

LOK SABHA

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

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 / Magha 23, 1940 (Saka)

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Rafale deal

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member, said: The Rafale issue has already been discussed in the Parliament. At the same time, hon. Supreme Court has also given its judgement on this issue. Ironically, the Leader of Opposition has been trying to establish the truth by telling lies again and again. He is trying to mislead the people. I think in a healthy democracy, one should not do politics by way of deceiving the people.

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI** laid a statement regarding setting up of new medical institutes in the country.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (2) **SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI** laid a statement regarding penalty imposed on Sughauli Sugar Mill by NGT.
- (3) **SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU** laid a statement regarding need to start flight from Chakarbhata Airport in Bilaspur district, Chattisgarh.
- (4) **SHRI RAHUL KASWAN** laid a statement regarding compensation to farmers relating to setting up of Air Force Ground Range in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.
- (5) **SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY** laid a statement regarding appointment of dependants of deceased employees of Damodar Valley Corporation on compassionate ground and rehabilitation of land oustees.
- (6) **SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAY** laid a statement regarding establishment of Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kodarma Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.
- (7) **DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO** laid a statement regarding need to improve railway services and passenger facilities in Korba Parliamentary Constituency, Chhattisgarh.
- (8) **DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA** laid a statement regarding setting up of seven petrol pumps in Mumbai North East Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

- (9) **SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA** laid a statement regarding need to provide underground passage on Kosamba - Umarpada & Limbada - Asrama railway lines in Gujarat.
- (10) **SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL** laid a statement regarding POCSO Act.
- (11) **SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to set up a new Kendriya Vidyalaya in Mehsana district, Gujarat.
- (12) **SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh.
- (13) **SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI** laid a statement regarding setting up of a branch of Nationalized Bank/Insurance Company in Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
- (14) **SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH** laid a statement regarding need to provide the benefit of Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme to allottees of Housing Scheme in Surat Municipal Corporation, Gujarat.
- (15) **DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI** laid a statement regarding need to provide funds for treatment of leprosy.
- (16) **SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI** laid a statement regarding granting of Scheduled Tribe status to six communities of Assam.

- (17) **SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN** laid a statement regarding railway projects in Bihar.
- (18) **SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA** laid a statement regarding need to adopt special programme to provide nutritional food in Chamarajanagar Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.
- (19) **SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI** laid a statement regarding need to promote Courtallam in Tamil Nadu as a tourist spot.
- (20) **SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN** laid a statement regarding need to allow clay brick manufacturers to opt for compounding way of taxation.
- (21) **DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA** laid a statement regarding reopening of Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation at Durgapur, West Bengal.
- (22) **PROF. SAUGATA ROY** laid a statement regarding need for reconsideration of privatization of six airports.
- (23) **SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH** laid a statement regarding railway services in Mayurbhanj district, Odisha.
- (24) **SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT** laid a statement regarding compensation to fishermen displaced due to land acquisition.
- (25) **SHRI JAYADEV GALLA** laid a statement regarding need to provide Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians.

- (26) **SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS** laid a statement regarding development of Son Bheel in Karimganj district, Assam as a tourist spot.
- (27) **SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA** laid a statement regarding difficulties faced by farmers of Haryana in getting insurance claims for damaged crops.
- (28) **ADV. JOICE GEORGE** laid a statement regarding alleged duty evasion in import of black pepper.
- (29) **SHRI NABA KUMAR SARNIA** laid a statement regarding special package for Bodoland Territorial Area Districts.

THE FINANCE BILL, 2019

**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: This Government has always been considerate about the needs of the poor and middle class and the persons who are in the lower income brackets. So, the Government, in the Interim Budget, decided to give an additional rebate from two and a half thousand rupees to twelve and a half thousand rupees for the lower middle-class section of the society. All the plans that the Government had for

changes in the Direct Tax proposals, Government will do when the Government presents its full Budget in July 2019. But, for the present, we thought that this section of the society will have to start paying income tax and their taxes will be deducted at source right from April onwards. This will also give a fillip to the overall economy of the country. Over the last five years Government has done a number of significant changes in the Income Tax Act. Now, in this Interim Budget, Government has given a further tax rebate so that incomes up to Rs. 5 lakh are exempt. I am very happy to share with this august House that the honest tax payers of this country have come forth with the same enthusiasm to pay their taxes honestly with the growth of the economy. Subsequent to that, with the growing number of job and work opportunities that we have seen over the last five years, the tax payer base also in the country has nearly doubled over the last five years. Even the tax collections have almost doubled in the last five years. There were a few more changes that the Government felt were essential which also have an impact on the middle class. One is of course we have increased the standard deduction from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 which will give a benefit to three crore salary earners and pensioners. Government has also decided that there will be no tax on notional rent of two self-occupied houses. Also, Government has increased the existing limit for TDS from 1.8 lakh on rent to Rs. 2.4 lakh. Further, Government has allowed up to a capital gain of Rs. 2 crore so that middle class persons can sell their house and buy two houses. Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri

Awas Yojana is encouraging affordable housing so that by 2022 every person in the country should have his own house. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for loans up to Rs. 6 lakh, Government are reimbursing interest to the bank up to nearly Rs. 6 lakh over the tenure of the loan of 20 years. So, effectively a person can take Rs. 6 lakh loan at barely two and a half to three per cent and become the owner of his house. The Government wants to encourage more and more people to get into constructing affordable houses and has provided many sops to them. For those who want to take slightly bigger house, if they have a little higher income up to Rs. 12 lakhs or Rs. 18 lakhs, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, we have another scheme. I would urge all the hon. Members to spread the good word in their constituencies and encourage your constituents to buy their house. Government has also been able to keep the property prices under control. In order to encourage more people to invest in the real estate sector and give them some more time to sell their unsold inventory, the Government has decided to increase the period of exemption from levy of tax on notional rent on unsold inventory from one year to two years. All our proposals are for the middle class, for the honest and small taxpayers of this country and we hope that the House will support these proposals.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL *initiating said:* For the last four and a half years, nothing has been given to the people. There is growing unemployment, agricultural distress, rural poverty and exclusion of the marginalized sections from

the benefit of development. Actually, demonetization, a badly implemented GST, devaluation of the rupee, price rise of petroleum products and general price rise have destroyed both the organized and unorganized sectors of this country. Government did not do anything for the farmers. It has announced merely, Rs. 3 per day for a farmer. Whereas in MGNREGA, a labourer gets at least Rs. 200 per day and this Government is offering Rs. 3 per day for a farmer. There is a big difference between their claim and what happens in reality. Demonetization has actually destroyed the small-scale industries. A number of small-scale industries have been shut-down due to demonetization in Tamil Nadu and 50 lakh jobs have been lost due to it. In fact, demonetization has created huge difficulties in all spheres of the economy. As per the NSSO survey, India's unemployment rate hit a 45-year high of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18. Whereas, we were promised 2 crore jobs every year. We have already completed four-and-a-half years and I would like to ask that where are the jobs? Now, I tell you about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. I would like to know whether the farmers are getting benefits or the insurance companies are getting benefit. Now, I come to the MGNREGA. No wage is being given. Money for the material cost is also not being given. The government has a big claim with regard to 'One Rank One Pension'. But, under the 'One Rank One Pension' scheme, there is not enough money with the Government to give to the Jawans. I would also like to ask that why this Government is giving

undue benefit to a Corporate house through Rafale? It has been reported that there has been corruption in the Rafale deal.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: During the last five years, our Government has been implementing the policies for the benefit of the villages, the poor, the farmers, the exploited, the downtrodden, the middle class and the students and this budget is the ultimate compliment to these policies. This discussion is on the Finance Bill, however, my predecessor was speaking on budget. Such irrelevant discussions dent the image of politicians. Yesterday, the Floor Leader of a party was saying that the Government is not releasing the report on black money whereas the fact is that the Members of the Finance Committee can access the said report. The Economic Survey of 2004 said that the Vajpayee Government had given a robust economy to the country. The Economic Survey of 2014 says that the preceding Government had left the economy of the country in a bad shape. The Congress Party is constantly quoting the name of HAL whereas this is only a company. When the Modi Government came to power, it immediately constituted the SIT on black money. The reason for black money generation in the country was that the rates of income tax used to be very high. If we want to develop, we have to make our country a tax paying country. MSME Sector has got the maximum benefits from this Finance Bill. This is the first Government ever to thank the tax payers. The theory of 'One Nation One Tax' is not a new theory but we have got a Prime Minister for the first time who could implement this theory in

the form of GST. This Finance Bill is going to benefit the middle-class, the poor and the villages. With these words, I support this Bill.

The Government should clarify as to why the list of persons having black money was not revealed. Should we believe that Congress and BJP are hand in glove to not to reveal the black money report?

***SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM:**

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I rise to speak on the Finance Bill, 2019 which seeks to continue the existing rates of income tax for the financial year and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers. The defence budget of Rs. 3 lakh crore is inadequate. Budget for inland water transport, civil aviation, and shipping has been cut. Budget for MGNREGA has been cut by Rs. 1000 crore to Rs. 60,000 crore. The Government has been playing truant to the people on black money. The whole exercise of demonetization which had caused so much of pain - 150 people died in bank queues after demonetization, lakhs of people were thrown out of employment, small businesses closed down because of demonetization - recovered no black money. The Government does not have the moral, constitutional, financial authority to impose new rates of tax, but has tried to offer sops to certain sections of the population. The Government seems to be in a hurry to shop for votes. Coming to the proposals, the standard deduction has been raised from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000. Notional income of two self-occupied properties

*Please see Supplement

will now be taken to be nil. So, now if people have two houses, the notional income of two self-occupied houses will be zero and they will be exempt from tax. I do not take any exception to that. Further, interest on capital borrowed for acquisition of two self-occupied house properties, instead of one earlier, shall now be admissible as deductions subject to the existing overall ceiling of two lakh rupees per *annum*. Now, on two residential properties, people will get exemption provided the overall long-term capital gains do not exceed Rs. 2 crore. Similarly, TDS on income credited in the nature of interest from banks, deposits with post offices, up to Rs. 40,000 is not deductible. So, these are some sops to the middle class. They are not major concessions. The Finance Bill also talks about the Stamp Duty. Previously, if you exchange shares, you have to pay Stamp Duty individually. Now, the Stamp Duty will have to be paid by the stock exchange or by the depositor. The other issue is about the PMLA. Earlier, under the PMLA the authorities were allowed to attach properties for 90 days. But now the authorities are allowed to attach properties for 365 days. Finance Bill has no controversial issues. I do not oppose the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM
(SHRI ALPHONS KANNANTHANAM) *intervening said:* The macroeconomic fundamentals of the country today are better than ever before in the history of India. When the UPA was in power, the average food inflation was about 18.5 per cent. Today we are down to 2.6 per cent, the greatest achievement. The current

account deficit is completely under control. The tax base has increased dramatically. This Government has put tourism on the pedestal now. As per the report of the World Travel and Tourism Council, 2018, India is at number 3 in global ranking in the world after China and United States in tourism. Last year, the revenue from tourism was 234 billion dollars. Today, the tourism sector is employing 81.12 million people. That is the largest number of people employed anywhere in the world in the tourism sector. While the revenue from foreign tourists went up by five per cent globally, the revenue in India went up by 19.2 per cent, which is five times more than the global average. We are the largest growing tourism destination in the world. Medical tourism has grown from 1.3 lakh people to 4.95 lakh people under our Government, which is a growth of 255 per cent. Why do people come to India? It is because the Prime Minister and our Government has created a situation and has created a beautiful country where people want to come. Regarding publicity, in the last one year, we made five promotional movies of 60 seconds duration each which were ranked number one, ranked number two and ranked number three every week for the past six months in the CNN's ranking of promotional movies. We have put these things on the social media. The whole world is watching India. This is a transformational country. People come here to be transformed.

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: The NSSO is supposed to give out numbers and statistics for the country, whose job employment report has been kept

under wraps by this Government. The Hon. Finance Minister also said that the fiscal deficit despite being election year is going to be at 3.4 per cent. On examining the numbers, I find that it would be very difficult for this Government to stick to that fiscal deficit. Hon. Finance Minister has claimed an 18 per cent increase in the GST taxes. But the indirect tax collections are likely to go down. The Government is unable to achieve the revenues it projects. How will the Government meet the fiscal deficit target? It is either by increasing disinvestment to raise your revenues or by reducing your expenditure. As far as farmers are concerned, this Government has proposed to earmark Rs. 1 lakh 40 thousand crore for them. Out of this amount, Rs. seventy five thousand crore are to be allocated for the PM Kisan Samman Yojana. Rupee twenty thousand crore will be allocated for subsidy component under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme which is a complete failure scheme. Balance rupee twenty thousand crore is proposed to be spent on creating infrastructure for the farmers. There is a report today in one of the papers that refunds of this year have been held back by the Income Tax Department because the Government wants to show money in the kitty because they need to give their doles out for the election. I talked about the NSSO numbers, if we are not able to provide credible data to international investors, they will downgrade our credit rating. I am very complimentary to the RBI when they stuck their ground and kept the interest rates to where it was to keep inflation low. Data

credibility has to be above politics. There is a crisis amongst the informal sector destroyed by demonetization.

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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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