

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES*
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Friday, July 12, 2019 / Ashadha 21, 1941 (Saka)

UNION BUDGET -2019-2020

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS-2019-2020

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS-Contd.

***SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:**

***SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL:**

***SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA:**

***SHRIMATI SHARDA A. PATEL:**

***SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:**

***SHRI DEVAJI PATEL:**

***SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:**

***SHRI RAJU BISTA:**

***SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA:**

***SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:**

* Hon. Members may kindly let us know immediately the choice of language (Hindi or English) for obtaining Synopsis of Lok Sabha Debates.

* Please see Supplement

***DR. SUBHAS SARKAR:**

***SHRI KRISHNA PAL SINGH ALIAS DR. K.P.YADAV YADAV:**

***PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL:**

***DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:**

***SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH:**

***DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:**

***SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:**

***SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT:**

***SHRIMATI KESHARI DEVI PATEL:**

***SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT:**

***SHRIMATI GITABEN VAJESINGBHAI RATHVA:**

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) *replying said:* Railway is such an organisation that works 24x7. The system we got in legacy in the year 2014 was in quite bad shape. Over the last five years, we have accelerated the pace of work on all accounts whether is it gauge conversion or doubling, tripling, quadrupling, or electrification or laying down new rail lines. During the last five years, investment on Capital Expenditure has increased by around two and a half time. I have

* Please see Supplement

compiled the suggestions advanced by the hon. Members. Many Members have raised their concern over the stoppages or introduction of new trains. It is common knowledge that these things cannot be accomplished over- night. The Department will undertake a feasibility study on those counts. However, I have noted all the issues and all of you will receive a written communication in that regard. I would like to submit that earlier the Railway Budget used to be a political Budget. There used to be announcement for the introduction of hundreds of trains and laying of new tracks with a view to winning elections and appease the people of the constituencies. In firm departure from the previous trend, the Prime Minister decided that only such things be projected before the people that can actually be executed. Dedicated freight corridor was started in the year 2007 and not even one kilometer's track linking was carried out between the year 2007 and 2014. Post 2014, it has been only within a period of 5 years that the Government have hitherto been able to complete track linking of 1900 kilometers. By the year 2021, we shall accomplish both the projects of dedicated freight corridor. The Government aims at extending the facilities provided by the Railways through length and breadth of the country, ensuring pleasant and smooth journey and making addition to the carriage capacity of the Railways. Therefore, the Government has taken a decision to give an impetus to public-private partnerships and corporatize a few units. This also happens to be a work commenced during the previous regime which has been

left incomplete and we are going to complete it. The Government has increased the capacity of density networks and propose to build all the more dedicated freight corridors, add momentum to golden quadrilateral, phase out ICF coaches completely and replace them with LHB coaches. Signaling system has to be made automatic throughout the country. The Government endeavours to bring in massive investment to complete all these works and the Opposition should aid and appreciate the Government on this count. Rai Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh based modern coach factory project was sanctioned way back in 2007-08 but not even a single coach would be manufactured there until 2014 while during the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 there has been production of 711 and 1425 coaches respectively. If we make further investment in it, Rai Bareilly based factory has a potential of becoming the largest factory of the world. No one can afford to privatise the Railways but Investment must be allowed to be made therein. The Government has accorded primacy to the safety and security aspects. The number of accidents has also declined. Several parameters of efficiency are being improved upon. Initiatives have been undertaken to enhance facilities offered by the Railways by signing many MOUs. The renovation of tracks has been carried further which has led to improvement in safety. On electrification front, we are committed to having 100 per cent electrification in the entire Indian railways a few years down the line. Indigenously designed semi high speed train viz. 'Vande Bharat' has been

manufactured. Engineers and workers deserve compliments for it. The Government has taken serious pains to link the agro-producers with trains. There was a target to install bio-toilets in all the trains by the year 2021-22. It gives me pleasure to share with you that all the trains shall be equipped with bio-toilets in the next 12 months only. On the concerns for the escalators, lifts and disabled I would like to inform the House that it has been only during the last five years that as many as 457 escalators and 377 lifts have been installed as against miniscule quantity earlier. Automatic data loggers have been put up to examine and assess punctuality in place of manual computation. With the launch of 'Rail-Drishti' App, a complete information regarding the movement of trains is available in the public domain. This technological intervention has led to transparency in the functioning of the Railways. 54 new projects in West Bengal and 9 projects in Kerala are in currency but sadly, due to the non-cooperation of the State Governments concerned they are yet to be completed. The Government has taken a decision to construct suburban railways at Bangaluru in Karnataka. It is common knowledge that a few of the railway bridges are centuries' old and they are being subjected to audit Division-wise and Zone-wise. In a bid to bring in transparency and let the element of accountability usher in the system, the details of every bridge, ROB and FOB is being made available through Railway app which covers the details of inspection and action both. As far as the issue of corruption is concerned, the

Government does not interfere with legal course of matters lying pending in the courts. A bullet train in Maharashtra is an important project which is delayed due to the tardy pace of land acquisition at Palghar. The Government would acquire the land in a brotherly spirit and would complete the work within the schedule time frame. Railway makes investments keeping in view the requirements of the entire nation and Andhra Pradesh will not be discriminated against.

All the Cut Motions moved were negatived.

All the Demands for Grants (General) were voted in full.

THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK) *moving the motion for consideration of the Bill said:* There was a provision in Andhra Pradesh State Reorganisation Act, 2014 to establish one Central University and one Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh. I am proud to say that the Government is very much focused to impart quality education. With this resolve, this Bill has been moved in this House for consideration and passing. Andhra Pradesh Government had offered 491.23 acres of land for Central University and 525.08 acres of land for tribal university. The Ministry of Human Resource Development had sent a selection committee over

there and the committee recommended to establish Central University in Ananthpur district and Central Tribal University in Vijayanagram district. The Central University Act, 2009 was introduced in Parliament as well but could not be passed by this House. On 12th February, 2019 and 13th February, 2019 it was moved for consideration in Lok Sabha but discussion could not take place thereupon. Thereafter due to the dissolution of the 16th Lok Sabha, the Bill lapsed. After the General Election and formation of our Government, the Cabinet approved the setting up of these two Universities in its very second meeting and this Bill was introduced on 8th July, 2019 in this House. The Cabinet has made a provision of Rs.450 crore for the Central University and Rs.420 crore for the Central Tribal University. I humbly request to consider and pass this Bill.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH *initiating said:* We are discussing a very important Bill in this august House. Apart from Goa, Andhra Pradesh is the only State in India which does not have any Central University. The objective of establishing two universities in Andhra Pradesh is to increase access and quality of higher education and research facilities for the people of Andhra Pradesh. But there is no mention of funding pattern for universities in this Bill. There is no mention about the curriculum and administration of the Universities. It is unclear whether the University would be reserved for tribals or not. What percentage of tribal population will get the benefits of this University? The Central Universities

in India are vastly understaffed. A large number of posts are vacant in the Central Universities of Karnataka and Kerala, how can they run the University? I would like to request the hon. Minister to rename the Central University, Kasargod as Sree Narayana Guru University.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: One Central Tribal University and another General Central University is being established through this Bill. There were 20 universities in India at the time of Independence. We are discussing the subject of Central Universities today because the Government of India gives importance to education. Presently, there are approximately 700 universities and 40,000 colleges across the country. The students need to have degrees and that is why they go to the universities, otherwise their studies go on in the coaching institutes. It is high time we thought about the flaws in our education system. In India, we have a tuition industry of about \$40 billion with 35 per cent CAGR and online education of about Rs.3500 crore. The Government can establish even more Central Universities but there is a need to pay attention on the quality of education. Three Central Universities were promised for Bihar. I request the hon. Minister to accord the status of Central University to the Jai Prakash University and the Patna University.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: This Bill proposes to set up two new universities in Andhra Pradesh. This tribal university will be the first tribal

university in India. So, we have to devise new courses. I feel that a Central University should appeal to the whole country and students from all over the country should come to the Central University. There is only one Central University in Bengal—Visva-Bharti University. Now that University is in a very bad State. So, the Visva-Bharti University should be looked after quickly. There is a demand for another full-fledged Central University in Bengal. The universities should foster scientific temperament. Pseudo-sciences like astrology should not be taught in the universities.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: The State of Andhra Pradesh was divided in the year 2014. These two Universities have already been functioning for the last one year in Andhra Pradesh. But they do not have the legal sanctity till now. But with this Bill, they are getting the legal sanctity. I urge upon the Minister to sanction the funds for the University as per the DPR sent by the Vice-Chancellor. We established Ekalavya schools in areas where tribal population is more. The Budget allocated for these schools has been reduced. Unless we strengthen the schooling system, we cannot expect the Central Tribal University to be successful. The Central University at Ananthpur is conducting only one course, which is B.A. (Political Science) and some vocational courses. We expect the University to run with few more courses.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: This Central University and the Central Tribal University have been sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh according to the Andhra Pradesh Re-organization Act, 2014. Hon. Finance Minister in her Budget speech had said that the Government would attract foreign students to study in India. I feel that we should care more for the students from our country itself. A number of posts are vacant in Mumbai University due to which the students suffer a lot. I request the Government to provide necessary funds to Mumbai University. The Government should conduct an enquiry into the alleged paper checking and admission process in Mumbai University.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: We are not able to find faculties for our Central Universities. If we establish more IIMs, IITs and Central Universities then we will have to attract faculties. In this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister talked about 'Study in India' which means we want to attract more foreign students to study higher education in our universities. Odisha had asked for having a Central Tribal University in Odisha because Odisha is the repository of more than 24 tribes. The first Central Tribal University is in Madhya Pradesh and the second one is going to be established in Andhra Pradesh. An announcement has been made to establish a Central Tribal University in Warangal but this has not seen the light of the day. I demand that Central Tribal Universities should be established in

tribal dominated states on the lines of such universities being established in every state.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I support this Bill. We should have an integrated discussion on education and include all these Bills, instead of bringing separate Bills on education in a piecemeal manner. I would like to state that the Central Government programme called Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, which is specifically for tribal girls should be extended in the entire country up to 12th standard. If there is an integrated programme at Melghat in Amravati district and Palghar in Thane district of my State, we would be happy to welcome it. So, I request the Government to form an integrated programme for the entire country and to bring in a New Education Policy.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Some of the educational institutions of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh has gone into the share of Telangana in consequence of the enforcement of the A.P. Reorganization Act. So I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill to provide for the Central Tribal University and the Central University for our State. A number of institutions were promised to be set up in Andhra Pradesh such as IIT, NIT and IIM but all these institutions are being run in temporary campuses. Neither the permanent faculties nor the facilities are there in these institutions. Besides, the

corpus of fund released for them is much less than the budget estimate. Hence a time-frame should be fixed for the completion of these institutions.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: This is the biggest initiative taken by the Government with an intention to ensure equitable right of education to all thereby enabling everybody to get education. This Bill is certainly going to facilitate the setting up of a Central University and a Central Tribal University in Andhra Pradesh. There is a provision of reservation for Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Navodaya Vidyalayas but such reservation is not available to the other backward castes in these schools and hence it needs to be brooded over seriously. In addition to it, the Rajasthan University located in Jaipur should be upgraded as Central University so that it may get additional grants from the University Grants Commission and the intervention of the State Government may come down. At last, I support this Bill.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: This is such a Bill that will garner the support of all the hon. Members and hence I also support it. I would like to know whether the provision of 10 per cent reservation made by the Modi Government for the poor of the upper castes in the university will remain intact or not. The Government suddenly accorded the status of minority institution to the Jamia Millia Islamia University in 2006. This has rendered the provision of reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes inapplicable

in this institution. I would like to request that a white paper on the Aligarh Muslim University should be issued.

DR. AMAR SINGH: With reference to the report submitted by the standing committee on HRD, I would like to say that there are a large number of students under the State Universities but more funds are being given to the Central Universities. The Government should look into the reason behind this and see whether it can make a balance between them. It has also been mentioned that 6719 posts out of 17834 lying vacant in the Universities and hence the Government should take step to fill these posts. The Punjab University is 100 years old and is in pitiable condition and the Government should pay attention to it.

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL: The Government is going to set up a university for the tribal children with an outlay of Rs. 900 crore. This is what may be called Antyodaya. The Agra University was set up as early as in 1827 and 26 new universities have been carved out of it since then, but no tangible development has been made in respect of this university. Only the name of this university has been changed to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University. That's why the Agra University should be upgraded as the Central University as a tribute to Baba Saheb. Moreover, Agra college should be made a deemed university.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH (DIMPA) GILL: This is a good Bill. I would like to urge the Government that the tribal school of sports should necessarily be set up under the Tribal University which is going to be set up. I have observed that the big corporate houses of India have made their fortune in India but have provided grants to the foreign universities. I would like to know whether the Government is likely to make any provision for corporate houses so that they may provide grants to the Indian universities as they are making money in India.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK *replying said:* After independence, It is the Modi Government who has set up institutions of national and international level in such a short span of time after the reorganization of a State. We are continuously working towards the establishment of these higher institutions. I am of the opinion that the Nalanda University, the Vikramshila University or the Taxila University used to be the top institutions of the world and they served as the light-house for the entire world when much importance was not added to education. An hon. Member has expressed his concerned about the Vishwabharati Vishwavidyala and I believe that our Government is wholeheartedly facilitating this university to grow. Vishwabharati Vishwavidyala is our top priority. At the same time, the matters of foreign students and the Mumbai University have been raised which stand to be our first priority. Our three institutions namely IIT Mumbai, IIT Delhi and ISC Bengaluru have acquired top positions in the world ranking and other 23 institutions are about to fulfil the criteria. We are making fast growth in the education sector. Both the students getting education and the teachers providing education abroad belong to us. Therefore, we will bring back not only the students but also the teachers under the

Study in India Programme and we will take our education system to the pinnacle. We have brought in four Bills on the education system in a month and will continue to make efforts towards this end. As far as the issues of appointments are concerned, I have already said that all the vacant posts will be filled up in the next six months. A corpus of Rs. 1700 crore has been approved in principle for both of these institutions of Andhra Pradesh. At present, we have given Rs. 420 crore and Rs. 450 crore just as token money and it will be ensured that they are completed within four years. I would like to assure the hon. Members that whatever has been done by our Government will bring 100 per cent result. Our Government has tried its best to ensure that no state is left untouched in terms of setting up of institutions. About JNU, I would like to say that JNU is considered as one of the best research institutes in the world. We will ensure that its standard is maintained and would endeavor to uplift the same. This Government is totally committed towards strengthening the education system of the country. I have a firm belief that India will definitely regain the status of 'Vishwa Guru'.

The Bill was passed.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL

COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2019

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL *moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:* It is a well known fact that India is the largest democratic country in the world. After Independence, several electoral reforms

have taken place as per the democratic needs of the country from time to time. But still our country needs more electoral reforms. And, Compulsory Voting Bill, 2019 is one of those important electoral reforms. The first ever general election was held in 1952 and poll percentage stood at mere 45.67 per cent. It increased to 67.6 per cent during the recent general elections held in 2019. It shows that still 33 per cent voters of this country are not exercising their franchise which is a matter of great concern for all of us. To improve the poll percentage over and above the 90 per cent mark at least, this Compulsory Voting Bill has been brought in. We should work together to strengthen the democratic set up of the country. Democracy in the real sense of the term ensures cent per cent voting and participation of each and every citizen in the formation of the Government. I am of the opinion that we should seriously consider to implement compulsory voting to prevent the use of black money in elections. Approximately 32-33 countries have provided for compulsory voting across the world. A good democracy is one where cent percent voting takes place that means that every citizen participates in the formation of the government. If it happens voluntarily, nothing like that. During the recent elections in 2019, 67 per cent voting is not acceptable by any yardstick. Gujarat is the only state in our country where the Assembly had passed a law in the year 2009 to make voting compulsory in the local body elections. However, the then Governor had returned this Bill stating that it was in the

violation of the Article 21 of the Constitution. The Governor contended that it will be like imposing voting on the people which is against the Constitution. Though, the then Chief Minister and now Hon. Prime Minister had termed it as a step towards strengthening the democracy through discipline. If the use of black-money is to be checked in the elections then we ought to ponder over compulsory voting seriously. Today, dozens, to be specific 32-33 countries have compulsory voting by law. Today, this law is being followed there and those who violate this law are imposed fines or are made to carry out community service. However, some exemptions have been given in this system also. As far as its implementation in India is concerned, we will have to face some challenges. The Election Commission gave good facilities to the voters in the recent elections. I would like to emphatically say that a suitable law should be enacted for compulsory voting. I would appeal to all the voters that it may not be legally binding upon the voters, but there should be awareness among the voters that they have to go to the polling booths and cast their votes.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI *initiating said:* I believe that voting should be so simplified that people should feel self-motivated to visit polling booths but no law should be enacted to make it compulsory. Elections should be held only once in five years in our country, such a system should be evolved. When elections are held for the 3-tier panchayats then no confidence motion should be brought in the

middle of their term. Similar Code of Conduct should also be made for the political parties so that they should not bring no confidence motion during the five years and the elected Government should be given opportunity to work for the entire term of five years. Only in unprecedented circumstances the Government should be run by the President's or Governor's rule but elections should be held only once in a five years. It is not necessary to enact a law for compulsory voting rather we should make the people of the country educationally and socially aware. Good people should enter politics and efforts should be made so that we can vote easily.

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SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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

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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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