

LOK SABHA

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

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 / Asvina 1, 1942 (Saka)

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE** laid a statement regarding nationalized banks subscribers facing problems in Covid-19 pandemic.
- (2) **SHRI GOPAL SHETTY** laid a statement regarding need to include the sacred Shrimad Bhagvad Gita in school and college curriculum and also include in the Oaths Act, 1969.
- (3) **DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA** laid a statement regarding alleged irregularities committed by CMO, Badaun in Uttar Pradesh.
- (4) **SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE'** laid a statement regarding need to stop levy of toll tax on Etawah-Chakeri Toll Plaza in Kanpur district, Uttar Pradesh.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (5) **SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN** laid a statement regarding need to establish an 'Aushadhiya Kendra' in Sasaram Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
- (6) **SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL** laid a statement regarding need to float fresh tender for construction of Tarsod-Fagne section of NH-6 into four lane in Maharashtra.
- (7) **SHRIMATI SHARDA ANIL PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to provide jobs to local land oustees families in ONGC in Mahesana Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.
- (8) **SHRI JAYANT SINHA** laid a statement regarding deteriorating law and order situation in Jharkhand.
- (9) **SHRI SUBRAT PATHAK** laid a statement regarding need to upgrade Fragrance & Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, Uttar Pradesh to Aroma University.
- (10) **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding interlinking of rivers in northern and southern areas of Bihar.
- (11) **SHRI A. NARAYANA SWAMY** laid a statement regarding amending CSR rules.

- (12) **SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA** laid a statement regarding need to provide adequate lighting facility on over bridges on NH 27 (Jhansi-Kanpur) in Uttar Pradesh.
- (13) **SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA** laid a statement regarding alleged irregularities in Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and other rural development schemes in Pratapgarh district, Uttar Pradesh.
- (14) **SHRI MANOJ TIWARI** laid a statement regarding need to set up sewage treatment plant in drains in North East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency.
- (15) **SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR** laid a statement regarding need to ensure adequate medical facilities for treatment of non-Covid patients in hospitals.
- (16) **DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE** laid a statement regarding inclusion of Gorboli in 8th Schedule of the Constitution.
- (17) **DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN** laid a statement regarding need to construct flyover on NH-27(28) and a bridge over Gandak river in Gopalganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
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THE MAJOR PORT AUTHORITIES BILL, 2020

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA)** *moving the motion for*

consideration of the Bill, said: I have brought in this Bill as maritime history of our country is very old. It was the maritime sector through which we were connected with the entire world. The oldest example and evidence of our being the oldest maritime sector is located at Lothal in Gujarat. A dock of 5,000 years old has been found in Lothal which vividly depicts how systematic and scientific navigation system was 5000 years ago. If we go into the history of all the Monarchs ruling over western-east coast such as Magadh kingdom, Pandyan and Chalukya dynasty then we can understand that they were well versed in the maritime sector and maritime subject. Their knowledge in maritime science was so profound that they used to have access to specific island country. Thereafter, the Britishers came into the country and evolved a certain situation. There was best ship-building in India. India used to transact its trade with the world through all of its ports. There are numerous examples to this effect also. They were connected with African countries and all other countries through sea transportation via Gulf of Cambay. But the Britishers banned the ship-building and sea-farers in the country when they came here. Moreover, they also made provision that only English Captain will be there in

their Vessels. Since then our maritime sector continued to be lagged behind and it remained neglected even after independence. Despite it being a neglected sector, today we have 204 ports. Today, competition is quite visible even in the port sector. Port sector is also required to keep pace with the changing time. I have brought the Major Port Authorities Bill in order to provide autonomy to the major ports and to make the activities of port sector hassle free by adopting best practices and creating an ambience in which our port sector may compete with the port sectors of the world and there may be a competition between private ports and major ports. Hence I move that the House may take the Bill into consideration.

DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL *initiating said:* I support this bill. In the Kutch region of Gujarat, there lay barren salt land along the river which is witnessing huge inflow of tourists from both home and abroad in the wake of its nomenclature as White Desert. This has made a huge difference not only to our Kutch but also to the development and economy of entire Gujarat. My parliamentary constituency is Bhavnagar which is coastal area. This houses the largest Asian ship breaking yard. Thanks to the passage of a Bill relating to Hong Kong Convention has the potential to double the trade of ship breaking. The Central Government in tandem with the State Government of Gujarat has taken a decision to set up the country's first CNG port at Bhavnagar with the investment of Rs. 2000 crore. This will create thousands of jobs and will promote the trade as

well. My demand is that the New Port at Bhavnagar be dredged again and again. The lock gate also needs to be renewed. My second demand is that a Ro-Ro ferry service from Ghogha to Surat may be introduced and a Ro-Ro ferry service may also be introduced from Ghogha to Mumbai. The port at Sartanpar should be expanded for fisheries. The Alcock Asadon Company may be revived.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: We are discussing the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020. I understand that there is a need for improving the management of major ports. The Bill adopts a three-step approach to achieve its objective. First step is through a Board representing the Centre, the States, Railways, Defence, Customs and independent members. Second step is by giving greater autonomy to this Board to make master plans. Third step is by creating transparency in the functioning of the ports. It is literally taking away the involvement of the State Government from the Central Government wherein the Board can actually decide on development of the port's master plan and everything. So, we have to take States' interest also into consideration. The fishermen and the communities which are dependent on the inland waterways have to be taken into consideration. A pilot project can be taken up by the Government in Visakhapatnam under the Sagarmala Project. We as the YSR Congress Party repeat our support for this Bill.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: While supporting the Bill, I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister to rename Paradip Port after Odisha's Biju Babu to honour his contribution to developing the Paradip Port. The maritime growth story started by Biju Babu has been taken to new heights by current Odisha Chief Minister, who has played a pivotal role in the port-led development of Odisha be it setting up Gopalpur port, Dhamra port, Subarnarekha port, or setting up a Maritime Board in the recent times.

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: This Bill has been brought in the House by the Government with a view to extending and promoting the maritime transportation. It will facilitate and simplify India's trade and commerce with several countries of the world. With the passage of this Bill, the maritime transportation system of the country will undergo a change at international level. At the same time, with the enactment of this legislation the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 will stand repealed and a totally autonomous and independent the Major Port Authorities will come into existence.

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR: The major focus of this Bill is modernization, minimum Government and maximum governance, which will lead to boosting of trade. The Bill seeks to ensure greater efficiency by freeing up ports from as much red-tapism as possible while ensuring sufficient accountability by

delegating to the port authority full power to enter into contracts, planning and development, and fixing of the tariff.

SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH: The Bill aims to renew the administration, control, and management of major ports in India. At present, there are 12 major ports and about 200 non-major ports functioning to meet the ever-increasing trade needs in the country. My parliamentary Constituency Surat is a big industrial hub for trade. Besides, a large industrial belt is also located at Hazira near Surat. This Bill will give impetus to the development of a large and new port here. This Bill will create world-class port infrastructure in the country. The Maritime Agenda for the year 2020 has recommended closure of Enterprise Resource Planning covering functional areas including port operations. Based on this recommendation, the five ports have been selected namely Mumbai, Deendayal Kandla, Kolkata, Paradip, and Chennai. The proposed changes in the Bill will greatly improve the administration of ports. The Bill will usher in a new era in the field of administration of major ports.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY: I would like to speak about certain salient features of this Bill. It has become very difficult to compete in the emerging global market, therefore, our Government has brought this amendment. It will have 13 members with a provision of four additional independent members. There were several members in the old board who had conflict of interest. Such members have

now been dropped from the Board. This board will be under the ambit of CAG. An internal dispute settlement process has been put in place which will facilitate internal resolution of the disputes in ports itself. This Board has also been authorized to obtain 50 per cent loan. I conclude with my support to this Bill.

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA *replying said:* The main objectives behind the introduction of this Bill is to ensure that the ports could develop themselves on their own, the role of the Government should be to the minimum extent possible and the assets of the ports should be free from the control of the local people. The port sector has undergone a complete transformation with the passage of time. Earlier, the ports were run and managed by the local people only. In the wake of the PPP model introduced in 1995, the private players came to the limelight and, sometimes, this led to disputes between the private players and the old management of the ports. This Bill has provided a dispute resolution mechanism to resolve such disputes. We wish that the land available with the ports could be used for the development of ports and ports are developed on the basis of ‘one port, one industry’. For this purpose, we have granted autonomy to the ports. I also wish to give a clarification in the House that the interests of the pensioners and the employees of the ports will not be compromised.

The Bill was passed.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, today we are coming to the close of the fourth session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha. This monsoon session has been historical in many respects. Despite the prevalent risk of Covid pandemic, all the hon. Members have attached top priority to their constitutional obligations and have carried out legislative business by sitting till late at night. You all have been strict in compliance of all protocols relating to health all through the entire session and all of you deserve praise and appreciation on that count. It is only by virtue of your active cooperation and meaningful affirmative participation that this House has been able to establish a new records in terms of productivity. To put it in the perspective, even while the entire world is grappling with the pandemic, the productivity of the House in this session has been 167 per cent which is very high as compared to other sessions. All the hon. Members deserve compliments for this achievement. In view of the existing circumstances, elaborate arrangements were made during this session in the entire Parliament House complex along with within the House to ensure safety from infection.

It has been for the first time in the History of Parliamentary democracy that the hon. Members took part in the proceedings of the House by sitting in both the Houses (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha) & Visitors' Galleries of Parliament. As you all are aware, the monsoon session commenced on 24th September, 2020. During

this session, we had ten sittings which were held without any leave including those on Saturday and Sunday. Against 37 hours of time allotted for the proceedings of the House, we sat for 60 hrs to transact business of the House. There has also been disposal of important Legislative Business and other items of work. In terms of percentage, legislative business accounted for 68 percent whereas the 32 percent time was dedicated to attending non legislative items of work during the session. The Discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants – First Batch for 2020–21 and Demands for Excess Grants for 2016-17 lasted for 4 hrs 38 minutes. Accordingly, the Appropriation Bills were also passed. During the current Session, 16 Government Bills were introduced. In all, 25 Bills were passed during the 10 sittings. All the Bills were discussed. Some of the important Bills passed were the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020; the Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Code, 2020; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code On Social Security, 2020.

During the Session, unstarred questions were allowed to be laid on the Table of the House. Accordingly, replies to 2300 unstarred questions asked by the hon. Members were laid on the Table of the House.

In this Session, hon. Members raised 370 issues of urgent public importance. I would like to specifically mention that as many as 88 Members raised issues of public importance during the zero hour by sitting till late night on 20th September, 2020. 230 Members also got an opportunity to raise their issues other than those covered in the ballot.

Hon. Members also raised 181 matters under rule 377. I am happy to inform the House that initiatives were undertaken to impress upon the Ministry concerned to respond quickly to the matters raised under rule 377. As a result, the hon. Members have received response of the Ministries as much as 98.34 per cent corresponding to 77 per cent during the 15th Lok Sabha. I have been consistent in my effort to ensure that the hon. Members receive response to the matters raised within the stipulated period of one month. Hon. Ministers made 40 statements on various important issues including the ones relating to Covid-19 pandemic, MSP in agriculture sector and of course the one pertaining to developments taking place along Ladakh border. The Ministers concerned laid 855 papers on the table of the House. A short discussion under Rule 193 on the world wide pandemic Covid-19 was also held which lasted for five hours and eight minutes. The discussion was concluded with the reply of the Minister concerned. In this session, the House sat for more than 23 hours extra to accomplish legislative business and hold discussion on various important issues.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to the hon. Vice President whose continuous cooperation and guidance has helped to conduct the proceedings of the House successfully. I would like to thank my hon. colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their co-operation in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders of various parties as well as the Hon'ble Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for their cooperation.

On behalf of the House, I would also like to thank, our friends in the Press and the Media. I thank NIC, Lok Sabha TV, Rajya Sabha TV, Secretary Generals of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and the officers and staff of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt services rendered while the House was in the Session. Several rounds of meetings were convened between both the Secretariats for the smooth conduct of the Session. To that end, we tried hard to ensure the desired outcome of the efforts made for security.

I am under obligation to acknowledge the cooperation extended by the Ministries, Departments and the other agencies concerned to keep the Parliament House immune from infection.

I am thankful to the allied agencies for the assistance they extended in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

(The Lok Sabha, then, adjourned sine die.)

SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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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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