Mudra Yojana 10 lakh beneficiaries are from SCs, STs and OBCs. Similarly in Start Up India more than one crore beneficiaries belong to the SC-ST Communities. An Hon'ble Member has asked how much the budget is increased, I would like to say that earlier the amount of budget was Rs. 1100 crores but now it is increased to the tune of Rs.6000 crores. Ideal villages have been created with a cost of Rs. 7300 crores out of 32 thousand 428 villages for the Scheduled Castes. The biggest achievement of Hon'ble Minister, Shri Arjun Mundaji is that the number of Eklavya Model Schools has increased from 211 to 452. At present recruitment of SCs/STs is secured in the Army. As Birsa Mundaji had dreamt to witness a woman assuming the highest office, the lady from ST community has currently assumed the Office of The President of India.

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: I am supporting this Bill, and at the same, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for selecting a learned woman from the Scheduled Tribe community, Murmu-ji as the hon. President of India. I have a very small request to make. In this List, which has come for approval, in Karnataka a community by name 'Valmiki' has been added in the Scheduled Tribes List, and in Andhra Pradesh the same 'Valmiki' (Boya)' community is

There in the OBC List. Actually, when the State got separated as Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh in 1956, people who were on the Bellary side, the other part of Kurnool District, and had settled in Karnataka have been given the status of Scheduled Tribes whereas their brothers, who have settled in Andhra Pradesh, come under the OBC category. Our State Assembly has already recommended to consider them as a Scheduled Tribe community like in Karnataka. So, I would request the hon. Minister, Arjun Munda-ji to consider it at the earliest. I hope that we would also come soon to correct the anomaly.

SHRI ARJUN MUNDA replying said: Around more than 20 members have put forward their suggestions while placing their views on the Bill relating to Karnataka. I am grateful to them. Hon'ble Prime Minister is a sensitive person and is driven by empathy for every citizen of the country. His degree of sensitivity is widely reflected in the fact that he wants this matter relating to the inclusion of that caste which is very few in number to be debated in the House. A discussion is being held in the House for the inclusion of those castes which have numeric strength of mere 5 thousand. But since they are yet to be extended the benefits of the provisions figuring in the constitution for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes, this initiative has been taken for their inclusion. In fact they are miles away from the constitution. It has been 75 years since we became independent but these 5 thousand people are yet to be afforded justice. The constitution says that every citizen of the country deserves to be treated with equity and everyone may be enabled to move forward in democracy. Yesterday during the discussion on the Bill in respect of Tamilnadu I placed on record that they constitute the meagre population of 27 thousand, yet we are seized of their concerns. The day when there would be a discussion on extending benefits to every citizen of the country, the democratic culture of India shall be amply reflected the world over. Every State has its own respective list of castes and necessary provisions are made by the State by following due procedure. To illustrate, today we have piloted a Bill relating to Karnataka. First the State Government of Karnataka shall include them in the State. Subsequently it shall find inclusion in the Central list. This is the reason why we have come up with separate Bills for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and so many States had already been taken care of. Today we are discussing in respect of Karnataka separately. In terms of Scholarship, let me inform the House that there has been incremental increase in

The Pre Metric Scholarship. The Budgetary provision has been enhanced from Rs 19 thousand crore in the year 2013-14 to Rs 87 thousand crore in the current year. This Government has been dedicated to the Employment generation, self employment, educational needs of the tribals particularly in the median of time between the year 2019 and 2024.

The Bill was passed.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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