

LOK SABHA

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

Friday, August 3, 2018/Shravana 12, 1940 (Saka)

MOTION

Re: Appointment of members of Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Bill, 2015.

SHRI GANESH SINGH moved that this House do appoint Shri Prathap Simha to serve as member of the Joint Committee on the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (Amendment) Second Bill, 2015.

The motion was adopted.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) *Re: Reported detention of MPs from a particular party at Silchar Airport.*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

responding to the issue raised by several hon. Members, said: Hon. Members have raised an issue in the House about the arrest of some people's representatives. I would like to share some information here that the Assam Government had received some information through media and also through some intelligence inputs. On the basis of this information and inputs, the State Government with a view to maintain the law & order situation and to ensure that the same does not deteriorate, had arrested them at the airport. I have also received information that the Deputy Commissioner, other District officials and Police Officers had requested the hon. Members of Parliament that the Section 144 was in force in the area and their going out was not proper.

They were treated the way a people's representative should be treated and the District Administration gave them full protocol. However, I have also received some information from the State Government that some people's representatives had manhandled some police officials causing minor injuries. I would also like to inform that the delegation had reached Silchar Airport at 1:55 hours. Following the protocol, the Deputy Commissioner informed them about the prohibitory orders in force and requested them to return. The members of the delegation did not pay any heed to what the DC had told, indulged in arguments with the security officials and scuffled with them causing injury to two female security officials.

The members of the delegation created an unruly situation over there causing inconvenience to the general passengers also and the passengers had complained about it to the District Administration. The police had to arrest the members of the delegation under Section 151 of the Cr.P.C. as the last flights to Delhi and Kolkata had left and there was no other option left. Then, necessary arrangements were made for their night halt in a guest house at the Silchar airport itself as per their written request. On 3rd August, 2018, all the six members of the delegation were boarded with due protocol in a 7:40 flight to Kolkata and 2:20 flight to Delhi.

This incident was handled with utmost care and sensitivity so as to maintain the law & order situation there.

(ii) Re: Alleged use of political power to suppress freedom of speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.)) *responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member, said:*
These days, there is a trend in the country that when there is no issue at all, the Members of the Opposition try to put the blame on the Union Government for any minor incident that occurs anywhere in the country. The news aired by the channel

which the hon. Member is referring to, was a wrong news. Still, the Government did not give any show cause notice to that channel. This channel runs on the Free Dish and the maximum TRP is garnered on the Free Dish only. The Free Dish is owned by the Government yet this channel is smoothly running on the Free Dish without any interruptions. Had the Union Government wished to intervene then, it would have done something in the Free Dish. In fact, the Government has nothing to do with it. This channel is fast losing the TRP and the people do not wish to watch this channel. Now the hon. Member is putting the blame for that on the Government.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Re: Disapproval of the National Sports University Ordinance, 2018

(No. 5 of 2018)

AND

THE NATIONAL SPORTS UNIVERSITY BILL, 2018 – *Contd.*

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR *resuming said:* The National Sports University is being set up with an outlay of Rs.524 crore in Manipur state of the country. This is a very commendable step. The opening of such a big university in the North-Eastern states will bring an opportunity to the talented sports persons to perform better and at the same time it will turn out to be big a step towards the

national integration. Let us evolve such a mechanism that may facilitate us to avail of the services of the Ex-servicemen and the persons appointed under the sports quota in Government or private sector as coaches in the National Sports University in order to provide training. At the same time, we will formulate a training curriculum. The National Sports University should have a tie up with all schools and universities through a bicycle rim model. Moreover, the National Sports University should be treated as an axle of sports culture. That is why, I wish to strengthen the schools' sports culture and propose a comprehensive school physical activity policy. I think the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports should take a decision in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and different schools in order to promote sports. Funds are also required to be provided for this purpose. The Bill is silent on the role of National Sports Federations in the matters of mobilizing funds for sports. I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister that the active members of Sports Federation should be appointed as members of the Academic and Activity Council of this university. This must also comprise a member from the IOA and the other member from the National Sports Federation enabling a better coordination with them. A good number of members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are associated with sports in different capacities. So we will have to see as to how we will be able to avail their contribution. In addition to it, we need to focus on how we are going to organize

big tournaments at grass root level. I organized rural Olympics in Himachal Pradesh last year also. This year, we are going to organize *khel mahakumbh* there. One lakh youths from my Parliamentary Constituency are participating in that sports meet. Over twenty thousand youths have so far participated in that meet. We have picked up talents from amongst those youths. A number of other hon. Members have also started organizing such tournaments taking a cue from my efforts during the current and last year. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he should create a fund for the Members of Parliament so that they can organize such tournaments in their respective areas with the help of his ministry. The daughters of our country have enhanced the dignity of India by winning medals at the Olympics. The number of children and women has substantially increased in the inter college athletics championships. The negligible share of India in the global sports market of 40 lakh crore stands to be a matter of grave concern. That is why I would like to say that if sports are properly managed it will not only promote sports industry but also bring impetus to the employment generation. It will also strengthen our economy as well. If proper attention is given to the sports, it will bring growth even to the tourism industry. I would also like to request the hon. Minister that tenders should be invited for the stadia like Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, Karni Singh Stadium, Talkatora Stadium, Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in order to optimize their usages and for organizing

different activities there and the revenue thus generated should be spent on their upkeep and the training of the sports persons. We need various facilities at state, district and block levels and I firmly believe that he will do it. Moreover, centres of excellence for different sports are required to be set up and simultaneously affiliated to the National Sports Universities. I would like to urge the hon. Minister that an International Shooting Range and a High Altitude Training Centre should be set up in Himachal Pradesh so that the sports persons need not go abroad for training. The other point which I would like to make is that the facility of research and development is also required to be developed in every segment of the sports so that our sports persons may win more and more medals. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the private and public universities will be asked to set up centre of excellence for one or two sports in their premises so that our universities may produce medal winning sports persons in as many numbers as possible. Moreover, we can organize Train The Trainers programme in collaboration with the NBA, European Premium League and other federations and clubs which will enable our trainers to get high quality training and our dependence on foreign coaches will also come to an end.

***DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:** I stand here to welcome and support the National Sports University Bill, 2018, though we are never in favour of any Ordinance as a matter of fact. On the 31st May, 2018 the National Sports University in Manipur has come into existence, a red-letter day for the country and for the State of Manipur as well. With the establishment of this National Sports University, I wish and hope that in ten to twelve years' time, we will be in a position to win more medals in Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympics. India can become a sports power house in the near future. I strongly believe that the National Sports University will certainly promote our indigenous games like Kabbadi, Kho Kho, etc. and SagonKangjei (polo), Thang-ta Martial Arts of Manipur and also games like Kalaripayattu of Kerala. Manipur is recognized as the home of Polo- a modern form of our SagolKangjei, a game played riding on a horse. Every year, we do organize regular international Polo Tournaments in Imphal. I request the Hon. Union Minister of Sports to set up an institute of Polo in Manipur under the National Sports University.

SHRI G. HARI: Tamil Nadu is a pioneering State for the promotion of sports and games. The Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu founded in 1992 focuses on providing good opportunities for talent identification and to develop identified talent to excellence at state, national and international levels.

* Original in Manipuri.

We have produced many medal winners in sports and games of national and international competitors. Establishing sports infrastructure is very important for promotion of sports to meet the international standards. The Government should construct sports infrastructure of international standards to promote sportspersons to participate in the coming Olympics, Asian Games and Common Wealth Games. I would like to urge the Government to provide importance to kabbadi, football, hockey, badminton and other games at the same level that is given to cricket in India. It is important to properly engage the youth of the country in nation-building activities. I personally request the hon. Minister to encourage and support the young budding sportspersons from all over India to come up like him to win medals in Olympics. We need him to introduce more schemes for the development of sports in urban and rural areas in India. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to establish a separate Sports University in Tamil Nadu. I would also urge upon the Government to provide suitable job opportunities for outstanding sportspersons and encourage them by providing all necessary facilities including financial assistance and top-class training.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: India's performance has been very poor in majority of sporting events. The reason is that we don't have a system. We need to make long-term investment in talent identification from young age, and provide adequate infrastructure and funding. I would like to talk about the budget allocated

to sports. While the budget amount has been increasing, the rate of increase has declined. The Nehru Yuva Kendra had asked for Rs. 800 crore, but it was only allocated Rs. 250 crores. The Ministry has decreased the allocation of funds to the Sports Authority of India by 13 per cent. After studying accountability measures in sports no one can understand the forces which are keeping our sports in such a bad condition. The Indian Olympic Association argues that it cannot be asked any question since it is not funded by the government. The National Sports Federation is funded so poorly that we should not expect any results from it. There is no proper infrastructure anywhere. I request the hon. Minister to look into what is happening in IOA and Sports Federation.

***SHRI PRASUN BANERJEE:** I would urge upon the Minister that politics should not be involved in the execution of the Bill. I would also like to request him to allocate more budget for sports and attract more sponsors. Sports should be made compulsory in schools and colleges. The Government should focus attention on other sports like kabaddi, swimming, wrestling along with cricket. The Government should select 6 games and spend money exclusively on them. The Sports Authority of India was excellent in the beginning. Gradually its quality has deteriorated and now it is in shambles. With much anguish, I would like to complain that no respect was given to me when under 17 Football World Cup was

* Original in Bengali.

held in India. I was ignored because of politics. I would like to request the minister not to do politics. The National Sports University should be set up in all over India. Such a university should be set up in Kolkata, West Bengal also.

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: Sports is not just a mere physical discipline. It should be looked at by the Government in the light of diplomacy, in the light of health, and in the light of well-being of the entire nation as a whole. I appreciate the gesture of the Government by putting up the National Sports University in Manipur. But, east of India has been neglected by this National Sports University Bill, 2018. So, my request to the hon. Minister is to look at the efforts of the Odisha Government where they have partnered with Hockey India to hold and launch many Hockey International events in Odisha. This is a spirit that both the Central Government and every State Government should have. We should pick up one sport each and ensure that we should have the capacity and the infrastructure to hold the national and international events. The blame for the poor performance of our athletes is not within the athletes. It is with those people who are in Government and it is with those people who run the sports bodies. We are unable to provide what is required for sports people to excel.

So what do we need to ensure that sports get sufficient funding. I would also request the Government to ensure that adequate advertising space is given to sports people. Coming to the Bill, I would like to say that there is a lack of

infrastructure creation in other States. So we need to have, at least, one such institute of excellence in every State capital. The main issue of this Bill is the kind of curriculum it will hold. If it does not have a curriculum of excellence, then it would be relegated to being another institute which decays over time as interest wanes. So, I would like to know what the curriculum is. Similarly, where will we get the teachers from? The Government must also tell us about the funding of these institutes. Government should also provide minimum comfort to the athletes who have been training at SAI training camps. We also need to have gender sensitivity in the sports arena, especially amongst the officials and those in charge. Lastly, we would like to see many more of these institutes in the Eastern part of India, especially in Odisha.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: The Union Government has been making efforts to promote sports by launching Khelo India programme in the country. In this regard, a National Sports University is being set up in Manipur by the Union Government. Ours is a country of 130 crore people but unfortunately we have not been able to get medals in sufficient number in the international events. So, there is a need to provide assistance for promoting sports in our country by the Government. School children are performing well in sports in our country. So, there is a need to pay attention towards them. Nowadays sports is infested with rampant corruption and students are being subjected to discrimination

during the selection process. Apart, provision for adequate budgetary funds for sports are also not being made by the Government. So, Government should make provisions in using the CSR fund for promoting sports activities. I would also like to submit that MPLADS fund should also be used for sports activities.

SHRI M. B. RAJESH: Firstly, I welcome this legislation to set up a National Sports University. Though it took four years to bring this legislation and this long delay itself shows the lack of priority that we are giving to sports. And that is why we are lagging behind - because of this lack of priority. I wonder, in this Bill, the Government has not provided for a Branch of this Sports University in a State like Kerala, which is considered as a Gold Mine of Indian Athletics. Kerala has produced many Legendary Athletes. So, I demand either a Branch of this University or a Centre of Excellence in Sports in Kerala especially with focus on Athletics. The Government of Kerala will provide land if Government is ready to set up a Centre of Excellence for Athletics in Kerala. I have two more points to speak. The first is regarding the approach of authorities towards Athletics. Currently an athlete is undergoing a high-altitude training in Bhutan and she was asked to attend an interview for an appointment in Income Tax Department in Chennai. Therefore, I tried to get that date of interview postponed till the Asian Games are over. But the Income Tax Department declined and insisted that she should come and attend the interview, giving up her coaching. I hope the Sports

Minister will look into that. My second point is that the state of affairs of sports administration in our country is very bad. According to English daily out of two key officials, who are leading the Indian Sports Contingent to Jakarta Asian Games, one was jailed for one year for his role in Commonwealth Games corruption case and in another official's case, his appointment was investigated by CBI. So, I would request the Government of India to please clean up the sports administration and find resources to find out, train and develop sports talent which is in abundance in this country.

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK: This Bill seeks to establish a sports university in Manipur. Two Australian universities namely, University of Canberra and Victoria University have been roped in to make this university world class. In this regard, I would like to submit that sports should be made compulsory in schools and colleges because most of the children in India are physically unfit whereas sports plays an important role in our lives. Nowadays, parents are reluctant to allow their children to join sports. So, there is need to bring changes in their mentality. Apart from that, budgetary provision for sports is of merely 2,000 crore rupees. In addition, Centre of Excellence should be established across the country particularly in Maharashtra. There is also need to promote car racing sport in our country. I would like to give an important suggestion that sports should be provided 25 per cent fund from the CSR fund. Similarly, Government should

allow funding from MPLAD fund to promote sports. I would also request that a stadium should be built in Kolhapur. In addition to that, there is also need to set up a corpus fund for sports activities.

SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA: At the outset, I would take this opportunity to wholeheartedly congratulate the Government for taking wonderful initiatives in enhancing the sports activities in the country. I feel that it is a great revolution like never before as India is now becoming serious about sports. I firmly believe that the establishment of a National Sports University will bring in a boost in inculcating the sports culture among the people of the country. During the year 2017, Indian Sportspersons have brought many laurels to the country particularly, women sportspersons. I would like to state that whatever we have achieved till now is not in any way matching to the wonderful potent and talent that India possess. Because in India, the standard of sports infrastructure is not satisfactory. So, I would also like to make some suggestions. We need to bring in revolutionary change in the system of education and sports should be included in the school curriculum in every school. Similarly, the Action Plan should be evolved to identify the local talent, particularly, sports persons should be given job security. The funding should be made available to the sports persons. Also, the NSDF should be given a wide publicity.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: On behalf of my Party, I would like to support this Bill. Setting up of Sports University in Manipur is a very important step that this country is going to take. I hope that there will be more sports universities to be coming. From the State of Andhra Pradesh, we would require that, at least, one regional centre affiliated to this should be established in the State of Andhra Pradesh. We would also like to recommend for the hosting of the National Games. Funding seems to be the major issue. Forming of the policy is never an issue, but the implementation of the ideas and the policy has always been the issue. If sportsmen are sitting at the helm of affairs, in the institutions which are making decisions towards sports, then they can be more influential in the betterment of the future of sports. That is why, I recommend that more sportsmen should be included in decision making regarding sports.

SHRI NAND KUMAR CHOUHAN: We are lagging behind in sports. Even smaller countries of the world are sparkling like stars in the field of sports. Setting up a National Sports University in the country is a very good initiative. It is very unfortunate that sports became a subject of politics and politics became sports in our country. The Government has taken a very good step in this direction to change that scenario. Sports officials should select talented players transparently. We select swimmers from metropolitan cities. The person who practice in swimming pools, can't be a good swimmer of the country. We have to

develop a transparent mechanism to select sports persons. There is no dearth of talent in our country. Influential people can find a place in sports easily but can't perform well. I would like to request the Sports Minister to increase the budget for sports.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI: I rise to speak in support of Sports University Bill, 2018. Today, our country is known as the youngest nation in the world. We have this demographic dividend which we have to use. The country whose population is 130 crore and where the number of young people is more than any country of the world, the budget of only Rs. 2000 crore for Sports Ministry is very meagre. We search talent in metropolitan cities whereas the country side is full of talent. The sports persons who make the country proud are living in villages and tribal areas. We honour these sports persons when they bring medals for our country but we do not promote them when they prepare themselves. We should promote them at that very stage.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: I wholeheartedly welcome the setting up of National Sports University. India has set up higher parameter in the field of sports in the world. The university which is to be opened in Manipur will influence the sports persons of the entire country and the talented sports persons make the country proud. We will produce more Dhayanchands and the country will prosper in the field of sports. Moinul Haq Stadium in Bihar should be

improved. My parliamentary constituency Banka is tribal dominated. There is more scope of sports amongst tribal people. Vikramsheela Stadium should be built in Bhagalpur. Proper facilities should be provided to our female sports persons.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: I welcome the initiative taken by the Government to open National Sports University in Manipur. Haryana also has contributed a lot during the last three Olympics. Minister of Sports should assure the players of Haryana during his reply that Haryana will get an efficient share. The sports persons of Haryana have made the country proud. The Government should formulate a policy to honour those sports persons who win medals at basic level of Inter-University International tournaments.

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: The Government of India has invested more than Rs.100 crore in NEHU, North-Eastern Hill University, but I personally visited that place and found it in shambles. This place can be utilised for the university in Manipur. We want to introduce sports in India, first of all, the mindset of the parents has to be changed. In addition, CSR fund should also be allowed to be used in sports so that most of the clubs can use it for promoting sports.

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI: I congratulate the Government for facilitating students to become sports persons. If you visit the villages of Delhi, the people found places to play along the banks of Yamuna. I would like to suggest that only

those persons should be appointed on sports positions who are sensitive in regard to sports persons. The Government has increased the fees of coaches for the first time. The Sports Minister has also increased the diet of sports persons. I congratulate the Government for giving such a huge national level gift to Manipur. This will enhance tourism and national integrity too.

SHRI THANGSO BAITE: I rise in support of the National Sports University Bill. In fact, we have been waiting for the fulfilment of the promise of the present Government for opening one National Sports University in Manipur for many years. As it has come true, we are very happy and I really appreciate the Government on behalf of the people of Manipur and on my own behalf for awarding this University to a small State like Manipur. This is first of its kind. We express our gratitude to the Government.

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH: The Government has taken a historic step for the young people of this country. No other Government ever took up this issue for consideration till date. Today, the sports persons of our country are lagging behind and the Chinese sports persons win medals at international level. This is a golden opportunity to enhance the performance of sports persons of our country at that level. Uttar Pradesh is a huge State and there is also a huge scope for sports. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to set up a branch of this University in UP also.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: This university is being set up in India to develop sports. Actually sports is linked to the society. It makes the country proud when the players win medals in Olympics. India is a country of villages. The people living in villages are mostly use to play different sports. I congratulate the Government for thinking and making legislation about sports. I would like to request hon. Sports Minister to set up a gymnasium in the name of Mangla Raiji in his village. Sports inter-alia engenders social harmony, social equity and social empowerment. Kushti is the primordial element to evolve social harmony and homogeneity. In a bid to develop rural sports, its potential should be evaluated in the villages and hamlets.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.)) *replying said:* Sports build personality and a person. Today, we have come up with The National Sports University Bill. Coaches, sports management company, equipment manufacturing companies, stadia and the sports persons themselves have affiliation to the sports. People in the domain of sports science are associated with the sports. By the year 2019 this industry worth \$80 billion will have its global presence. It is an imperative for us to join this stream to grow on both economic and personality front and of course, to achieve

excellence in this field. Even after so many years in the past, we are yet to have such a university as may be perceived to be beacon of knowledge. The Bill provides for the setting up of the National Sports University in Manipur. It is not that no college or university is in existence across the country. The fact of the matter is that the university or deemed university already in existence is focused on physical education only. The whole gamut of sports has not been incorporated therein. This sports university shall address the whole spectrum. This will impart Bachelor Degree and Master Degree even in research and training. Training programme for elite athletes, sports officials, referees, umpires will be included therein. I would like to keep the House abreast of the fact that all the courses offered by this sports university shall be conducted in Manipur. Alongside, there is also a provision that the outlying campuses of this mother university may be set up in the other states as well. Not just that, they may be located even in foreign countries. In the recent past, we have entered into an MoU with the University of Canberra and the University of Victoria. This MoU is not on paper only. On the contrary, it has also been ascertained that the faculty shall reside in Manipur and exercise an effective control over curriculum. Today, the youth of our country want to pursue sports management or some course related to sports. They wish to go to UK, Australia etc., why not have a university of this kind in India? I would like to highlight three special features of this university. Firstly, its Chancellor

shall be a sportsperson in order that the spirit of sports may be enriched and enhanced. It shall have an academic council consisting of sports persons who have performed at international level and they will provide guidance to the university. This will require funding as the vision is big. The Central Government shall extend its continuous cooperation. We introduced courses lest students should suffer. The courses were commenced *w.e.f.* 15th January. The Budget session was not let to be conducted. We came up with an Ordinance for fear that students may not suffer. Sports is a state subject. All the laws and the allied developments rest with the State Government. Thereafter comes Federations known as Society and Societies are independent. They are directly connected with the International Federation and in turn, International Federation are connected with International Olympic Committee. The State Government has a huge responsibility to shoulder. The CSR of the states should be utilized in a proper manner. Public academics should be provided with more incentives. The Union Government is responsible for overall training. The Central Government takes care of the training of all the sports persons joining the Indian team. I would like to put forth three important things before you: The amount meant for sports persons' daily diet has been increased to Rs.690. The same sports person receives food and supplement separately. The amount for supplement has been increased to Rs.750 per diem. Sports persons are given monthly stipend of Rs.2000 and this is

for average sports persons who are receiving training in the training academy. We do send the sports persons abroad for training. Other than bearing the expenditure incurred on their food and training, we have started paying Rs.50,000 per month to 200 sports persons. They are not supposed to pick up the tab. It is their pocket allowances. The Hon. Prime Minister has formed a task force. We have accepted the recommendations made by the Olympic Task Force. We have enhanced the salary of the coaches in national academy by hundred per cent and it has been increased to Rs.2 lakh. Likewise, we have, for the first time, entered into a partnership with the private academies. As regards National Sports Development Fund, it is important to inform the House that the funds allocated to all the sports persons winning Olympic medals are borne on this fund. Every Indian citizen can contribute to this fund. I have also talked of natural talent. A good many provisions have been replicated from the Central Universities Act. We can set up outlying campuses in various states in consultation with the State Governments concerned.

The Resolution was negatived.

The Bill was passed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL

Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015----Contd.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH *resuming said:* Today, hon. Narendra Modi's Government is working towards bringing North-East into the main stream of India. North-East region has not developed as it was envisaged under the 6th Schedule. North-East has a huge potential in the field of production of fruits. But we had limited the meaning of cultivation just to growing paddy and wheat. A number of States there are now going for organic farming. Whenever we visited Itanagar, we saw that a lot of soil gets washed away on to the road due to the rains. There should be a scientific method to check it. It is not necessary to use concrete to check it but it should be checked more through vegetation. We call Meghalaya the Switzerland of India but the truth is that some parts of Meghalaya are even more beautiful than Switzerland. We have just given it the name of Switzerland but have not done anything to provide basic infrastructure like Switzerland. Otherwise, Meghalaya alone has the capacity to take the lion's share of the tourists visiting India. Had the recommendations of the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee's report regarding communication, soil conservation etc. been followed then the situation would have been totally different there. Sixth Schedule mentions district council and elected body. We must protect the tribal traditions and culture which Vincent ji has mentioned. Nobody can disagree with him on this because we have

accepted co-existence in our Indian culture and Constitution. The system of Pradhan in the North-East, which we call 'Head of the village', this tradition should be kept alive and the Government should give it protection. Forest rights of the local people should also be taken care of. These rights should not be taken away from them. If their rights are taken away in the name of conservation of forests, then man-animal conflict will arise. Forest can only be protected when the forest dwellers get equal rights. Nehruji had dreamt about making North-East the centre of our economic system. We want to realise that dream of Nehruji. We have envisaged bringing North-East in the middle of Asian Highway no. 1 from Tokyo to Istanbul.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura, these four States have 10 Councils. This Bill has been brought to increase the number of members in these Councils. Councils have regularly demanded that they should get their rights. The Constitution rights of the Councils are in the hands of the Governor there. The Union Government can increase or decrease those rights. These Councils have regularly been ignored because their auditing is not proper. They have constantly faced corruption charges. Anti-Defenction Law should be made applicable to these Councils. Morang and Patkai tribes of Arunachal Pradesh are demanding autonomous council. The Government should address this demand. There is an 800 year old Nartiang Temple in Meghalaya.

Like-wise there is an 8000 years old archaeological site Rakhighari in Hisar in Haryana. I urge the Government to develop these sites but the residents of the areas should not be displaced. There is a need to enhance the powers of these Councils. These tribal areas are very rich in tradition and they have kept their culture intact. There is Bhishma Nagar, a historical tourist place in the North-East. The Government should take steps for its development. Parushram Kund is also a historical pilgrimage. There are many pilgrimages for the development of which the Government should take steps. Hope the Government will take steps for the development of the North-East.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: This Bill proposes amendment in the powers of district councils and regional councils. The present Government has formulated a number of programmes for the North-East. The Bill proposes to increase the number of Members of these district councils from 30 to 40 and that all the Members should be elected ones. The district councils should be vested with the powers to make law regarding mines and minerals as well as to protect the customary practices. Our freedom fighters had conceived three tier Panchayati Raj system for local self governance. In Vedic period also, there were *Samitis*. We ought to provide constitutional support to gram sabhas and gram panchayats. For the first time, the 14th Finance Commission has increased the devolution of taxes to the States by 10 per cent. Beside district councils, we have to give powers to

gram sabhas and gram panchayat under them. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment gave powers to the gram sabhas in the country. There is no provision of reservation for women in the 6th Schedule of the Constitution whereas the 9th Schedule provide for reservation of 1/3rd seats for women in panchayats. The present Government is committed to empowering the women. A National Sports University has been established in the North-East. Earlier the North-Eastern region was neglected. There is a need to give more powers to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. *(Speech unfinished)*

The discussion was not concluded.

SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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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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