

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 / Magha 24, 1940 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of our former colleague Shri Kunji Lal. Shri Kunji Lal was a Member of the 10th Lok Sabha representing the Sawai Madhopur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. Earlier, Shri Kunji Lal was a Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for four terms.

Shri Kunji Lal passed away on 7 January, 2019 in Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan at the age of 82.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleague. I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Reported manhandling of Members of Parliament by Uttar Pradesh Police.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member, said: I express full sympathy with whatever the hon. Member has said. But whatever he has said is not true because vice-chancellor of Allahabad University had written to the administration that the visit is likely to affect the law and order. That is why he had to be stopped. This has nothing to do with the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Government.

THE BANNING OF UNREGULATED DEPOSIT SCHEMES BILL, 2018

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF COAL, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) *moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill, said:*

Perhaps these people do not want that poor and small investors of this country, who are lured to invest their money in chit fund schemes, get protection and their money be saved. This shows that some of the parties may be involved in it. There was a consensus that fake institutions which were not governed by the SEBI, RBI

or NABARD should not get deposits and they should be closed down. They are the poor people, backward people and farmers, who incur huge losses. Everyone gave consent to check their losses. Today, this Bill will be passed after having discussion on it under the Standing Committee's report. Today, it can be seen very clearly as to which party and which leader is in support of the chit fund companies and make the poor investors suffer. Government will take stringent action against such people. I would like to ensure the country that this Government will never allow such wrongdoings.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *initiating said:* I support this Bill. The definition of unregulated deposit is not clear in this Bill. There is ambiguity in it. Secondly, the enforcement agency is being provided unfettered powers. In Bengal, more than 25 lakh people have been looted of their money. Approximately 20000 to 30000 crore rupees have been looted. I appeal to the Government to return the looted money of the poor and punish the guilty.

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: About 2 crore small investors have been looted in the country and money worth 4 lakh crore rupees is involved in that. The Government has decided to protect those small investors and the poor by bringing this Bill. The West Bengal Government had not enacted this legislation in the State till 2015. Now, when the Union Government is bringing this legislation, they are protesting it just to cover up the Sharda Chit Fund Scam.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Poor people have to bear losses due to unregulated deposit schemes. These people are being lured towards these schemes because it provides attractive returns. But there have been various such instances wherein there are least chances to get the money back. Even the Standing Committee has also supported this Bill.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM: Some of the people suddenly get hyperactive whenever the issue of chit fund or ponzi scheme is raised. The entire country is aware that the Left Front Government of the West Bengal brought in this Bill to ban this scheme in 2002. If the erstwhile Union Government had acceded to that Bill, such a large number of persons would not have lost their money. Therefore, I would like to support and thank the hon. Finance Minister for bringing in this Bill. I would like to make a demand that appropriate measures should be taken to return the money to the poor people.

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU: In the proposed Bill it is said that the multi-State Cooperative Societies can accept deposits only from voting members and cannot accept deposits from nonvoting members. In such a case, the Repco Bank, which is owned by the Ministry of Home Affairs of Government of India and southern State Governments, will not be able to accept deposits from nonvoting members. In view of the above, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union Finance Minister to make suitable amendments to the Bill for providing an exemption for accepting deposits from nonvoting members also in the

Government owned multi-State Cooperative Societies. The above amendments could facilitate the Repco bank to continue to accept deposit from non-voting members also.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: The Finance Committee went in detail on this Bill, but certain lacuna still exist. First, the definition is not very clear, ambiguity still exists. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the provision in this Bill to identify the depositors and return their deposit. That is the major concern. It gives adequate or more power to the police force to act against anyone which is of concern and needs to be corrected. The Central Government cannot implement this provision. It is left to the State Government to implement it.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: None of the chit funds was started during Mamata Banerjee's regime. All the chit funds started in 1980. When the Saradha scam broke, Mamata Banerjee got the main person, Sudipta Sen arrested from Kashmir. She set up a Commission to return the money to investors. After the CBI has taken it over, not one rupee has been returned. I am asking this Government what were they doing for five years. On the last day, they are bringing the Bill. Our Standing Committee on Finance gave a report, but the Government has not agreed to a single recommendation of the report. We have no objection to this Bill provided it is amended as suggested by the Standing

Committee on Finance. We want all chit funds banned. There is chit fund not only in Bengal but in Punjab and Odisha also.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: This Bill seeks to prevent unregulated deposit taking activities. It criminalises soliciting, promoting or accepting deposits that constitute an unregulated deposit scheme as a punishable offence. A prime component of the Bill is the constitution of the competent authority which has been entrusted with the power of a civil court in investigation mandate of the irregular deposit activities. It is interesting to note that the State Government has been given the task of appointing the competent authority.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: On behalf of our party, we support the Bill. I just hope no misuse of power is made against anybody and the Bill is implemented in a fair and transparent way. I would request all the recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Finance to be implemented.

DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH: I am in favour of this Bill. The Standing Committee had suggested some improvements in this Bill. I would like the Government to consider those issues so that the Bill can be complete in its totality.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I rise to support this Bill because it protects the interests of the small and medium investors and depositors. At the same time, I would like to say that the principle of natural justice has to be complied with before taking any punitive action.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Surprisingly, the way the colleagues from the BJP, the Congress and the communist parties have made their points shows that we are trying somewhere down the line to limit the scope of the Bill to West Bengal only. Whether the hon. Finance Minister would like to make it clear that the small companies established under the Companies Societies Act working to lure the people with better returns and to make away with their money will also be monitored. In addition to it, how will it be ensured that the police action is free and fair.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing such a Bill that will usher in a new era and will ensure that the cheaters are sent behind the bars. Besides, with the passage of this Bill the money of the poor will not be plundered.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: I am in favour of this Bill. The middle class and the poor have been widely affected by such chit funds. A Srijan scam has taken place in our State which needs to be discussed. This Bill brought in by the hon. Minister is a welcome move.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA: This Bill is aimed at tackling the menace of taking deposit by luring people with the offer of attractive returns. The case in point is Agri Gold and Akshaya Gold Scheme in Andhra Pradesh. Through this enactment depositors are banned from promoting, operating, issuing advertisements or accepting deposits in any unregulated deposit scheme. The Bill

also contain penal provisions for attachment of properties for repayment to depositors where such money is raised illegally. The Bill offers clarity on the nature of deposit scheme and classifies all deposit schemes.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL *replying said:* I would like to express my gratefulness that there is still a heart in our hon. Members for the poor people for whom this Government has been working for the last five years relentless. I would like to mention that we have ensured, while amending the Bill that no loophole is there and nobody should find a way to misuse it. However if there are still any other suggestions while framing the rules, we will ensure that there will be no possibility of misuse of any sort. Hon. Members talked about the agencies other than the CBI. We have ensured that all this data is put into public domain and also the authorities can be designated who will study and take action even beyond the CBI. But we have not left it only to the States because you can see the situation here. If a particular State does not take action against such scheme, then the whole purpose of the Bill will be defeated. Before concluding, I want to share one data between July, 2014 and May, 2018, that is, in four years, there were 978 cases of unauthorized schemes. There were such 978 cases which were discussed in the state level coordination committee and out of these cases 326 cases were related to West Bengal. That is why the Government swiftly took action to ban it taking the sentiments of all the hon. Members in view. With these words, I would like to request that this Bill be passed.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

THE JALLIANWALA BAGH NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 2018

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE(DR. MAHESH SHARMA) *moving the***

motion for consideration of the Bill, said: 13th April, 1919 is remembered as a black day in the history of the freedom struggle of the country. The incident is going to complete its hundred years on the next 13th April, 2019. The erstwhile Government of India constituted a trust by an Act in 1951 and through which Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Saifuddin Kichlu and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad were made life long trustees of the said trust. The Act underwent changes in 2006 as three of them passed away. One of the changes was that the Prime Minister of the country would be Chairman of the trust. The present Government seeks to remove through this Bill those discrepancies which could not be removed earlier. We have included the Prime Minister of the country, the Governor of Punjab, the Chief Minister of Punjab and three persons nominated by the Government in the trust. The first discrepancy was related to the provision of the Leader of Opposition being its member. In 2014 such a situation arose that no political party could

acquire 10 per cent of the total strength of the House. Hence, the Government of India provided that the leader of the largest party instead of the Leader of Opposition would be entrusted with this responsibility in order to remove this discrepancy. This Bill provides that a Trustee can be removed if he fails to complete the term for any reason. When the Prime Minister, the Governor and the Chief Minister have been made the Trustees then it is not proper to keep the President of a particular political party on the Trust. Therefore, we have deleted this Clause. The leader of the largest party in the Opposition will also be a Trustee. I appeal to this august House to pass this Bill.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *initiating said:* Innocent blood was spilled at Jallianwala Bagh on the orders of General Dyer. It was a national atrocity which made Indians out of many who had not seen themselves as Indians. The House should have demanded an apology from the British on the centenary of this tragedy on 13th of April, 2019 and not taken petty action to remove the leader of the Indian National Congress from the Trust. The Congress intended this monument to be a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity in our country, something which sadly this present Government does not value. This Government is trying to deny the history with this Bill by removing the Congress President from the Trust. This Government has not given funds for the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial and the Light & Sound Show has been stopped. This Government is trying to pack our institutions with Right Wing ideologues and neglecting the sites of our heritage.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the centenary of the Jalliwala Bagh happen to fall this year. Through this Bill, some amendments have been made in respect of the Jalliawalan Bagh Memorial Trust. Earlier, President of the Congress party used to be the Trustee of this trust which is not proper at all. This is a good Bill. Now, the Hon. Prime Minister would be the President of this Trust and Secretary (Culture), the Chief Minister and the Governor would be the members. I would like to urge the Congress party to welcome this Bill brought by this Government.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: We have to rise above party in order to honour the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh. The innocent men, women and children were gunned down in Amritsar nearly a hundred years ago on 13th April 1919. The blood of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs mingled in the soil of Jallianwala Bagh. Shri Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood when he heard of this awful tragedy. Our revolutionaries like Shri Bhagat Singh and Shri Udham Singh were the products of the tragedy that took place on the 13th April, 1919. I would appeal to this Government that please do not bring a divisive Bill on this particular issue. Let us leave all party bickering behind us.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: In Odisha, we still celebrate from 6th of April to 13th of April, those 8 days, as 'National Days'. So far as the condition of the memorial at Jallianwala Bagh is concerned, it is not kept well. The

photographs have already become very yellow. I am really thankful to the Government that they have brought this Bill.

The first Government which came into being after Independence, to form a memorial and, quite rightly so, Dr. Ambedkar moved that resolution as the Law Minister, when the trustees pass away without bequeathing the property to subsequent trustees, that property becomes an escheat property because ultimately the escheat property will be vesting with the Government. During that period, as many lawyers were part of the struggle for independence, they said that make it the property of the Congress or form a society where Congress leaders would be heading that property or society. That is the way in which in 1951, a memorial trust was created. Now, amendments have come and I fully endorse the amendments that are there with the Prime Minister as the head of the trust. The Leader of the Opposition or the leader of the largest party in opposition has been added in the trust and that is a welcome step. The massacre of Jallianwala Bagh reverberated in Odisha. Utkalamani Gopabandhu Das brought the nationalist fervour to Odisha as Bhagirath brought Ganga to Bharat. He dedicated his whole institution to the cause of Lala Lajpath Rai to the Servants of People Society. In every way, this Jallianwala Bagh had an impact on everybody's mind. That was the pathetic situation which Punjab went through. This whole nation bows its head in memory of those martyrs. I would request the Minister to build this National Memorial in a grand way.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): The sacrifice of the martyrs belongs to the nation. 13th of April is the founding day of Khalsa Panth. The Government in 1919 and whoever came in after that decided in 1951, at that time, there was one major party in the country. So, they decided to take over and to create this into a memorial. I very much appreciate it. But one cannot forget what all happened after that. Who is going to forget that the same Congress Party went to the Golden Temple, attacked innocents who were there again praying on a Gurburab, on the Birthday of their Guru, attacked those and killed and massacred thousands of innocents just like General Dyer did. Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Udham Singh, Shaheed Sukhdev are the people who had fire of revenge in their hearts. Their sacrifices belong to each and every one of us. I totally welcome this amendment and hope the House passes it unanimously.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: This Bill has been brought in with a view to amending the Rules to Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Committee Trust. It is not a celebration. When Sikhs were being subjected to assault way back in 1984, our leader Bala Sahab had strictly warned not to hurt the Sikhs even to the least degree. I welcome the Amendments moved by the Government. Jallianwala Bagh is not associated with any particular religion, faith or even a state for that matter. This episode inflicted pain across the country. I support the Amendments moved relating to the trustees of Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Committee.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: I have been elected from Kerala but was born at Jalandhar, Punjab. I feel emotionally attached to Punjab also. On my visit to Jallianwala Bagh a couple of months ago I was shocked to see that the light and sound show was cancelled due to lack of funds. The true lesson to be learnt from the sacrifice of thousands of our martyrs in Jallianwala Bagh is anti--imperialism, the secular unity of the people of our country and protection of democratic values. These are the core values which form the idea of India and which is still relevant to the idea of India. Rabindranath Tagore returned his knighthood in protest against that massacre.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs who took serious pains at his end to install the statue of Shaheed Udham Singh at Jallianwala Bagh gate after 70 years sans being subservient to the set of rules in place. I would like to urge upon the Government to confer Bharat Ratna on Shaheed Bhagat Singh. I support the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2018 and compliment the Government for this move. At the same time, I would like to salute those martyrs and pay tribute to them.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA *replying said:* I am seized of the fact that Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Trust was not being properly maintained and was literally in shambles that prompted me to release Rs.24 crore immediately to improve the infrastructure and Digital light and sound show shall henceforth be

authenticated by the historians. Rising above political considerations, we have given this word that the leader of the largest party shall be entrusted with the responsibility to take care of the affairs of the trust and not the Leader of Opposition. We have celebrated 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 125th birth anniversary of Ambedkar ji, anniversary of Sardar Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose and 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. We are also celebrating 325th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh ji. Don't underestimate our dedication to the nation. After Independence, great leaders whatever dreamt about the nation building, our Government is fulfilling those dreams. In the interest of the country and paying respect to the martyrs, I would request the House to pass this Bill.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

THE PERSONAL LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

(Amendment made by Rajya Sabha)

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): moved that the amendment made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted and amendment was agreed to.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: I would like to thank you for your kind attitude towards the Opposition. Even though, the Government is not ready to approve us as a recognized Opposition Party, we cooperated in a larger way for a healthy legislative process. At our level, we think we have done a good job in that area. Though there are some issues, I am not going to narrate them here. In democracy, we say that Government has their own way, Opposition have their say. That is the essence of democracy. Now, our future lies in the hands of the people. We are going to face the electorate. We, the Congress Party, are very much thankful to you for all the cooperation.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: I rise to express our gratitude from the core of our heart. The Sixteenth Lok Sabha was full of excitement, tensions, anxiety, agitations, few good quality speeches, few unwanted and unexpected economic decisions and many other activities. You have been successful in bringing the situation under control. Your patience is remarkable and praiseworthy. You stood up for us and gave opportunity to us on many occasions. I do not know what will happen after elections. I always want that you stay in good health. I am of the opinion that personal attachment will certainly continue.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: The day you took the position of the hon. Speaker in that Chair, that day I had mentioned that we have seen very few women who have presided over the administration in India. You are one of them. You are compassionate, but at the same time very resolute and that has made the 16th Lok Sabha more fruitful. The country repeatedly gave a fractured mandate since long but in 2014, the country gave a full majority. At the same time, we should also understand the country also gave a fractured Opposition. Today we should do away with blame game, we should look forward in 2022 when this nation will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary of Independence. I commend you that the manner in which you presided over this Lok Sabha, it has added a glorious chapter to our parliamentary history.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Whenever you sit on the Chair, we feel proud. Our Government has done so many things in the interest of the people and the country. Yesterday, portrait of late Atalji was inaugurated. His memory has been preserved forever in the Central Hall. India is the largest democracy of the world. We have to make this democracy more strong and for that the Opposition and treasury benches will have to move ahead together. You have given me and all other Members the opportunity to express our opinion without any partiality.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: I rise on this occasion to express my gratitude. We have highlighted the tremendous works carried out in our State and have worked hard to represent the aspirations of our people. We have steered the

debate of this House in a constructive manner. We were given the full opportunity to put across our views and we are quite satisfied with it. We went to each ministry and each Minister with our genuine demands under the State Reorganization Act and pressed for them. At times, we shouted slogans in the House but never violated the decorum and dignity of the House. You treated us like a mother and Telangana was benefitted and we hope that benefits will continue to accrue to Telangana in future as well. I would like to make one more request to the Hon. Prime Minister. The issue of defence land relating to Bison ground is pending with you and I will be glad if you sanction it. It is my long cherished desire that before this session of Parliament is over, we should get that land. I am the Chairman of the Food Committee in Lok Sabha and I have ensured that everyone in the Parliament is served Hyderabad biryani. Not only the Hyderabad biryani, I have ensured that food dishes of all States are included in the menu of the canteen in Parliament. One day even the Hon. Prime Minister had appreciated me saying that he relished the food in the canteen of Parliament.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: There are a number of inspiring occasions as well as emotional occasions that you have witnessed for the last five years. It is the duty of the Opposition to raise the issues of the people. Sometimes, it may be in the form of shouting or of coming to the Well. I always remember your smiling face. It is said that the essence of democracy lies in discussion, debate and decision. I would like to say about only one issue before the hon. Prime Minister.

Kerala has not addressed the damage that was caused by flood situation. I request that our Prime Minister and the Government should show some more kindness to the State of Kerala. On behalf of my party, I thank you for your very great contribution in conducting the business for the last five years.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is a very difficult task to conduct the business in the House. But, you made successful attempt in running the House in the best possible manner. Hon. Prime Minister also made efforts to carry everyone along. Therefore, I congratulate him. Everyone should participate in the discussion in the House and everyone should also ensure that the House runs smoothly.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): I would like to congratulate you for conducting the business of the House impeccably during the last five years. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the Secretary-General, staff and officers and the security personnel. Media people also deserve to be given kudos. I would like to thank the colleagues of the Opposition parties also. I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister. It may take some time to get an appointment from the PMO but I am 100 per cent sure that once you meet him, you have no complaints at all. This Parliament took several historical decisions like the GST, demonetization and policy decisions for poor and farmers in its tenure of five years.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: On behalf of my Party, I thank you and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for the five years that we have spent together. The Speaker's Research Initiative has been one of the main contributions in the last five years and helped all of us to make better speeches. I congratulate the entire Speaker's Office and the SRI for the contribution that they have made.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): On behalf of my Party, the Shiromani Akali Dal, I would like to congratulate you on the last five years of your performance being par excellence. I think you had done a commendable job in the way that you have run this House. I know that you are one of the longest serving woman Members. I would also like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my Party, to thank the hon. Prime Minister. Crores of people are served free *langars* in gurudwaras every year. All the previous Central Governments had imposed a central tax on such *langars*. I met the hon. Prime Minister with the request to waive off this tax and he took the decision waiving off this central tax on free foods being served to poors in gurudwaras, temples, churches and mosques. I would also like to profusely thank the hon. Prime Minister for taking the appropriate decision about Kartarpur corridor and getting the construction work started there.

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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 Debates of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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