

LOK SABHA

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

Friday, July 19, 2019 / Ashadha 28, 1941 (Saka)

THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 2019

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE(DR. JITENDRA SINGH) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Right to Information Act, 2005.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the introduction of the Bill, said:* Hon. Minister is introducing the Bill but we have not been given two

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

days mandatory time. This is not as per the rules. The proposed amendment could be very dangerous. The Right to Information is a kind of fundamental right. Now effort is being made to violate this fundamental right. The salaries, terms of service, emoluments, duration of tenure etc of information commissioner will be determined by the Government. Hitherto, the information commissioner was equivalent to the judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court. The Government should not interfere in the affairs of the information commission. This Government is out to curtail the freedom of the commission.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I oppose the introduction of the Bill. In this present Parliament, not even one of the 11 Bills has been referred to the Standing Committee for their opinion. This Bill seeks to review the powers of the Information Commission because the earlier Bill said that the Central Information Commission will have the same power as that of the Election Commission.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: The entire framework of the Right to Information Act depends on the independence and autonomy of the Information Commissions. This Bill is removing the institutional independence by taking over the power to determine their salaries. The Central Government is destroying it.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I am of the opinion that this Bill lacks legislative competence. We have Article 246 of the Constitution. Clause 3 of this Bill proposes to amend the Section 16 of the original Act. This abrogation takes away the powers of the State. Clause 3, therefore, violates schemes set up under

Article 246. The Union is not competent to legislate on the matters that fall under the State list.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH *clarifying said:* This is quite ironical that hon. Members are giving their observations and comments on this Bill without discussion on it and even without going through it. I understand that let it get introduced now and when it is taken up for consideration, discuss each of the points which hon. Members have raised here. This has also been alleged that this Bill lacks legislative competence and this Bill was not circulated. This amounts to challenging the authority of the hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker deemed it appropriate that the Bill be introduced. This is also being stated that the Government intends to take over the power to determine the salaries but this is categorically mentioned in the Bill that the original Right to Information Act did not have provision to frame rules. The Government is only making a provision for framing rules. How has an hon. Member assumed that the Government intends to reduce the salaries. I am to say that this Bill is an enabling legislation for administrative purposes only. Our Government has tried to make the Right to Information Act more effective during the last five years. We made the RTI portal and also made it online. The Central Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners are equivalent to the Judges of the Supreme Court. However, if one intends to challenge their decision then one has to move the High Court. Does it happen

anywhere in the world? The Congress Party enacted a very clumsy law and we are trying to modify it. Therefore, I request the House to let this Bill be introduced.

The Bill was introduced.

THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI) *moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:*

This Government is committed towards human beings and humanity. The objective of this Bill is to make NHRC and SHRC more capable and comprehensive and ensure representation of different sections. There is a proposal to reduce the term of Chairpersons and members of NHRC and SHRC from five years to 3 years. Provision has been made to transfer the work related to human rights of the Union Territories, except Delhi, to the SHRC. To strengthen the functioning of NHRC, a provision has also been made to empower its Secretary General and Secretary of SHRC with administrative and financial powers. Through these provisions, an effort has been made to further protect the human rights by providing more powers to the NHRC and SHRC.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *initiating said:* This Bill is to fulfil the assurance given to the international community that we will strengthen our Human Rights Commission and reform it in a way that matches the requirements of the Paris Principles. National Human Rights Commission is a toothless tiger as the

Government ignores its recommendations and directions. The authorities are not reporting to the Commission. The Commission requested the Government to vest it with powers of contempt to punish civil servants who do not follow the Commission's directions. The Bill completely ignores this recommendation. The Bill reduces the tenure of the Chairperson and Members from five years to three years without providing any explanation or reasons for doing so. It will impact any long-term investigation undertaken by it because a long-term investigation can often take more than three years. The Bill allows the Chairpersons to be eligible for re-appointment after their term. This may make members turn pliable to the Government in the hope of re-appointment. The independence of the National Human Rights Commission must be taken seriously. Politicians should be barred from becoming members of the Human Rights Commission, but this Bill does not do so. Human Rights Commissions have been plagued by positions which are left vacant for an unreasonable period of time. The Bill should have provided for time-bound appointments because a hostile Government can cripple the Constitution, letting posts lie vacant for a long time. The Act bars the Commission from taking cognizance of a human rights violation beyond one year from the date of the incident. This statutory bar should be removed. The Act is completely unclear about the exact nature of jurisdiction of Human Rights Courts due to which very few such courts have been set up. In 2016, the Human Rights Commission had recommended that the Act be amended to clarify this issue about the courts, but

this has also been ignored by the Bill. This Bill is piecemeal and cosmetic and it does not even scratch the surface of the problem. The Minister must withdraw it and bring in the additional provisions to address the specific gaps I have listed.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: The Government has brought this Bill on the basis of the meeting held in Paris. The concept of human rights belongs to the western countries. Our culture and traditions have stressed on the character building of the human beings and not the human rights. Due stress has also been laid on how to make a man cultured. Religion is not just about going to a temple, mosque or church. We should behave with others in the same way as we wish for ourselves, that is true religion. We never talked about the human rights but about commitment to duty and good manners and etiquettes. It has also been emphasized that the man should enjoy his life after serving others first. Whatever exists in this creation, man is just a trustee of it. We all are here to enact such a law to make man a better human being and protect his rights. Most of the human rights organizations are foreign funded. These organizations act against Government departments, officers, employees, police, army etc. They do not act against terrorists and naxalites. The Union Government had set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of N.N.Vohara in the year 1993 to conduct an enquiry into the Mumbai bomb blast. The Committee had mentioned about a nexus between politicians, bureaucrats and human rights organisations in its report. These organisations and some political parties politicise terrorist attacks and other such

incidents. Article 25 to 30 of the Constitution has been interpreted in such a way that minorities have the power to administer their religious institutions but the majority community cannot do so. Is that not the violation of Fundamental Rights of the majority? All are equal before law. Kashmiri Pandits have been forced to leave Kashmir, is that not the violation of their Fundamental Rights? Has the Human Rights Commission paid its attention on this issue? I would like to request that whatever Commission we are going to set up, must focus on these issues. Rules should be framed in such a way which supports administration. Certainly, if someone's Fundamental Rights have been violated, that must be protected.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: I am here and many people from my State are here because of the social justice movement and the human rights which we fought for till today and we would continue doing that. I think it is very important part of human rights to preserve the scientific temper of the people of this country. The people who have been appointed as Chairpersons are close to the political parties in power, be it in this Government or any other Government. So, how can the body like the NHRC work independently? Whenever the Human Rights, be it the Dalit Rights or the Minorities' Rights or the Women's Rights, have been tampered, it is the social activists, who try to make sure that the Human Rights of the citizens are protected. So, such credible people have to be included as Members here. There is no transparency in these appointments. Also, the tenure of reappointment has been reduced to three years. Just appointing one more person

would not solve any purpose because there are over one lakh cases, which are pending. At least, 50 per cent of it should be women. Adding one more woman would not serve any purpose. The writers, thinkers and activists have been arrested and killed for voicing their opinion. The NHRC does not even have jurisdiction over the Armed Forces. So, these changes are very superficial and, actually, diluting the power of the Human Rights Commission in this country.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I am opposed to the Bill. It is strange that the Ruling Party has put up a former Police Commissioner to speak on human rights. It is the police in the country, everywhere, who violate the human rights and who beat the people to death in police lockup. According to the jurisprudence that we follow, no person is considered guilty unless proven otherwise. Article 21 says that nobody can be deprived of his life and liberty without due process of law. All these are blatantly violated in our country. I oppose the Bill because it reduces the term of the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission from five years to three years. That means the Government will have it in his hand. Instead of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Government is allowing the appointment of any judge of the Supreme Court. It is a religious duty for all of us to abide by the Constitution and to fight for human rights. Human rights should be protected at all cost. I want the police and Security forces to be sensitized.

*** SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH:** The main objective of this amendment to The Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 is to reduce term of commission's Chairman. To ensure protection of human rights, Human Rights Commission should be fully manned. We also welcome decision to increase members to three and to include woman as a member. In this context, I would like to bring few points to the notice of the Government. We witnessed many amendments in this session, but results are more important and people should benefit from these changes. After Nirbhaya incident also there were many such atrocities on women. We hear about several incidents of rape of women every day. In recent past, a law has been amended wherein, any person who rapes a child below 12 years of age, would be sentenced to death. But unfortunately, a gruesome incident took place in Telangana recently, where a 9 months old girl was subjected to this inhuman act. It is unfortunate that we cannot even safeguard our small and innocent children. Spy cameras which are meant for safety and security are being misused. Where women are protected and respected, only those societies prosper. Governments are making efforts in this direction but people are not getting end results. We should provide teeth and strength to our Human Rights Commissions. I request the Government to bring in more stringent laws in the interest of protection of human rights.

* Original in Telugu

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: I rise to support the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019. This amendment Bill contains adequate provisions to ensure the delivery of justice to all those who have registered their cases with the Human Rights Commission. The provision to appoint a female member in the Commission has also been included in this amendment Bill. At the same time, the tenure of its members has been reduced from 5 years to 3 years. The cases of custodial death should be taken seriously by the Government.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA: This Bill has been brought about only to obviate some of the obvious difficulties being faced by the Commission. So far as the misgivings about the dilution of the position of the Chief Justice are concerned, the Chief Justice is only the first among equals. Otherwise, all other powers of all other judges are equal. Therefore, it does not dilute the provision at all. I personally know how many Chief Justices said 'no' to the National Human Rights Commission. So, this is a practical difficulty. Therefore, there is no question of the Government trying to dilute this. The other provision of addition of a lady member is obviously welcome. It is because of our sterling track record in the handling of human rights issues, the entire world sided with us in the International Court of Justice in the case of Kuldeep Jadhav. The sanctioned strength of the Investigating Division of this Commission has been brought down from 59 people to 49 and that is not a happy situation. We must look seriously at a vast number of complaints of extra-judicial killings undertaken by the Police, the Armed Forces or

Parliamentary forces. Moreover, we must staff the Commission adequately. It is in the interest of our country that all of us should ask for burnishing the credentials of the Human Rights Commission.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I am hugely disappointed by the attitude of the Treasury Benches. You remember Kalburgi, Pansare and Dabholkar of this country who were killed for liberal thinking. One of our colleagues was telling that 500 people go to the Commission every day which shows what the common man feels. Today, for justice the first step is to go to the police, if people do not get it, they go to judiciary and after that, they go to the Human Rights Commission. So, the first is that the one year gap that they have given, within which the case has to be decided. I think, that needs to be extended. This whole Bill that we are discussing has to be gender neutral and even the LGBT group should be included in it. There are a few suggestions that I would like to make. We need to completely revamp this entire scheme. Moreover, there has to be non-State actors here who have to be given some voice here. I am worried whether our freedom is going to be taken away by this Government because they seem to be completely against any voice that anybody raises against it. A good governance is not just about criticising somebody. It is about hearing the pain of your people and being fair to them and just to them. I would request the entire treasury benches not to write off the human rights. Let us have more detailed

discussion on it and increase the ambit of it so that it is strengthened and no citizen of India ever goes without these issues unaddressed.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: I rise to speak in support of the Human Rights Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2019. Our Constitution has provided for the formation of the Human Rights Commission in order to protect the human rights. So this Commission is required to be made more powerful. Moreover, the total number of its members should be prescribed in odd numbers in order to stave off the situation of indecision in any case. The number of its employees is also required to be increased to the adequate level, so that it may function smoothly. I would like to give a suggestion that the Human Rights courts are required to be set up at the district level as the cases relating to the violation of Human Rights are incessantly increasing. At present, more than one lakh cases are pending. So far as Bihar is concerned, Human Rights Commission has not yet been constituted even at the state level. However, it stands to be the duty of the State Government, the Union Government may issue advisory to this effect. I would also like to urge the Government that the offences covered under the Section 353 of the Indian Penal Code should be converted from unbailable to bailable.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: The most notable weakness of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 is its failure to check the excess of the Police and armed forces, especially, in Kashmir and the North-Eastern States. Unfortunately, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland are some of the States, which do not

have a Human Rights Commission even after 26 years of passing of the Protection of Human Rights Act in 1993. The basic human rights were being ignored in the name of national security in these States. I don't agree with the proposed amendments to the Human Rights Act and hence I would request the Government to withdraw the Bill. I conclude my speech by registering my strong opposition to the laxity of the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and urge the Government to adhere to the international principles and standards on human rights.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: I rise to support the Bill. The 1993 Act made it compulsory to make the Chief Justice of High Court the head of SHRC. Henceforth, any High Court judge can become the Chairperson. It is a welcome move. The position of Chairperson and Members of the Andhra Pradesh SHRC are lying vacant. There is not even an Administrative Officer there. So is the case with many other States. I hope this Bill will pave the way for full-fledged SHRCs in all States very soon. The issue of human rights also plays an important role when foreign investors come to India that way it impacts our growth trajectory also. Manual scavenging is a flagrant violation of human rights. I urge upon the Government to do away with the practice of manual scavenging. The Human Development Index of 2016 places India at 131st place out of 188 countries behind South Asian countries like Sri Lanka and the Maldives. This needs to be improved.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: Our country has a glorious tradition of peaceful co-existence and is famous in the world for its communal harmony. Seeing that, incidents of mob-lynching and alleged victimisation distort inter-woven social fabric. Violation of Human Rights carries grave repercussions with it. Therefore, the perpetrators must be dealt with strictly under the relevant law.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: As per Paris Principles, the Secretary-General and Director of Investigation should be independent of the Government which is not being followed. States have not yet formed State Human Rights Courts. That was a requirement under Section 30 of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1933. Recommendations of NHRC should be binding. It should be given powers to perform judicial and quasi-judicial functions. There should be a law to put a check on the rising incidents of mob-lynching.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: The Bill is not sufficient to meet the situation which is prevailing in our country, which is why I oppose this Bill. This original Act was passed in the year 1993, 26 years' time has elapsed since then. I would like to request the Government to have a review study of the implementation and the impact of this Act during the last 26 years and come with a comprehensive Bill so as to address the situation. Now-a-days, Human Rights Commissions are often awarded the epithet of being a paper tiger as they are unable to protect the ordinary citizen from the human right violations.

Unfortunately, the proposed amendments are not sufficient to comply the Paris Principles.

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Minority, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are largely affected by the Human Rights violations. During the last five years, a huge amount of human rights violations has taken place. 266 incidents of lynching and hate crime is perhaps the largest we have come across in the independent India. As much as I know, there is no law now to take all these things on record and register them as cases. The directions given by the Supreme Court have not been complied with so far. We have political democracy in this country, but I am not sure whether we have social democracy. Institutions like HR Commission alone can bring in social democracy. Therefore, this is to be strengthened.

SHRI NITYANAND RAI *replying said:* This Amendment Bill has been brought in to safeguard the rights of the citizens through Human Rights by edifying and simplifying the complexities involved. In so far as the element of women empowerment and their adequate representation is concerned, this Bill contains the provision of having one more female member on board other than the Chairperson of the Commission for Women. With a view to affording all the more powers to the civil society, the number of representatives from civil society has been enhanced from two to three. This will certainly lead to the increased participation of civil society and would protect and strengthen social and human rights. In order

to encapsulate the voice of various sections and of course, to uphold plurality there already exists National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Minority Commission and Commission for Women. These apart, other than the existing provision, the Chief Commissioner for the disabled is also going to be included in NHRC as an honorarium member. The Bill provides for making the retired judge of Supreme Court, the Chairman of NHRC without repealing the provision of appointment of retired Chief Justice of India as the Chairman, NHRC. Likewise, in State Human Rights Commissions other than the Chief Justice of High Courts, the judges of High Courts have also been made eligible for appointment as the Chairman. A good number of posts are lying vacant in the State Human Rights Commissions which leads to delay in the disposal of cases. Therefore, the Bill contains the provision to ensure that no posts in either National Human Rights Commission or SHRC remains vacant. The Union Territories save Delhi are also proposed to be attached to the SHRCs of the adjoining States concerned. It was urgently needed. The National Human Rights Commission has been given A grade and we have to ensure that this grade is maintained in future also. Some hon. Members have talked about the Paris Agreement and the criteria mentioned therein. I would like to tell them that the procedure for the selection of the Chairman and the Members is adequately transparent. It has also been mentioned that 57 persons have committed suicide on account of their exclusion from the National Register of Citizens in Assam. These

suicides have not been committed because of the NRC. I would also like to tell the House that the Government has sought additional period for foolproof completion of NRC. The Government has not made any discrimination in making arrests of the cancer patients. A question has been raised about the action taken by the Armed Forces. If any complaint is made against the personnel of the Armed Forces for violation of human rights, the Government orders impartial investigation and punitive action is taken against the personnel in case the charges are proved. But, we must have empathy for those widows also whose spouses make supreme sacrifice for the country. This Bill has received enormous support from the States. Twenty one States have supported this Bill and six States have not made any comments which show their support for this Bill.

The Bill was passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

Re: Construction of canals through Ken-Betwa river linking project to overcome the problem of water scarcity and stray cows in the Bundelkhand region – Contd.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL *resuming said:* The Bundelkhand region comprises of 13 districts spread in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The water crisis in this region started in the year 2003 and since then it has emerged as a

serious problem for the local people. The hon. Prime Minister thought to find ways to solve this water crisis. That is why he constituted the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Even today, millions of Indian families do not have access to the pure drinking water. The hon. Prime Minister has resolved to provide piped water to every household by the year 2024. Water is a basic necessity and it is the right of the people to have pure drinking water. I hope that this dream of our Government will come true. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, 1592 blocks of 256 districts across the country have been identified which are reeling under acute water crisis. In our State, ground water level in 94 blocks is very low. If this water crisis is not resolved, it will cause drought like situation and will also aggravate the unemployment problem. So, there is a need to bring amendments in Indian Easement Act. Along with that, water should also be rationalized as has been done in the case of electricity. There is also a need to promote recycling of water and bring changes in the crop pattern. In this regard, Mihir Shah Committee had also recommended to set up a National Water Commission and I feel this has become the need of the hour. I wish that water should be accessible to everyone and it should be affordable also. Today, soil erosion is taking place which leads to frequent floods as the silt is causing a rise in river beds. So, there is a need to de-silt all the rivers and ponds. I would also like to draw the attention of the Government towards watershed development. Today, Bundelkhand is facing

severe water crisis. So Government should come up with some action plan for this region.

SHRI ANURAG SHARMA: Bundelkhand is considered as one of the most backward regions of this country. Since ancient times, water conservation measures have been taken on large scale in this area. But now this area is reeling under severe water crisis. Though, Government has provided a package of Rs.15,000 crore for the Bundelkhand region, of which Rs. 9,021 crore have been earmarked for potable water projects. I urge upon the Government to get this scheme to inter-linking of rivers commissioned. Farming has become almost impossible due to the non-availability of water. In our area, paddy crop is not cultivated because of the shortage of water. Earlier their used to be 800-900 mm of average rainfall in our area which has now come down to 400-450 mm only. More than 10,000 hand pumps have been dried up in my area. Water crisis has caused large scale migration in my area. Migration has also adversely affected the education of our children. The school dropout rate for young girls in rural Bundelkhand is over 45 per cent. People have to go far away to fetch water in scorching temperatures. So there is an urgent need to implement the interlinking of rivers project. Not only will it make water available, solar energy could also be generated through it. Nearly, 9 lakh hectares of land could be annually irrigated through this project and 4843 million cubic meter of water including drinking

water will be generated. This project will be beneficial to the country from socio-economic point of view.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: The country today is facing the huge scarcity of water. *Anna* tradition is also directly linked to my constituency. It is not limited to Bundelkhand only. The people there are sending their animals across Yamuna towards my Lok Sabha constituency. The people of the Bundelkhand are compelled to migrate. The main reason behind it is water. Taking the issue of water very seriously, the Government has constituted a *Jal Shakti Mantralaya*. The Government will certainly give attention to the Resolution brought in here but it is not possible for the Government to do everything. Water can also be saved by its proper utilisation and preservation. We exploited the water more and preserved it very less which has created water scarcity in the country. I have requested the Government to keep water in the Union List and if not at least in the Concurrent List. The Government is continuously concerned about Bundelkhand and a package of Rs.15000 crores have been given to it to find out a solution of the water problem in the times to come. The Defence Corridor which has been launched recently is extending upto Bundelkhand which will create employment opportunities. But starting an industry in Bundelkhand also requires water. First of all, Ken and Betwa rivers should be linked at the earliest. When the rivers are linked we would have solution of the water problem.

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: By constituting a separate *Jal Shakti Mantralaya* and by launching a campaign in every village panchayat for the preservation of water, the Government has taken a very commendable step. I feel that we will find a solution to this problem very soon. There are small rivers and rivulets which are required to be linked to fill water in the small check dams. Ken river flows from our Banda region. A barrage is required on Ken river. Banda has acute problem of drinking water. I request hon. Minister to construct a barrage on the Ken river. We should promote sprinkler system of irrigation to check wastage of water. Our region is especially plagued with the *Anna* tradition which literally means stray animals. People leave their animals in the open fields all through the year because the farming has become a loss making enterprise. Since oxen have no utility, the people leave them in the open. Similarly, they keep the milch cow and leave them out in the open thereafter when they stop giving milk. It has become a tradition and we need to launch a campaign to educate people against it. I have some suggestions for hon. Minister. An allowance should be introduced for rearing cows. An animal shelter should be set up in every panchayat under the care of the Government. There should be a market for procurement of cow dung and cow urine. Special incentive and financial help should be provided to those rearing cows of indigenous breed. The inferior breed calves should be identified and castrated. Farmers of the entire State including Bundelkhand be given calves

of better breeds. Special incentives should be given to the farmers preparing for zero budget farming.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: The water problem and the problem of stray animals have become a national problem today. *Jal Shakti Mantralaya* has been especially created to cater to the problems related to water in holistic manner. If we link rivers it will expand the irrigated land but will not totally address the water problem. The earth is gradually losing its capacity to absorb water which needs to be taken care of. Wells are gradually drying up and ponds are now full of filth and silt. Stray animals are a big problem. The earth has become ill due to unbridled use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides which has also affected the purity of water. The fertility of the earth has also been badly affected. If we can gradually increase the use of cow dung as a fertiliser and reduce the use of urea and chemical fertilisers then only the fertility of the earth will improve and water will become pure which will increase the nutritious elements in our food. The Government should subsidise such kind of natural fertiliser as they are doing for the chemical fertiliser.

SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI: The most challenging problem coming before the nation is related to water. The Government is trying to educate the people and to find its solution by creating a *Jal Shakti Mantralaya*. I would also like to mention about some problems in my constituency. The Minister of Road Transport and Highways had announced construction of a dam at Aadi Badri

which is the point of origin of River Saraswati. If this dam is constructed, it will prove a lifeline for the people of Haryana as it will provide water to the people all through the year. If this work is expedited then it will rejuvenate the river and the farmers of Haryana would be hugely benefitted from it. (*Speech unfinished*)

The discussion was not concluded.

SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

© 2019 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NOTE: It is the verbatim Debate of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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