

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Thursday, November 21, 2019 / Kartika 30, 1941 (Saka)

*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) **SHRI RAVINDRA KUSHWAHA** laid a statement regarding need to organize a 'Krishi Mela' in Salempur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
- (2) **SHRI VINCENT H. PALA** laid a statement regarding connecting Shillong to Dawki in Meghalaya.
- (3) **DR. D. RAVIKUMAR** laid a statement regarding need to increase the percentage of reservation for SCs.
- (4) **DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI** laid a statement regarding need to including state highway Narsipatnam - Tuni road under Bharatmala Project.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Speaker/Chair.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193 - Contd.

Re: Air Pollution and Climate change.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL *resuming the discussion, said:* The discussion on the air pollution should not turn into a discussion on village or village versus city. Yesterday, Delhi was one of the most polluted cities because the air was not at all blowing. Saying that the farmers of Punjab and Haryana burn stubble and create pollution is not proper. In fact, we all are guilty and raising finger at others. I would like to make a few suggestions to the hon. Minister so that we could get rid of air pollution and climate change. If the Delhi Government, instead of spending 70-80 crores of rupees, constructs air towers at all the hot spots then the air will be much cleaner. I am grateful to the president of the Delhi BJP that he has provided water sprinkler machines. These machines reduce the air pollution. The Government of India should ponder over the cloud seeding technology in Delhi. New technology ought to be used in those industries which create pollution. The leather industry is responsible for creating most of the pollution in the rivers. The CSIR has developed a technology whereby the leather industry can be benefitted without using any water. The Union Government may think of providing subsidy to the State Governments for this purpose. India has got the largest number of animals and that is why methane emission is also largest in our country. The farmers can save their money incurred on LPG if they are provided with bio-gas fire projects. Several new initiatives have been taken at the national level like

national clean air action plan and breath India framework by the NITI Ayog. Sikkim is an example before all of us where the couples adopt trees, protect them and rear them as their children. There is a need to launch a people's movement in this regard. I would also like to congratulate the Bihar Government for launching *Jal, Jeevan, Haryali Mission* which will prove to be a milestone in reducing the air pollution. In fact, the entire Parliament has to rise and speak in one voice to get rid of this stigma.

***SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:**

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: People of many cities of the country are suffering from the problem of pollution. Delhi is one of the 10 most polluted cities in the world. Climate is one of the factors controlling the environment. Climate affects natural vegetation, soil, flora, fauna etc. Yesterday, I had raised a matter related to Sambar lake. 15,000 birds including Siberian cranes died there. Its major cause was pollution itself. Climate affects the mental and physical activities of humans. Together, we will have to reduce the causes responsible for pollution. Dirty water from the factories of Ludhiana gets mixed in the drinking water being supplied to Punjab, Ganganagar, Hanumangarh through Indira Gandhi canal. Maximum number of cancer patients live there. Even a train plying there has been named 'cancer train'. I would urge the hon. Jal Shakti Minister and the hon. Prime Minister that the polluted water and chemicals from the factories should not be

* Please see supplement.

discharged into Indira Gandhi canal and electricity should be produced by recycling the trash by establishing new plants. Everyone should rise above the party politics and work towards saving the human race.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: There are two major problems facing the world today - pollution and terrorism. With the increase in the population, use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and insecticides increased proportionately. In the 1960s the world realized that we should become alert and aware. After that work started on Air Pollution Act, Water Pollution Act, Forest Act in the country. Green House Gas, Carbon dioxide, Chloro Fluoro Carbon affect the environment. Montreal protocol took place in 1987, the Earth Summit in 1992, the Kyoto protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2016 to which India was a signatory. Afterwards, India decided that we will decrease the green house effect by 35 per cent by the year 2030. It was also decided to produce at least 40 per cent electricity through renewal sources by the year 2030. Clean air was provided by providing LPG gas connections to 8 crore households. Had the Government not provided these gas connections, it could have caused huge loss to forests. In comparison to the year 2014, today we are generating 8-9 times more solar energy. We have crossed the target of 20 Giga Watt. In the year 2022, we will generate 16 Giga Watt in our country which will help us in reducing air pollution in the country. We have developed 42 solar parks. Under Saubhagya Yojana, 2.6 crore households have been provided free electricity. We have introduced new

technology in kilns. We have also launched the scheme to introduce electric vehicles. The Government of India has introduced bio-fuel policy so that ethanol-based clean fuel will be available. Today, every person is responsible for polluting air. When we pollute the air, it is also our duty and responsibility to clean it.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Today, pollution has become a major problem at global level especially for our country. Air pollution is the second most important reason for diseases in India. Pollution contributes 10 per cent of the total diseases burden of India. The problem of pollution has become a major problem in Delhi and NCR regions during the last several years. It has been said that the main reason of air pollution in Delhi NCR is stubble burning by farmers which is not true. Use of harvester by farmers has been banned in my Parliamentary Constituency, Mirzapur and because of this the farmers are not able to cut their standing crops. We should understand the problem of farmers. Stubble burning may be one of the reasons of air pollution and not the main reason. The farmers must be made available practical and scientific solutions. They should also be provided financial assistance. I would like to urge upon the society through this House that people should be a partner of the Government, make it a public movement and then only we can get out of this problem.

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: Today, the weather has become very adverse. Untimely rainfall and summer sometimes create a situation of flood and drought. Few days ago, Patna was submerged in rainwater. There was a flood like

situation in entire Bihar state. Farmers are most affected by this climate change. The Government of Bihar has taken a major initiative in this direction by launching 'Jal, Jeevan and Hariyali Scheme'. This will check the pollution problem and also prove to be a effective step to tackle with climate change. The population has been constantly increasing in cities like Delhi and Patna. This must be checked. Now, the air is polluted and land pollution has also come up. The problem of pollution is not only in Delhi but so many cities are facing this menace.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This is matter of concern for me that time and again Hon. Supreme Court directs us and after that we take action. The problem of pollution is not only in one state or the national Capital but for the whole country. If we do not get pure oxygen, our health gets deteriorated. Therefore, a standard has been fixed to keep it below 50, which will be good. Pollution not only affects our health but also our economy. The situation becomes more horrible when the schools are closed due to air pollution. Pollution level increases when the speed of the air becomes slow. This is also one of the reason contributing to air pollution. There are so many reasons for increase in air pollution, stubble burning by farmers is not the major cause. Development activities, cutting of trees, indiscriminate construction and excessive use of motor vehicles etc. are so many reasons. There used to be rich natural wealth around Delhi. During the last 10 years, 80 million people have migrated to cities. As there are all facilitates in rural areas also so it is time that we thought of going back

to the villages. So many factors cause pollution but these days everybody tends to put the onus on the farmers only. Pollution knows no borders. America enacted the Clean Air Act in the year 1970 implementation of which increased the longevity of Americans by 15 years. Investment in environment conservation has many benefits. Hon. Prime Ministers slogan of 'Swachh Bharat' is not merely a slogan but a philosophy. Hon. Prime Minister spoke about 'Climate Action Group' and 'Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' in the UNGA. These things have huge connotation which will have serious effects on our posterity.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Climate change affects the very existence of the Universe. What exactly is happening, we are spoiling the future of the nation. Air pollution is the major factor of diseases in India. It causes premature deaths and disabilities. As per WHO data, 14 Indian cities are among the 20 most polluted cities in the world. We all know that it is a burning issue. Many suggestions have come to solve this problem. First point is with regard to carbon emissions. We are all talking about electric vehicles. I humbly submit that an expeditious action should be taken to manufacture electrical vehicles in a rapid manner. We must set a goal to make 25 per cent of private vehicles to be electrically powered by 2023, or so. Our rivers are out of water. Around 70 per cent of surface water in India is unfit for consumption. Pollution Control Board is not working effectively in this country. We have to revamp that. We have not been able to maintain the purity of our rivers. The manufacturers and importers are

responsible for polluting the air and water. We should punish these people under the laws. India is a member of the Paris Agreement. The ban on plastic should be strictly adhered to. Building rules must have strict provisions to prevent pollution. At the school level itself we should create awareness among the children of the consequences of pollution. We must switch from coal-based energy system to renewable energy system. Pollution affects not only the human beings but all the living beings. I hope, the Government will take maximum possible steps in this regard.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I had actually been leading an effort to have dealt with this important subject for the last three years. Since the inaugural meeting in 2017, this platform has brought together some of the most accomplished and experienced stakeholders on this issue. I think we are on the right track. Recently, the issue of pollution has become a political hot potato. It is always in the few weeks before and after Diwali. This is a national crisis and a perennial issue. Besides health issues, the economic implications of deteriorating air quality are ominous. Air quality in Delhi is too bad but we have no choice. Bringing up our children in Delhi, is a crime against our children. We should not go into politics on this issue because there is only one Indian air quality. Beijing was worse ranked than Delhi but China formulated the National Air Pollution Action Plan which has made a lot of difference. I just feel that we should explore what others have done. India, of course, has shown commitment and willingness

by way of the National Clean Air Programme. However, there has been very limited public consultation by the Government on the plan and its targets. Now, the Government should act on the said programme and take some concrete action. The National Plan has no legal measures. It will have the force of law if it is converted into an Act. Some have spoken very emotionally about our farmers and how the burden should not be put on them because stubble burning is a cost saving practice and so on. We must take the civil society on board and use our technical resources and the vast knowledge pool which we are blessed to have. It is not just an environmental issue. It is an issue of how India consumes, how India travels and it is also an issue that is central to the future of our country.

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNARAJU: The main reason for the environmental problems in Delhi is due to the North Westerly winds and coal based power plants surrounding Delhi. So, ideally we should dismantle the plants in and around Delhi and move them away. We should move more towards the renewable energy. The other problem for Delhi is stubble burning. The Government should maintain a Budget to supply the cutting machines to the farmers. We must do the plantation as much as possible. We must improve the public transportsystem and promote electric vehicles. Like Swachh Bharat Committees, we must go in for ParyavaranParivartan Committees at village level. Under the MGNREGA Scheme, if we can also bring in the issue of environment as a part of it, that would be better.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: There are four reasons behind pollution namely vehicles, industry, garbage and stubble burning. As regards vehicular pollution, our government has proposed to introduce BS-VI grade fuel across the country in the year 2020. The Government has also constructed eastern and western peripheral expressways which have greatly reduced the number of vehicles which used to enter Delhi. The Government should use technology in various industries like Zigzag system and PNG gas to reduce pollution in industrial plants. Solid waste can be used to generate electricity. The forest department should plant more trees. As far as stubble burning is concerned, the State Government of Haryana has emphasized on using stubble as a fuel in factories. It has also promised to provide Rs. 100 per quintal to the farmers.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Clean air costs money all over the world. There has to be a cost to keep your city or your country clean through proper pollution control measures. The Government should set annual target in respect of clean energy cess. I want to emphasise that for sorting out the current environmental problem in Delhi or anywhere in the country, merely coercive measures on farmers would not be enough. Rather, we have to adequately compensate them as a cost for getting clean air in Delhi. The government should extensively join the communities in villages. To combat air pollution, we should shift to inland water corridors. Development of carbon sinks in urban areas is a must and these carbon sinks are not just to be developed in gardens and parks. This

requires careful selection of different varieties of carbon sequestering plants and trees.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: It is time for us to think of science and we must find scientific solutions and technologies. Climate Change is an International and Global issue. At the end of the day, it is about replacing technology or integrating technologies. The idea is not against using coal but how we manage the coal and the effluents from coal. I am happy that we are an Open Defecation Free, country. When we are cleaning Ganga and cleaning other rivers, then it has been done in a mission mode. So, if we decide to achieve, I am very sure we are going to achieve. When we start discussing Delhi pollution, I think we need to work at finding the solutions. As a city which is coming up and where people from across the country and the world land up, the facilities and amenities need to be provided. Unfortunately, we have seen disoriented urbanization of the city. When I look at the dust, the thing which comes to my mind is that soil become dust when it loses its humus content. If the humus content is high in this soil even by 5 per cent, we will get all kinds of plants growing over it. It is due to lack of quality and quantity both in terms of supply of water that compels people to draw water from underground. The fact remains that water supply in Delhi from Haryana has rich oxygen carrying capacity with low e-coli content whereas the same water has 8 times more e-coli content on going back to Haryana. Not just that, even its oxygen carrying capacity is reduced to zero. We have to talk global

with local approach in action. If we are able to ensure zero plastic usage in the cities, this will squarely prove to be an important tool to control pollution.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Pollution and climate change have definitely been one of the most important problems not just for this country but for the entire world also. However, there is still a chance for us to act and to show a better way forward to the future generation. The need of the hour is to shift our focus on solution rather than narrating the magnitude and severity of the problem. Traditionally and culturally both we are associated with nature. But somewhere in the last 30-odd years in terms of achieving growth, in terms of achieving development and in the race of copying the western world, we have somehow missed the link with nature and have deviated from the path. It's high time for the Government of the day to take some extreme steps to revive healthy ecology. Of three kinds of nourishment to the human body – air, water and food, air is the most essential aspect so nature has provided it to us at no cost, but modern civilization is putting a price even on that. Economic affordability has created a yawning gap between have and have nots in terms of access to environmental facilities also. The recent situation in Delhi is a case in point. I urge upon the Central Government to come up with a National action plan or some environmental policy with stringent measures to be invariably followed by each and every citizen of the country. Due to rising sea levels because of the climate change most affected will be the fishermen. Their livelihood, their security of having a

home are all affected. These stakeholders should also be essentially dealt with in the policy to be made. Alongside, strong steps are needed to put an effective control over population that has been rising exponentially over the last 30-40 years.

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Climate Change has emerged as a big issue the world over and this calls for serious deliberations. Infact climate change pauses more serious threat to human lives *vis a vis* terrorism and Pakistan. This is a very serious topic which calls for stringent steps. It is only due to irregularities of monsoon which leads the incidents of floods and drought both. Its main cause is climate change. Given the fact that 60 to 70 per cent of our farmers depend on monsoon, irregularities thereof is likely to cause colossal damage to them. Ofcourse the Government has launched climate resilient agriculture initiatives entailing intensive research to make our crops able to withstand the impact of climate change. Yet, it is far from being satisfactory. Secondly, Carbon dioxide emission is no less serious an issue. We must lend a thought to reduce its emission by coming up with sustainable policy. India is signatory to Paris Climate Agreement which needs to be followed. Solar initiatives are underway to ensure clean energy. Alongside, air initiatives should also be taken to that end in mind. Besides these initiatives, we must look forward towards atomic energy. Rather than placing huge reliance on coal there is a need to devise a policy to deal with air pollution.

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Air pollution is a significant issue which causes new types of diseases. According to a report, around 12 lakh people have died from air pollution in 2017 and safe drinking water is not accessible to about 76 million people in our country. A report of NITI Ayog says that about 21 big cities of our country will run out of ground water by the next year. So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to take the gravity of the problem seriously.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: It is learnt that a High-Level Task Force was constituted under the Chairmanship of Principal Secretary to hon. Prime Minister for the management of air pollution in Delhi in November, 2017. I would request the Central Government to plan and implement efficient management programmes to abate the rapidly rising air pollution in Mumbai city, especially, in South-Central part as the concentration of industries and refineries are more in areas like Mahul. Mumbai's air quality has become so much toxic that out of 72 air quality stations in Maharashtra, only four have reported the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) to be within the safety limits. Rising pollution levels is not just the case of Mumbai but has become a growing phenomenon today across the metropolitan cities of the country. Hence, it is the urgent need of the hour to take immediate cognizance of the problem and develop solutions that would curb the rising pollution level without hurting the energy requirements of these growing cities. We also need to take a strong stand on the

global stage against carbon emitting countries like the US, UK and China whose rapid emissions have resulted in the existential threat that we are facing today.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: The Air Act of 1986 needs to be integrated with the Health Policy as has been underscored in the Health Report of 2015. I think it will really make a big change. A lot of countries like Brazil, New Zealand, Canada and Philippines are doing much better than us because they have an integrated plan on health and pollution. Moreover, I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the status of the CAMPA fund. The amount of Rs.30,000 crore is given to the States for plantations. In our own State the incumbent government has told us that it has planted millions of trees but I do not see a big change. So how is the Government of India monitoring this exceptional amount of money? Even in the renewable energy sector no big change is conspicuous despite a number of conferences and interventions. A lot of debates have happened, but no change has happened in this entire situation. I am of the belief that Governments are not commodities and they do not need to waste money on advertising. So, they could put all this money into controlling pollution. I am very hopeful that the hon. Minister would clarify my point on all the reports and on CAMPA fund because that is my most important concern.

SHRI BHOLA SINGH: I would like to make you aware that my Parliamentary Constituency, Bulandshahr is also adjacent to Delhi and the part of NCR. The residents of my Constituency have to face pollution and as many

problems as are faced by Delhites. The *kolhus* operated by small farmers for producing jaggery have been banned in the name of pollution control. But it is not necessary that only farmers are responsible for this situation. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and the UP Government who have taken initiative to plant lakhs of trees in every district for mitigating the impact of air pollution and climate change. If trees are planted along the Yamuna river, the air of Delhi will also be pollution free. Increasing population is also responsible for the spike in pollution in Delhi. Hence, concrete steps are required to be taken to contain pollution and also to control population so that the generations to come could not face this problem.

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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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