

## LOK SABHA

---

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

---

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 / Kartika 29, 1941 (Saka)

---

### RULING BY THE SPEAKER

**HON'BLE SPEAKER:** Hon'ble Members, it has been mentioned in Kaul & Shakti's book, chapter-11, page number 269 (English) and page number 244 and 289 (Hindi) that the ambit of privilege does not cover criminal cases. The House in no way can protect a Member from the process of criminal law. The arrest of a Member of Parliament in the course of administration of penal justice does not constitute a breach of privilege of House. Hon'ble Courts of India have also confirmed it.

---

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) *Need to set up a campus of Allahabad University and a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kaushambi Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.*

**SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:** My Parliamentary Constituency, Kaushambi is the most backward and tribal dominated area. The demand for opening a campus of Allahabad University and setting up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in this area has been constantly made for a long time. Hence, I would like to urge the Government to take immediate step to open a campus of Allahabad University and a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Parliamentary Constituency enabling the local poor students to have access to education.

*(2) Need to set up an IT University in Dhanbad district, Jharkhand.*

**SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:** A large number of students migrate to other States from the State of Jharkhand for education due to the absence of IT University in Jharkhand. The people of this State are very poor and most of them are tribal who have to face financial crunch in moving to other State for study. So, I would like to request the Government to set up an IT university at Sindri in Dhanbad district of Jharkhand.

*(3) Need to organize a 'Krishi Mela' in Gorakhpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.*

**SHRI RAVI KISHAN:** My Parliamentary Constituency, Gorakhpur is the main city of Purvanchal region in Uttar Pradesh. The economy of this area is mainly based on Agriculture but the fertile land of this area has not been optimally

utilized. The farmers need proper guidance. Moreover, modern farming technique plays pivotal role in boosting the agricultural yield. Proper guidance received by the farmers from the agriculture experts from time to time also boost up the agricultural production. Hence, I would like to urge the Government to organize a Krishi Mela every year in my Parliamentary Constituency, Gorakhpur.

*(4) Need to provide financial assistance to farmers who suffered loss of crops due to heavy rains in Dhar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.*

**SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:** The farmers of my Parliamentary Constituency, Dhar of Madhya Pradesh have lost their crops due to heavy rains. I would like to urge the Government to transfer an adequate amount to the bank accounts of all the farmers on the lines of Kishan Samman Nidhi enabling them to tackle the adverse situation and facilitating them to sow the next crops.

*(5) Need to grant patta to people dwelling in Reserve Forest areas in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.*

**SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:** The people dwelling in the Reserve Forest Area along the Narmada in my Parliamentary Constituency, Bharuch are deprived of the basic facilities. This deprivation might be attributed to forest related laws which have come up as bottlenecks in the construction of roads,

schools and check dams for irrigation in this area. I would like to urge the Government to grant Patta of forest land to the tribals.

*(6) Regarding financial assistance to farmers who suffered loss of crops due to heavy rains in Tikamgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.*

**DR VIRENDRA KUMAR:** My Parliamentary Constituency, Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh is still a hugely backward area in terms of development. The farmers of entire Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand region are facing grave problems due to torrent rain during this monsoon. But the amount of relief received by the farmers from Kishan Samman Nidhi is quite scant. So, I would like to urge the Government to transfer a justified amount to the bank accounts of affected farmers immediately enabling them to sow their next crops and meet their needs.

*(7) Regarding BPCL disinvestment.*

**SHRI HIBI EDEN:** The in-principle decision to disinvest 53.29% stake held by the Government in BPCL alongwith management control for about USD 10 billion is detrimental to the national interest and foundational strategic imperatives envisaged through the establishment of the PSU. I urge upon the Union Government to revoke the decision to disinvest the BPCL forthwith and ensure the Maharatna public sector's survival for the benefit of the nation.

(8) *Regarding providing Ex-servicemen status to retired employees of GREF.*

**SHRI V. K. SREEKANDAN:** The General Reserve Engineer Force was created in 1960 and it was made permanent in 1969. The structure of the force was on the same pattern as that of Army. Therefore, it is urged upon the government to provide Ex-servicemen Status to retired employees of GREF in the wake of the judgements given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and various other Hon'ble Courts.

(9) *Regarding water problem in Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.*

**DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR:** The lake Panjapatti is in my Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu is water-starved. This water body covers about 1,000 acres and has the capacity to cater to the water needs of 30 villages in the vicinity. However, this lake has been neglected and it is dry now. I suggest that the excess water available during rainy season can be stored by channelizing it into such lakes and water bodies instead of draining them into the sea wastefully. Such efforts will not just increase the groundwater level but also serve agriculture and drinking water purposes. I urge upon the Government to solve the water problem in my constituency by some feasible mechanism.

*(10) Regarding MVA charges being collected by the Power Grid Corporation.*

**SHRI BELLANA CHANDRA SEKHAR:** The Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is collecting MVA charges for the power supply receiving at APTRANSCO substations at higher rates. Whether the Government proposes to reduce MVA Charges being collected by the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited to reduce the financial burden on Andhra Pradesh Discoms because Andhra Pradesh is a newly formed State.

*(11) Regarding payment of salaries to employees of BSNL and MTNL.*

**SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:** The Government owned Public Sector Undertakings, BSNL and MTNL are constantly delaying the payment of salaries of their employees. Their employees have not got salaries for the last several months. This is a very pitiable situation. So, I would like to urge the Government to ensure the immediate payment of salaries to the employees of these Undertakings.

*(12) Regarding rail connectivity in Gopalganj district, Bihar.*

**DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN:** A large number of passengers of district Gopalganj travel to different metropolitan cities for their medical treatment, study and other business purposes. There are no direct trains for around 26 lakh

population of Gopalganj district. Therefore, kindly divert route of Vaishali Express and Bihar Sampark Kranti Express from Thawe/Gopalganj to Delhi.

*(13) Regarding compensation to people affected due to natural calamities in Rajasthan.*

**SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:** The amount being paid by Rajasthan State Disaster Management to the people who have suffered loss of lives, livestock, crops and other losses is scant. At the same time, the State Government itself has to depend on the National Disaster Relief Fund for providing the said amount of relief. Off late, a sum of Rs. 2645 crore was demanded as relief from the Central Government for the losses caused by heavy rains and floods in Rajasthan. Moreover, a number of calamities enumerated in the Rajasthan Government Relief Fund do not figure in the National Disaster Relief Fund. Hence, those calamities should be included in the National Disaster Relief Fund and moreover the compensation amount for the loss caused by the natural calamities should be doubled.

*(14) Need to include Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan in Tribal circuit.*

**SHRI C. P. JOSHI:** The tribal dominated district, Pratapgarh of the Parliamentary Constituency, Chittorgarh assumes specific importance in view of its art and culture. Even today the lifestyle, food items, festivals and customs of

the people residing in this area reflects the shadow of age old culture. I, therefore, urge the Government to include Pratapgarh in the tribal circuit so as to preserve its culture and promote self employment there.

*(15) Need to provide financial assistance to farmers in Maharashtra who suffered loss and damage to their crops caused by unseasonal rains in the state.*

**DR. SUJAY VIKHE PATIL:** The farmers have suffered loss of and damage to their crops by unseasonal rains in Maharashtra. The Government is, therefore, required to provide financial assistance to the farmers for their loss of crops caused by the unseasonal rains in the State.

*(16) Regarding RCS UDAN scheme.*

**SHRIMATI RAKSHA NIKHIL KHADSE:** Small and big cities of the country have been connected by the air routes under the RCS UDAAN Scheme. The private air operators have started providing flight services from such small airports. These air operators provide smooth flight services on their profitable routes but on certain routes they appear to be cancelling flight services by citing different reasons. Hence, I would like to request the Government to review the private air operators who have been allotted all the routes under RCS UDAAN Scheme. At the same time, they should be directed to operate their flight services



on all the allotted routes. Moreover, the night landing facilities should be provided at the earliest on those airports where this facility is not available.

*(17) Need to review the residential and other amenities provided to central civil servants in the country.*

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:** Over 72 years have passed since the country got its independence but even today a number of systems remind us of the feudal era. The residences of senior administrative officers at district and divisional headquarters are its live examples which are spread across several acres and are also utilized for agricultural purposes. Hence, I would like to request the Government to formulate such rules and regulations governing the residential and other amenities provided to the officers of Indian Administrative Services that are in sync with the defining spirit of democracy.

*(18) Need to address Tuberculosis disease.*

**SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:** According to WHO data, in 2017, 4 lakh 10 thousand people succumbed to the TB. People from socially and economically disadvantaged groups and with compromised immune system face the brunt of this disease. Hence, I urge the House to kindly treat this as an issue of high priority.

*(19) Regarding inclusion of Gloriosa Superba a species of a flowering plant in the list of approved medicinal plants.*

**SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:** Gloriosa Superba is a species of a flowering plant which is grown in a large area of more than 5000 acres of Tiruppur, Karur, Dindigul and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu. The seeds of this plant have medicinal value. Gloriosa Superba seeds are not found in the list of medicinal products or farm products of the Government of India due to which farmers do not get remunerative price for the plants grown by them and moreover makes them unable to get collateral loans from banks. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to include Gloriosa Superba plant in the approved list of medicinal plants besides making arrangements for direct procurement of those plants so that farmers can get remunerative prices for their product.

*(20) Regarding Waqf properties.*

**SHRI K. NAVASKANI:** Waqf properties are spread over six lakh acres across the country with an estimated market value of Rs.1.20 lakh crore according to the Ministry of Minority Affairs. A major part of these properties are under encroachment. It is my humble request to hon. Finance Minister of Minority Affairs to ensure the properties are used for the socio economic and educational empowerment of minorities. Necessary steps should be taken to digitize records of all the Waqf Boards and extend all support to state bodies in this connection.

---

## **THE CHIT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019 - *Contd.***

**SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL:** Chit fund is the oldest and native business in India. But 99 per cent of this business is unregistered or unregulated, as we can say. This Bill, I feel, has just got cosmetic changes. Chit fund companies have run away with thousands of crores of people's money. But the common people have not been given any kind of security. There is no provision of penal action or no nodal officer has been appointed for this purpose. All the contributors have been left to their fate. Nothing has been mentioned about their security in this Bill. If they are duped, how can they recover their money? It is nowhere mentioned in this Bill about the number of groups, a foreman or a conducting company can operate. I am of the opinion that this needs to be regulated so that major scams could be prevented. Similarly, there is no mention of Regulator in this Bill. A regulator at a local level should be put in place to address the minor complaints of small contributors. The Government is trying to promote plastic money in our country. If it has to be properly regulated, there should be provision of payments through cheque. It is an injustice to impose twelve per cent GST on chit fund. The Government should entrust States with maximum powers and authorize them to fix limits in this regard.

**DR. SUBHAS SARKAR:** I support the Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2019 introduced by the hon. Finance Minister. There should be transparent system in every sector, ease of doing business and work should be ensured and businesses

should be brought in the system. This is the thinking of our Government and the hon. Prime Minister. The government is continuously endeavoring for this purpose. A number of chit funds scams have come into light from various states like Odissa, Asam etc. Only the poor people are the victims of such scams and they have lost their crores of rupees. The proposed amendments are welcome steps. The present Bill will ensure the transparency in chit fund business and will also give protection to subscribers. The use of word 'share of discount' instead of dividend or price is a welcome move, but there should be a limit on the share of this discount. There should be an area limit of activity. A chit fund company having office at a certain place be allowed to can carry out its business within an ambit of 20 kms.

**SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL:** Certainly whole country is the victim of such scams. Such fraudulent activities are being carried out in every nook and corner of the country even without registration. These people fly-by-night after looting lifelong saving of people through chit funds. Such license should not be issued to such activities. The proposed amendment Bill proposes to bring transparency in chit fund business. A national database of the chit funds companies will be prepared after passing of the Bill. After this, the money of the common man will be safe because the first claim on the forfeited amount will be of the depositors and scams would be prevented.

**SHIR P.R. NATRAJAN:** I appreciate the intention of the Bill to bring more regulatory mechanism to the chit fund sector but am sad to see that the Bill has a

lot of loopholes. The main contention is that the Bill does not have a provision for insurance coverage. It is unfortunate that efficient regulatory mechanisms are not in place to deal with the ponzy schemes. The weak regulatory framework makes it relatively easy for errant chit fund companies to get away with fraudulent activities. The weak financial literacy is one of the major problems in this sector. I strongly insist that the Chit Fund (Amendment) Bill without the provision for insurance coverage for subscribers is a toothless tiger.

**BHAGWANT MAN:** So long as chit funds are run smoothly and its members are known to each other and collect money, are called committee. The problem starts as soon as it goes in the hand of big companies, they lure people to double or triple their deposits within short span of time. They even pay one or two instalments for winning the trust of people. The Pearl Company behaved like fly-by-night after duping Rs. 2 crore from Chhajali village in my constituency and 10 people committed suicide. The company has huge property and the government should make effort to pay back the money with the interest to the investors by selling or attaching these properties. Now people are losing their faith in banks. If they deposit their money in private sector, chit fund companies flee away. People's earning is being looted. The government should accord accountability to someone to whom people can make their complains of such economic offence.

**SUSHRI PRATIMA BHOUMIK:** I hail from Tripura and have suffered the pain of chit funds scams. The population of Tripura is 37 lakh and out them 16

lakh people are the victim of such scams..There is not a single household whose money has not been looted in the Rose Valley Chit fund scam. My state's budget for this year is of Rs.16000 crores, but the poor people have been cheated of Rs.10 thousand crores. There were 102 chit fund companies in Tripura and all these companies have their connections with West Bengal. Many people have committed suicide. At least 10,000 boys and girls belonging to Tripura are not traceable. There people used to be the agents of the Rose Valley. I hope that the proposed Bill will do the justice with the people of my state.

\*\*

\*\*

\*\*

\*\*

**SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA**  
*Secretary General*

---

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

© 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>.*