

## LOK SABHA

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

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Tuesday, July 24, 2018 / Shravana 2, 1940 (Saka)

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### OBITUARY REFERENCE

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House about the passing away of Shri Gopal Das 'Neeraj', an acclaimed poet and lyricist.

His main compositions include Prangeet; Vibhawari; Antardhwani and Sangharsh, among others. He wrote lyrics for popular Hindi films whose songs are adored and sung even today. Shri Gopal Das 'Neeraj' was bestowed with Padma Shri in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in 2007. He won three back to back Filmfare Awards during the year 1970 to 1972 for his excellent lyrics.

Shri Gopal Das 'Neeraj' passed away on 19 July, 2018 in Delhi at the age of 94. In his passing away, the country has lost a dynamic author and a lyricist. His contribution in the field of literature will be remembered by music lovers in the coming times.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

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## **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I wish to inform you that the Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 23rd July, 2015 has completed 3 years. A function is being organized today in the Main Committee Room of the Parliament House Annexe at 4:30 pm to mark the occasion. Hon'ble President of India has agreed to be the Chief Guest at this function and Hon'ble Vice President will also grace the occasion.

As you are aware the main objective of SRI is to provide an interface between Hon'ble Members of Parliament and domain experts, on topical issues of national and international importance through interactive workshops and round tables in addition to providing Lok Sabha Research Fellowship and Internships for scholars and students.

I cordially invite all the Members for today's function.

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## **SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS**

(i) *Re: Mob lynching incidents in different parts of the country.*

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)**

*responding to the issue raised by several hon. Members, said:* The government has taken the incidents of lynching very seriously. As I have said earlier, the incidents of lynching have not started in the last 4-5 years only. The biggest lynching

incident took place in the country in the year 1984. Yesterday, a high level committee under the chairmanship of Home Secretary has been constituted. This committee will give its recommendations to the Group of Ministers headed by the Minister of Home Affairs within four weeks which will consider these recommendations and decide the steps to be taken for stringent action against lynching. We are even ready to make a law, if needed.

(ii) *Re: Reported disclosure by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) on alleged sexual abuse of minor girls in Government Children Home in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.*

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)**  
*responding to the issue raised by several hon. Members, said:* This is certainly an important issue. The Members have demanded a CBI enquiry into it. The Government will consider to order CBI enquiry as soon as we receive the recommendation from the State Government.

(iii) *Re: Need to address the problems of EPF Pensioners.*

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS; AND  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)**  
*responding to the issue raised by several hon. Members, said:* This is a very valid issue. This matter pertains to 60 lakh employees across the country. The

Government is also very much concerned about them. In this case, there is a committee which is yet to give the report. I will convey the message to the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment that the Committee expedite the proceedings and give the recommendations forthwith.

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**\*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA** laid a statement regarding crash of private plane in the residential area of Mumbai.
- (2) **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to undertake construction of link roads inter-connecting National Highways and State Highways particularly in Bihar and Jharkhand.
- (3) **SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to ensure payment of pension to old-aged, widows, differently-abled etc. at their place of residence and also enhance the pension amount.
- (4) **COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY** laid a statement regarding need to provide funds for Jaisalmer-Barmer-Bhabhar railway line project in Rajasthan.
- (5) **SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY** laid a statement regarding need to undertake fresh Socio-Economic Caste Census.

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\* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (6) **SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL** laid a statement regarding need to facilitate free treatment of people belonging to economically weaker section and residing outside Delhi in hospitals of Delhi.
- (7) **SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA** laid a statement regarding need to allocate funds for 'Rashtriya Janjati Sangrahalaya' at Mangarh Dham in Banswara district, Rajasthan.
- (8) **SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI** laid a statement regarding reopening of two paper mills in Assam.
- (9) **SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARSWATI** laid a statement regarding need to run train no. 14021/22 between Sikar and Delhi on daily basis.
- (10) **SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY** laid a statement regarding CBI inquiry into gang rape and murder of an engineering student in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- (11) **SHRI GANESH SINGH** laid a statement regarding 'Sugamya Pustakalaya' and differently-abled friendly airport facilities in Satna Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
- (12) **SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI** laid a statement regarding need to check release of untreated water by urban and semi-urban local bodies into rivers.
- (13) **DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO** laid a statement regarding need to resume operation of Korba-Raipur Intercity Express.

- (14) **SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to increase the frequency of Bikaner-Dadar Superfast train.
- (15) **SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA** laid a statement regarding need to provide basic needs to 24 Tribal colonies of Chamarajanagar district, Karnataka.
- (16) **SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN** laid a statement regarding release of pending funds to Tamil Nadu relating to education sector.
- (17) **DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN** laid a statement regarding inclusion of fishermen community of Tamil Nadu in the list of Scheduled Tribes.
- (18) **PROF. SAUGATA ROY** laid a statement regarding unemployment situation in the country.
- (19) **SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH** laid a statement regarding need for relaxation of norms under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- (20) **SHRI ARVIND SAWANT** laid a statement regarding need to continue existing arrangement of catering system on railway platforms.
- (21) **SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN** laid a statement regarding construction work along Indo-Bangladesh border.
- (22) **SHRI RAJESH RANJAN** laid a statement regarding reversal of reservation roster for recruitment in Universities and Colleges.

- (23) **SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI** laid a statement regarding need to make Punjabi language as a official language of Chandigarh.
- (24) **SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN** laid a statement regarding need to review the order of ESIC regarding Super Specialty Medical treatment.
- (25) **SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN** laid a statement regarding need to construct subway at Mudicode and a vehicular under pass at Mullakkara Centre-Mulayam Road Junction on National Highway-47.
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**THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2018**

*(As passed by Rajya Sabha)*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)** *moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:* The Prevention of Corruption Act was enacted in 1988 and with the passage of time, certain amendments and modifications were required. The present

situation is that on 19th of July, 2018 the Bill went through an elaborate discussion in the Rajya Sabha. And in the amended form today we are now introducing it in the Lok Sabha for consideration and passing. This is also a reflection of the hon. Prime Minister's commitment of zero tolerance towards corruption. Two main aspects have been taken care of in this Bill - (a) Making the corruption law more stringent, and (b) ensuring enough safeguards for those of the public servants and officers who are performing their duty with honesty. So, we have introduced also in this Bill the provision of timeline for prosecution. The ultimate war against corruption will happen only when the society becomes incorruptible, the nation becomes incorruptible. That is the most ideal situation. I request that the Bill may be taken into consideration and be passed.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY** *initiating said:* We are certainly with the Government in the fight against corruption. You are talking about paradigm shift. You are talking about zero tolerance. But in reality, the situation is diametrically opposite. We are going in the age of maximum corruption and minimum prevention. There is no dearth of anti-corruption legislation at your disposal but the fact is that you are not applying those anti-corruption legislative instruments that you have in your possession. You have not defined 'corruption' and 'corrupt practices' anywhere in the Bill. You have already mentioned that there are two types of bribe-givers, the first is consensual and the other is under coercion. You cannot treat them under the same umbrella. The power of approval



to confiscate property of a corrupt public servant lies with the Government, instead, it should have been transferred to the head of the investigating agency to enhance the effectiveness of the Act. Under the existing law, the possession of money resources or property disproportionate to the public servant's known sources of income is enough to prove corruption.

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I am really surprised that the hon. Member is referring to certain absconders to whom loans were given from 2008 to 2014. They ran away because we started recovering the money which was given to them as loan. I am confident that they will be brought back. About 'Rafael Deal', the statement given by French Government has been made public. The umbrella agreement was signed by the UPA Government in 2008 but our friends are more concerned about their politics and not the security of the country. This amendment has been brought after due consideration and scrutiny by the Law Commission. I agree with the hon. Minister that corruption cannot be stopped by law alone. The mentality of people is also important. We cannot prevent corruption only by law. People's mentality is also important. The Bill has included commercial organizations within its ambit under Section 9 and for the first time, the bribe giver is also included. It says that a commercial organization shall be guilty of an offence and shall be punishable with the fine if any person associated with the commercial organization gives or promises to give under advantage to the public servant. With such an initiative, even the middlemen and the agents have also

been brought within the purview of this Bill. With the linkage of Jan Dhan, Aadhar and mobile, the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) was implemented. The strict implementation of DBT in all subsidy schemes has saved Rs.90,000 crore since 2014. All the well known cases of corruption stand clear witness to the history of political corruption by which the ruling dispensations looted the nation to the tune of lakhs of crores of rupees. There are 19 clauses which are to be amended in this Bill. There is a provision in this Bill that investigation should be completed within a certain time. Four extensions with a maximum period of six months means that there is a provision that within four years, the entire case should be completed. I strongly defend this Bill and I expect others to support this Bill.

**SHRI S. SELVAKUMARA CHINNAIYAN:** The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill, 2018 makes specific provisions related to giving a bribe by a commercial organization. The Bill redefines criminal misconduct to only cover misappropriation of property and possession of disproportionate assets. The Bill modifies the definitions and penalties for offences related to taking a bribe, being a habitual offender and abetting an offence. Powers and procedures for the attachment and forfeiture of property of public servants accused of corruption have been introduced in the Bill. The Bill makes giving bribe a specific offence. If the person is compelled to give bribe and if that person is reporting the matter within seven days, he will not be prosecuted. Another provision made in this Bill is about the offence relating to bribing a public servant by a commercial

organization. Now, if any commercial organization involves itself in bribing the officials to carry out its business, that commercial organization is liable to be punished and the persons or the officials of the company, who are in charge of the day-to-day affairs of the company or the entity, are liable to be punished. In this Bill, some protection has been given to public servants, who are involved in the decision-making process.

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR:** This Bill is a welcome measure. The Bill has many clauses under which accepting gratification or bribe will lead to imprisonment which shall be three years, but may extend to seven years or shall be liable to be fined. This Bill makes mandatory for the competent authority to decide on granting prosecution sanction within three months of the complaint and one month is extended after consulting the Attorney General or Advocate General. It is not clear in the Bill, what would be the consequence if expiry of time happens. Corruption is the biggest problem of our country which invariably has an adverse impact on the growth of our country as well. Through this Bill speedy disposal of cases be ensured. Prior sanction required for investigation of public servants will delay the process of inquiry into the corrupt practices of the public servant. This law should not be misused and should not be a cause of political vendetta.

**\*SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:**

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\* Please see Supplement

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Corruption begins from the date of filing nomination. So electoral reforms are the need of the hour. We have legislated the Prevention of Corruption Act in 1988. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that during the last 30 years, how many convictions have been made by the Apex Court of our country? The NDA Government is the product of an anti-corruption movement. I would like to know whether the status position of India related to corruption is in a better way in comparison with the global level. We witnessed the recent scam of Nirav Modi, Punjab National Bank and so many other bank scams. That has to be addressed. My suggestion is that a political will is highly required so that corruption can be contained. Coming to the Bill, I am having only one serious objection. A new amendment to the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 is proposed. As per the original Act, abuse of the official position came under the criminal misconduct. But according to the amendment, it is being diluted. This has to be relooked. The definition of 'Undue Advantage' and 'Gratification' has been broadened. It will definitely broaden the scope and make the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act more stringent.

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT:** If we want to get rid of corruption in our country we need to introduce comprehensive reform ranging from school education to election. I welcome the Prevention of Corruption Bill but I have many questions. Recently some people were caught with old currency notes. I cannot understand how people are keeping old currency notes even now long after

demonetization. What do they do with old notes? They bring it to Nepal where they are in circulation and from there they are brought to India as white money after conversion. There is a difference in what the Government preaches and what it actually does. How many cases are pending with the Enforcement Department and to whom these cases belong to? Chief leaders of the political parties are asked to join them after which ED cases against them will not be pursued. Previous Government also did this and this Government is also doing the same. It is very unfortunate. MTNL accumulated heavy losses due to 2G, 3G scams but did the present Government improve its situation? Did they provide funding for the MTNL and BSNL? Regarding coal, you had said that electricity would be provided 24 hours. Who went to Australia, and why he went? Why the coal is being brought from Australia? It's very easy to talk about corruption but it's very difficult not to indulge in it. Election is the den of corruption. Admission in school is the den of corruption. You should start the prevention of corruption process from admission in school up to election process.

**\*SHRI N. KRISTAPPA:**

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:** This Bill addresses two prominent issues. It provides relief to our bank officials from the lending decisions that they took, which resulted in non-performing assets (NPAs) This amendment will allow bank officials to discharge their duties efficiently and without any fear. In the

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\* Please see Supplement

present scenario, bank officials are afraid to sign on any file or sanction any loans hampering credit growth, which is affecting the economy. This amendment focuses on punishing the bribe-givers with a maximum punishment up to seven years. I believe that this is slightly a problematic thing. Earlier, the bribe-giver was protected for any statement made by him during a corruption trial. This Bill discourages the whistle-blowers to come forward and make it tougher to catch the bribe takers. Regarding the corporate liability clause, I suggest that management receive higher quantum of punishment than the bribe giver as they are only primarily responsible for the act. Again, there is a provision in the Amendment that within seven days, a bribe giver can report the matter to the competent law authorities. So, I strongly recommend this time period to be longer, at least, two months. Our country needs a strong anti-corruption authority representing the public interest. Through this amendment we will be able to check corruption to an extent. But a Citizens' Charter is a long-term solution. I recommend that the Government and the officials concerned to look into this. I also request that the Central Government may take up the appointment of the Lok Pal on priority basis immediately.

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:** I would like to say that from the very beginning, we are against corruption. I want to ask the Minister how corruption will be stopped. My another question is that in this Lok Sabha, the Sarada scam was raised by certain Members and instantly it was referred to the

Ethics Committee. But three and a half years have passed and nothing has been done. Again, why is the Government not coming with the Lokpal Bill? With regard to time frame of trial, my suggestion is to please decrease the time to one year with extension of one more year, six months at a time. On some other points of the Bill, I can say that we are doing something for prevention of corruption. But a huge number of cases are pending in our courts. Government can make a good Bill, but there is no chance of getting justice immediately in our country. In section eight, bribe-takers and bribe-givers are equalized in punishable offence. But they are not equal. It will discourage the victims from lodging any complaint. Moreover, if we look into the amendment to section 13, actually this section has now been diluted. Coming to the amendment to section 10, it will dilute the corporate liability for corruption. If the Government wants to do something against corruption please use CBI to stop corruption, not to defend someone else.

**SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:** Corruption is an issue that adversely affects not only India's Central, State and local Government agencies but also a major social evil which is adversely affecting the lives of millions of people in the country. There are significant variations in the level of corruption. Red-tapism and a lack of transparency in procedures is also a major factor that contributes to huge corruptive practices in the country. I have personally been a victim of corruption where officers demanded huge money from me to clear my caste candidature. My family is still undergoing this problem. The MDO of that

particular area demanded huge money to conduct even a gram sabha. In my constituency, a lot of tribals are also affected by corruption. The education is being affected. I would also request the Government to look into the provision made under Section 8 of the new Act. I would also like the Government to bring in the Service Guarantee Act because all the officers are not acting as accountable and there is no transparency. So, citizens of this country should be given the Service Guarantee Act.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Corruption is more detrimental to the people of India than terrorists and extremists. I would also like to submit that if any politician is unable to bring reforms in the political system than he should refrain from contesting elections. If we politicians have no courage then we should resign. Again, Government should take initiatives for electoral reforms. Demand for bribe is also made in the Collectariat for executing any work under MPLADS. I would like to request the Government that enquiry should be conducted by the Enforcement Directorate against all the Babas, Mathadhis, office bearers and politicians. Similarly, with regard to party funding, I would like to request that whole process should be made transparent. Because party funding affects the electoral process and also endanger the democratic system. Corrupt officials and politicians should be prevented from contesting election. Apart from that, sports and banking system are also infested with corruption. So there is a need to take firm decision against corruption.



**SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:** I have risen in support of this Bill. If somebody is to ask as to who is mother of corruption than the mother is the Congress Party and the father of corruption is the Britisher who came to India and established the East India Company. Both these gave birth to corruption. Otherwise, nobody had ever heard the name of corruption in India 400-500 years back. Since the formation of this Government under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister four years before, the word corruption has disappeared from the dictionary. In the last 60 years regime of the Congress Party, the definition of A-Z alphabets had changed. It was A for Adarsh Scam, A for Augusta Scam, B for Bofors Scam, C for CWG Scam and this goes on upto Z. When UPA-1 and UPA-2 Governments were ruling the country, it appeared as if all the Ministers were competing to achieve the highest targets of corruption so that their leader could be happy. There has not been corruption of even one rupee in last four years under the Government headed by our hon. Prime Minister. Thousands of Sikhs were killed in the riots of 1984 and not a single leader of the Congress Party was hanged. This is also an act of corruption. Today, corruption is eating the country from within. Therefore, prevention of corruption and prevention of the congress Party means the same. When the country becomes free of the Congress Party, the corruption will also end in the country. When the CWG games were held in Delhi, corruption had reached new heights. A good provision has made in this Bill by holding both the bribe giver and the bribe taker as accused under Section 7 and 8.

Not only that from peon to ministers of the Government of India have been put in the same category.

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:** I am on my legs in support of this Bill. There cannot be two opinions about the intent of this Government. I can say with full confidence that our hon. Prime Minister who has a very clean image and impression both in the country and abroad, can be expected to fight the menace of corruption. We cannot save ourselves by blaming each other. I would like to ask as to why the laws enacted in this regard so far, have not yet been implemented. Lok Pal Bill has been hanging in balance. Badal Government had brought Right to Service Act which made the bureaucratic system function. We have to fix the accountability. Those who have made money beyond their declared sources of income, should be investigated.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** I will not speak much but it is strange that an hon. Member of the Akali Dal Party which had looted Punjab, is speaking against the bribe. I fail to understand as to why our hon. Prime Minister is scared of elections by ballot. In foreign countries, EVMs has been rejected but in India they are being termed as successful. This is also corruption.

**SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER:** This legislation seems to be good. We claim that this amendment is to make our anti-corruption law in conformity with the United Nations convention, against corruption 2005 in which India is a signatory. But there is something missing in the UN Resolution. It is quite

unfortunate that giving bribe to a foreign public servant is not included here. Similarly, there is lack of clarity as regards taking bribe from a private industry. Compensation for the aggrieved by acts of corruption is also not categorically stated here. These are certain negative aspects. I would like to say that the RTI was the most powerful weapon to fight corruption. But this Government is trying to set the criterion for appointment of Information Commissioners. It is an attempt to bring the RTI functionaries under the grip of Government. The Government is diluting all the important provisions according to its will and pleasure and political desire. As per the Right to Information Act, State Government can appoint Information Commission and the Government is trying to dilute that also. The Government is centralizing all these powers assigned to the Information Commissioners in the State Governments. This is another move to undermine the federal structure of this country in that way. Similarly, many RTI activists are brutally attacked in our country. I would like to say with all politeness that this Government is encouraging political corruption. Such a Government has no moral right to talk about corruption in this country.

**DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD:** This disease of corruption cannot be cured by the medicine and we need a surgical treatment. Here, I feel and everybody also feels that political corruption is the root cause of all types of corruptions in this country. Unless and until we create an electoral system, which is transparent, which is devoid of money and only public money is there, the

corruption cannot be stopped. The prevention of corruption needs to be started from top to bottom and not from bottom to top.

**SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:** Appropriate provisions has been made in various sections of this Bill to eradicate corruption from the country. The bribe giver and commercial organisations have also been brought under the purview of the Bill through Section 9 and 10. A provision has been made in the Bill for taking permission from the hon. Chief Justice to deal with the cases of corruption in our judiciary. The Supreme Court has strike down the Section 6(a) hence a new provision in the form of 16(a) has been added as non-discriminating provision. I would like to say this much that our Government which came in power in the year 2014 treat all people equally. This Bill is just like the Swaach Abhiyan which aims at total elimination of corruption from the country. Finally, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for bringing in this Bill in the House.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS:** This House is discussing an important legislation how corruption which has crept into our political system can be evaded. At the same time, the entire country is also discussing on Rafale. I would like to know whether the price is secret or not. The Government has to tell the people of this country. During the UPA Government, yesterday, hon. Defence Minister said that the deal of Rafale was around about Rs.560 crores. and during this Government, this has gone up to Rs.1600 crore. My second suggestion is that there have been many JPCs and I demand a JPC to inquire into this matter. We are moving a

privilege motion. But the people have the right to know. My request to the Government is to make it very clear.

**SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA:** I have been continuously saying that only a Government which have the political willpower will desire to strengthen the country by bringing such a Bill in Parliament. My party and I fully support this Bill. After Independence, a number of welfare schemes were formulated in order to ensure that the benefits of the development reach to the poor and the needy persons in the country. But the corruption defeated the objectives of all these schemes. This Government should be applauded for developing an independent and transparent economy. Hon. Prime Minister has been taking initiatives to curb corruptions from time to time and took bold steps like Digital India and Demonetization. I am also of the opinion that we do not need temporary and one sided development but a sustainable and overall development.

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:** I am grateful that I have been allowed to participate in the discussion on this Bill. This Bill seeks to eradicate corruption from India. I as well as my party support this Bill. It is an earnest effort to make effective measures through this amendment Bill.

**DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK:** This Bill has been introduced with firm resolution and foresightedness. This Bill is also indicative of a strong will power of the Government. Such a Bill can be brought by the Government which has the guts to implement it. This Bill will help in making a new India.

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH** *replying said:* First of all, I am grateful to all the Hon. Members who participated in the discussion and gave their valuable suggestions. All the hon. Members have expressed their concerns as how to curb corruption in the country. This legislation was enacted way back in 1988. Since then 30 years have elapsed and the dimension and style of corruption have also changed in all these years. So we have also decided to change our stand as per the need of the hour to deal with it. The ideal situation is when the nation and the society become incorruptible. When we evolve to that level of incorruptibility then we will not require a legislation like this. In all these four years, our resolve has been of minimum government and maximum governance and zero tolerance towards corruption. The proof of our honesty in these four years was displayed when the Government took very harsh decision like demonetization and implementation of GST. The people of the country have stood by us in our all these decisions. A sense of credibility dawn upon the people that this Government is committed to the fight against corruption and we will continue to do so. As for Lokpal, a meeting of the Search Committee was held on 19<sup>th</sup> of this month and the process is on. This has been also kept in view in this Bill that an honest performing officer or a public servant does not feel intimidated or his initiative does not get killed. The Rajya Sabha has already passed this Bill with 43 amendments. In this Bill mainly bribe giver clause is a kind of new introduction or an improved introduction on the earlier concept. Moreover, bribe giver will be

equally responsible as the bribe taker. We the Members of Parliament are also included in this. There is another very important point that for any corruption case, we will be laying down guidelines for the decision to be given within two years. The commercial organizations offering bribes will also be included whereas the charitable institutions are kept outside. We have strict measures against corruption in this Bill and at the same time we will also ensure that we provide a work friendly environment to a Government officer or public servant so that he can perform to the best of his ability. As for taking permission for the retired officers, this will be available even after superannuation. Overall, this is certainly a very historic legislation.

*The Bill was passed.*

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**SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA**  
*Secretary General*

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*\*\*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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