

LOK SABHA
SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 / Agrahayana 14, 1945 (Saka)

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRIMATI SHARDA ANIL PATEL** laid a statement regarding the need to operationalise railway yard in Mahesana, Gujarat.
- (2) **SHRI RAMDAS TADAS** laid a statement regarding renovation and widening of railway overbridge in Wardha City, Maharashtra.
- (3) **SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO** laid a statement regarding setting up of a solar power plant at Chakulia, Jharkhand.
- (4) **SHRI RAJA AMARESHWARA NAIK** laid a statement regarding establishment of an AIIMS in Raichur.\
- (5) **SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL** laid a statement regarding discrepancy in levy of road tax on vehicles in various states.
- (6) **DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY** laid a statement regarding transfer policy of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).
- (7) **SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY** laid a statement regarding establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Bilara and Bhopalgarh in Pali Parliamentary Constituency.
- (8) **SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHLIKAR** laid a statement

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

regarding the need to provide reservation for Maratha Community.

- (9) **KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL** laid a statement regarding the need to relax the criteria for extension of CGHS in cities not having the minimum specified number of Central Government employees.
- (10) **SHRI MOHANBHAI KUNDARIYA** laid a statement regarding the need to permit health checkup facilities at Rajkot for persons going abroad from Saurashtra region of Gujarat.
- (11) **SHRI KRISHNAPALSINGH YADAV** laid a statement regarding the need to set up maize-based bio-refinery for production of Ethanol in Guna Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
- (12) **DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN** laid a statement regarding power supply for irrigation in Madhya Pradesh.
- (13) **SHRI BASANTA KUMAR PANDA** laid a statement regarding the need to set up an Academic Film Training school and a National Film Studio in Bhawanipatna, Odisha.
- (14) **SHRI TEJASVI SURYA** laid a statement regarding the need to implement 'One Nation One Election'.
- (15) **SHRI MANOJ KOTAK** laid a statement regarding introduction of new trains in Maharashtra.
- (16) **SHRI MOHAN MANDAVI** laid a statement regarding construction of a new bridge over Doodh River in Kanker.
- (17) **SHRI GAURAV GOGOI** laid a statement regarding completion of projects by National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.
- (18) **SHRI BENNY BEHANAN** laid a statement regarding the need to sanction flyover in NH 544 at Koratty Signal junction, Koratty, Kerala.

- (19) **SHRI VIJAYKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH** laid a statement regarding need to provide sufficient funds under MNREGA Scheme.
- (20) **DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR** laid a statement regarding the need to increase the MPLADS funds and to waive off GST on it.
- (21) **DR. PON GAUTHAM SIGAMANI** laid a statement regarding the need to restore the Railway concession for Senior Citizens.
- (22) **SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL** laid a statement regarding inclusion of Roads from Dakshin Barasat Railway Station PWD road to Dhruba Chand Halder College under the railway maintenance map.
- (23) **SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR** laid a statement regarding the safety audit of tunnels in view of the recent tunnel accident in Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand.
- (24) **DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE** laid a statement regarding expansion of Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POP SK) at Dombivali, Maharashtra.
- (25) **DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN** laid a statement regarding extension of Gorakhpur Humsafar Express via Thawe to Chhapra Junction by providing one additional rake.
- (26) **SHRI MAHESH SAHOO** laid a statement regarding dust pollution caused by Mahanadi Coalfields of Talcher in Odisha.
- (27) **SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI** laid a statement regarding need to constitute a special investigation committee for cases of students' suicide in Teerthankar Mahaveer University (TMU), Moradabad.
- (28) **SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN** laid a statement regarding development of Immigration and Plant Quarantine facilities at Kollam Port.
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**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RESERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL,
2023**

AND

**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR REORGANISATION (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2023**

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH) *moved* that the Bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004 be taken into consideration.”

And

“that the Bill further to amend the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 be taken into consideration.”

DR. AMAR SINGH *initiating said:* Two Bills are being discussed today. The words used in the Reservation Amendment Bill of 2004, ‘underprivileged classes’ have been used, which has been changed to Other Backward Classes in the new Bill. That is all. You are bringing this positive amendment and I support the same. The real issue is that when Article 370 was being abrogated, all these OBC classes, whose separate name was Under Privileged Classes, were promised that they will be provided 27% reservation as it is all across India. There is a two per cent reservation in Jammu and Kashmir at present. I would like to know from the Home Minister what he is doing with the real demand for all those OBC classes you had promised there, please do apprise the House. The name has been changed, it's true that they will be able to apply for jobs in the Government of India, but now you have Jammu and Kashmir as a UT, and it is administered by the Centre. What are you going to do with a two percent reservation, this is the main issue. Will you also offer any scholarship scheme to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to get education? How will you enhance their education? state issue. This is an issue concerning the whole of India, there is an issue of Jammu and Kashmir is already an issue, that is why I am raising it in front of you. As you had promised there, now it has been four years, so when are you going to hold elections, because democracy should be revived there. What is your Government doing about the suicides committed by students in ITIs and every institution today? I support your

amendment, but it is my request that you completely resolve all the other issues related to it and guide us.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA: I would like to express my gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister of the country that they have brought the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Amendment Bill, 2023 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Amendment Bill here. The demands for solution to all the problems of Jammu and Kashmir have not been made yet, or it has not been needed only today, but it was needed for years, but the previous Governments there have done politics of vested interests and they did not pay any attention to Jammu and Kashmir. After the abrogation of Article 370 in the year 2019, Jammu and Kashmir got justice and all the basic facilities to which the people of Jammu and Kashmir were entitled but were deprived for 70 years, are also provided with all such facilities now. One after the other, all such Bills and laws are being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, which should have been done earlier. The Bill which is being discussed here today was also a demand of a large section. I sincerely hope that after the passage of this Bill, all these facilities will be available to our brothers belonging to Other Backward Classes. In particular, it has been said here that they did not get reservation in Central Government jobs, but now this reservation will also increase and they will get all such facilities in the Centre too. Apart from a large number of displaced Kashmiri Pandits, the migrants of Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir also live in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, a provision has been made in this Bill to reserve one seat for the displaced persons and two seats for the Kashmiri Pandits. Ever since the formation of the Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister in the country, justice has been delivered to every class, and every community.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Before I speak on the two Bills, let me start by talking about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, the Union Territories had been converted into States, and here the Government took a retrograde step of converting a State into a Union Territory. What has been achieved by taking this retrograde step? The militancy has not been controlled. Only a few days back, we lost officers of the Army at the hands of militants. Has the investment come in a big way? Has employment been provided in a big way? No. All that is happening is some cultural and sports events are taking place in Kashmir and we are showing

them to the tourists that all is well. But all is not well in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Kashmiri youth are demanding employment. A large number of Hindu migrants went away from Kashmir Valley during militancy. The suffering of these people has not ended. Nothing can be done in Kashmir unless an election is held there. How can you rule a State without giving power to the people to elect? Jammu and Kashmir should be ruled by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. My demand is that the Government should announce a timeframe for holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Now, the government has promised that there will be reservation and the reservation will be provided to OBCs. There is no State, no Assembly. This is a State law and the government is making the changes here. Why are you making these changes? Have a Legislative Assembly and then bring these amendments. I do not know what the hurry is. The hurry should be in having elections. Will we have a tourist territory of Jammu and Kashmir or will it be for the people of Jammu and Kashmir to have a proper Legislative Assembly? I do not want to oppose these Amendments because there is nothing wrong with having two nominated Members from Kashmiri migrants. But everything is wrong in the Government's handling of Jammu & Kashmir. We must restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. We want to see elections take place there.

DR. BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI: The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill substitutes weak and underprivileged classes with Other Backward Classes as declared by the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. This is done to remove the confusion amongst the competent authorities due to differences in such nomenclature for issuing certificates to eligible persons. With less confusion and more inclusion in education and employment, the State can work towards increasing literacy rate and employment opportunities for OBCs, empowering the communities for a brighter future and giving them an opportunity to come out of poverty. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 marks a significant step towards clarity and inclusivity by replacing the term 'weak and underprivileged classes' with 'Other Backward Classes'. The legislation aligns the involvement of social dynamics of Jammu and Kashmir. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government to conduct the Caste Census along with the population Census, provide OBC quota reservations in State Legislative Assemblies, establish a Ministry for OBCs and introduce more schemes targeting the specific needs of OBCs which will help the community nationwide. These are a few suggestions

from the YSR Congress Party. I support this Bill from the YSR Congress Party and also request the Government to take into consideration the suggestions made by the YSR Congress Party.

DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S: First of all, coming to Jammu and Kashmir, it is now a Union Territory. It is always the case that a Union Territory looks ahead to getting Statehood so that it can have more authority. But this is the first instance where we see a State being converted into a Union Territory. As regards this Reservation Bill, we should first look into the history. Dravidian ideologies have always been strong and pro-reservations. Even before independence, our forefathers of DMK brought in the Reservation Act for work and education for OBCs and other classes in the year 1926. Till then only a section of the people of three per cent who had jobs and other things. After India attained independence in 1947, it was struck down by the Madras High Court saying that this reservation shall not exist anymore. Fight after fight, at last, in 1951, the first amendment to the Constitution was made. It was then declared through the first amendment that reservation would be given in both work and education. That is how education and work have come into the picture and reservation has come into place. Lakhs of people have come into governance and in other places. Taking the four pillars of democracy, we have reservation in the Legislature. It is very good that we have come to such a stage and now this Government has also introduced the Women's Reservation Bill which is very good. But coming to Executive and Judiciary, there is no reservation for OBCs. It is fully dominated by the other caste people, so-called forward caste people and it has a marginalised section of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. So, we would like to urge upon this Government to give more importance to OBCs in the Executive and the Judiciary also. So far as this reservation Bill is concerned, what is to be enacted by the State is now being enacted by this very House of the Parliament. I would request this Government to look into the EWS and to give in more quota for OBCs and to conduct a caste census at the earliest.

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR: In this Bill, many castes have been included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similarly many suggestions have been received from other states of the country and there is a need to keep them in mind. About 16 castes of Kashmir and 12 castes of Ladakh will

now be included in the list of Schedule Castes. This Bill will be very beneficial for the people of the state. Unless a caste census is conducted, Dalits, backwards and economically weaker sections of the upper caste will not get the real benefit of reservation. It is my suggestion that the caste census be conducted across the country. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are still deprived of their democratic rights. The Government has said that the displaced Kashmiri Pandits will be brought back to the State. The Government must tell how many Kashmiri Pandits got rehabilitated in the State. Hence, the Government must start the process of restoring law and order through consultation with the citizens and political parties of the States. The status of full statehood may be restored to Jammu and Kashmir. It is my suggestion that an election should be conducted at the earliest, only then democracy will be restored there.

***SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:** Five years have passed since special status was lifted on 21st November 2018. But no proper government or administration is leading to dissatisfaction among the citizens, the intelligentsia, the youth etc. While the SC community has got reservation, ST community has been left out. Many States including Odisha have established Commissions to address the issue of reservation. The people of J&K are waiting for a fair deal from the central government.

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR: It is a very important Bill for the country. The STs, Gujjar-Muslims or Gujjar-Bakarwals have always fought in all the wars between India and Pakistan without taking any salary from the Government. This is a very good thing that the poor Kashmiri Pandits are being given facilities. The reservation given to Gujjar-Bakarwals of Jammu and Kashmir should not be tinkered with. If the Government wants to give reservation it may give whatever it wants without compromising their reservation.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I think that Kashmir has really been through a very difficult journey. Administration is a continuous process. I would like to suggest the hon. Home Minister of Home Affairs, instead of bringing piecemeal programmes about reservation why does he not bring a comprehensive Bill, a PAN-India reservation Bill? I would like to talk about urban

* Original in Odia

local bodies. Urban local bodies elections which were to be held in Srinagar have been postponed. We demand to hold an election there first. Tourism has improved in Jammu and Kashmir. But what is the plan of the Government about horticulture and agriculture which are in trouble due to climate change in the state? So far as unemployment is concerned, it is at its peak in India and Jammu and Kashmir. There is an hour's power cut in Srinagar. In September 2023 and November 2023, there were two major terrorist attacks and we have lost some very brave sons of India. I do compliment the Government but a lot needs to be done. We are committed to supporting this Government in restoring peace and happiness in Kashmir and to make sure that it is a safe place where every child gets a good education, and where every senior citizen has access to good quality hospitals.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: The Act which is being amended today was enacted in the year 2003 only. One should know it first. The country was misled. This law was enacted by the legislature of Jammu and Kashmir itself. So far as the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill is concerned it merits attention that it is being reviewed judicially. In my opinion under Article-3 and Article-1, the Government has no right to divide it into two parts or in UTs. It was promised that statehood would be restored. We have been waiting for the last six years. Elections have not been conducted for the last ten years. It is a Constitutional obligation which is the responsibility of the Government to ensure positivity. The promises made here are not being kept. In the Bill, there is a provision to nominate the Lt. Governor. I oppose it. Kashmir is the crown of the country. And, no rights are being granted to Jammu and Kashmir. So, elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir. The identity of a State has been subsumed from the Union of States of India. There is talk of normalcy here but Namaz has not been offered in the Jama Masjid of Srinagar for the last seven Fridays. The situation is not restored to normalcy merely by organising a few cultural events. I want to reiterate that until the Supreme Court decides on the reservation rules, this Bill should not be passed. Efforts should be made that everyone gets rights and those who are still deprived should also be given constitutional rights.

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL: The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 have been introduced here to empower the ST

community, SC community, women, Kashmiri migrants, Kashmir Pandits, displaced families, socially and educationally backward Classes. Earlier, Legislative Assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir. A total of 87 MLAs were elected. Apart from these, 24 seats were kept reserved for POK which was an integral part of India and will remain so. The unfortunate thing was that 24 seats were kept vacant in the name of reserved seats. Turtuk, Tyakshi, Thang, Geri and Chulungkha villages became independent after the 1971 war and became a part of India. I remember that we used to repeatedly demand that one or two seats should be taken out from the reserved seats for those villages, displaced people who have come to this side and live in Jammu-Kashmir-Ladakh, and also for those who are deprived. But no one was ready to pay attention to this. Today, for the first time, the Honourable Prime Minister is once again giving guarantee by making provision for the reservation of seats for all the citizens who are poor, deprived, and those whose voices have not been heard. Earlier six seats were reserved for the SC, now these are being increased to seven seats. Although a good number of people from the ST community live there, earlier there was zero seat for them, and no MLA seats at all were reserved for STs. Through this Bill, nine MLA seats are being reserved for the ST community. For this, I express my gratitude to him on behalf of the ST community of the entire country, because I also come from the ST community. Along with this, two seats are being reserved for Kashmiri migrants and displaced people. In this also, women are being guaranteed reservation. People talk about elections. I want to say that in Jammu and Kashmir, there is more need for peace and security of people than elections. We cannot conduct elections by risking people's lives. It is not that no elections were held. After the abrogation of Article 370, Panchayat elections, BDC elections and DDC elections were held. The Honourable Prime Minister has worked to establish institutions of grassroots democracy. Before the abrogation of Article 370, an investment of Rs 297 crore had come in Jammu and Kashmir, and till date an investment of Rs 2,153 crore has been made there. Today, there is 100 percent coverage in the work related to Anganwadi, Hospital, Government and Public Institutions under Jal-Jeevan Mission in the entire Jammu and Kashmir. There were only two engineering colleges in Jammu and Kashmir. Today four engineering colleges are being built there and three of them are functional. There are IIT, IIM, and AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier there was no AIIMS there. For the first time in history, the Hon. Prime Minister gave all these gifts to Jammu and Kashmir. Today, 173 smart

cities are being developed in Jammu and Kashmir and Srinagar. Today, 100 percent ODF has been achieved there. The concept of national e-governance was there in Jammu and Kashmir, but after the removal of Article 370, out of all the Union Territories in the country, the Prime Minister has placed Ladakh at the first position in the ranking in terms of e-governance. Similarly, e-Office, e-PRS, EPM, e-HRM, e-UNNAT, JAK-SPARROW, and JK Pay System, all these were not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir, due to which there used to be scams in every scheme of the government. There used to be scams, but thanks to the implementation of all these systemic innovations, the administrative system of Jammu and Kashmir has been strengthened and made transparent from within. Today, many products in Jammu and Kashmir have been given GI tags. Today, through 'Aapki Zameen, Aapki Nigrani', work is being done to give people the rights to their respective lands. Through 'Digitization of Land Records', the land records have been made available online to the landowners. After the removal of Article 370 in 2019, 60 lakh youth from Jammu and Kashmir are participating in sports. If I talk about health, earlier no universal health insurance was there. Today, the Golden Card scheme has been implemented across the country through Ayushman Bharat. After the abrogation of Article 370 in the year 2019, seven new medical colleges have been established in Jammu and Kashmir, and they are functional now. A separate medical college has been approved for Ladakh. Earlier, there were 367 medical postgraduate seats for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir. Today, 664 medical postgraduate seats have been made available for them. 3,006 Health and Wellness Centres have been opened in different villages in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier only 6 lakh 13 thousand poor people of Jammu and Kashmir were receiving pension, but, today it has been increased by 77 percent and now 10,38,100 poor people are being provided pensions. On behalf of those poor people, I thank Hon. Prime Minister. Students are being offered Scholarships without any regard to the community he or she belongs to. Before the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, several important Indian laws were not applicable there. However, now many important laws relating to the welfare of people have been enforced there.. Earlier, the youth of Jammu and Kashmir used to have stones in their hands, but the Hon. Prime Minister has snatched stones from the hands of those youth and has given computers and bat-balls instead. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister and support this Bill.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: There are two main goals of bringing the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The first goal is to amend Section 14 to insert a provision to increase the number of seats in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly from 107 to 114. The second goal is to add Sections 15A and 15B to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. The law which this Bill intends to amend has been constitutionally challenged and the matter is pending in the Supreme Court. Therefore, no Bill amending that law should be brought before this House. The Constitution does not allow converting a state into two Union Territories. Why have no elections been held in Jammu and Kashmir in the last five-and-a-half years? Will the Home Minister be able to apprise this House about the time when elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly will be held? The The Minister of Home Affairs had publicly stated in August 2019 that statehood of Jammu and Kashmir would be restored. If the situation has become normal there, why not restore its statehood? A Legislative Assembly must be constituted in the state. I request that this House must be informed as to when the Legislative Assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir as well as the time by which its statehood would be restored.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES 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): Several friends have tried to express their opinions about different aspects of Jammu and Kashmir. The Congress party could not repeal Article 370 due to political compulsions and nepotism. But our Government followed the resolution, dignity and principles. In the year 1947-48, when the accession of other princely states was taking place, why was the accession of Jammu and Kashmir delayed? During that delay, Pakistan got an opportunity to attack us in which many precious lives of our country were martyred. The instrument of accession was the same for all the princely States. It was not different for Maharaja Hari Singh and it was not different for Jammu and Kashmir. There was no provision for plebiscite in any of the other princely States. Why did the then Prime Minister have to make this

commitment in UNO and set a wrong precedent? The people who are objecting to the abrogation of Article 370 are the people who have actually misused Article 370 the most. Article 370 was misused most by its supporters. An example of this is the 42nd and 43rd amendments. In which Emblem was also mentioned. Under this, the term of the Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha was increased from five to six years because the Government had intelligence reports that the time was not favourable for holding elections. After three years, in the year 1977, all the amendments were reviewed and then it was felt that this type of amendment was not in accordance with the spirit of democracy and democratic values. After this, the 45th and 46th amendments were brought. All the Legislative Assemblies across the country, the Lok Sabha, had a five-year term and Jammu and Kashmir had a six-year term because Article 370 does not allow such laws to be adopted. It is said that Article 370 was our identity, our Kashmiri culture has been attacked. Now tell me why you had any problem that the Dowry Act, Child Marriage Act etc were not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir to appease a particular community. There was never a blanket ban in the Act, but there was a barrier in Section 370. This caused loss to Kashmiri Hindus as well as Kashmiri Muslims. Therefore, the abrogation of Article 370 creates a sense of esteem, belonging and being a part of this Indian peninsula. The feeling of separatism came from that and after that, a long period of terrorism ensued. This trend started from 1989-1990 because only 10 percent of voting took place in Kashmir Valley. Holding elections under the shadow of terror and making some of your MLAs win under that shadow, in this way you continued running your rule from generation to generation. Terrorism became a matter of self-interest in politics. This is the time not only for redemption but also for retrospection of what we have lost or what we have done. Our party has changed the thinking of the people. There has been a lot of difference since 2019. Stone-pelting became zero percent. There has been an 80-90 percent reduction in civilian and overall killings. Home tourism has started for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir. The G-20 summit took place there. DDC elections were held. Voting took place there in large numbers. Jammu and Kashmir is the first State in the country where 100 percent Ayushman Bharat scheme has been implemented. After the imposition of the Governor's rule, the practice of doing away with interviews has been implemented. It is our collective responsibility to restore the old culture and tradition of Kashmir. For the first time in 1948, the demand for making Ladakh a Union Territory was raised. After 70 years, when

Modi ji became the Prime Minister, Ladakh became a Union Territory. If Nehru ji had not declared the unilateral ceasefire without consulting his Cabinet, then today Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir would have been a part of India. Now it is being asked why you are not conducting elections. We are ready. We do not interfere with the working of constitutional institutions. Whenever the Election Commission announces elections, we are ready. We have given true self-rule and autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir. Whatever happens in future will be in the interest of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The state has started exploring its unexplored resources. Recently a large reserve of lithium has been found in Reasi. The world's highest railway bridge and Asia's longest road tunnel are in Jammu and Kashmir. I hope when India scales its new heights in the coming 25 years, Jammu and Kashmir will play an important role in it.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Four years after the abrogation of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, the Central Government has taken steps towards bringing about social change and giving constitutional rights to the deprived and backward classes like the other states. Through this Amendment Bill, the Central Government has made a provision to include Pahari, Gadda, Brahmin, Padari tribes and Koli communities in the ST list of the State. After the removal of Article 370, the families and people of Jammu and Kashmir will not only get relief but will also get political reservation in future. Today people are living peacefully there. The Honourable Prime Minister has tried to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir. Today, tourists from foreign countries come to Jammu and Kashmir and when tourists visit there, this would be of great economic help for the whole coun

ADV. A. M. ARIFF: These Bills are nothing but an attempt by this Government to keep alive the Kashmir issue ahead of the coming parliamentary elections. We have no objection to providing reservations to the communities or nominating members of unrepresented communities. I wish to remind the Government that they had also not honoured the promise of holding the election of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly as the Hon. Home Minister had promised on the floor of this House many times. This Government boasts that it has successfully conducted the elections for the local Government bodies. But how can this Government claim it a success with the turnout of just 15 to 20 percent of voters? Even after the abrogation of Article 370, the Union Government could not

control terror strikes in the Valley. The terrorist activities are still continuing there.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill is absolutely a harmless Bill which should be passed. Why this Government is, going for an amendment to a Bill which has already been made by Parliament and is pending before the Supreme Court for a final verdict? Why does the Government not wait for the final verdict where the constitutional validity of the Bill is being questioned? This means it is not the bona fide intention to give reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Kashmiri migrants and the displaced persons. The intention of the second Bill, the Jammu Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill is lacking bona fides. Hence, I oppose the Bill on that ground itself because it is a matter pending before the Judiciary. Why is there an inordinate delay in having the elections? This unfettered authority to nominate a person being provided to the Lieutenant Governor is totally undemocratic, which is to be opposed. I urge the Government to kindly review it. I do agree that there is no stone-pelting in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir but hybrid militancy is there and it is being admitted by the security personnel of Jammu and Kashmir. So that is the reason why you are not able to hold the election and bring back normalcy in the Union Territory. The Government should bring back normalcy to hold the election and give back the Statehood status to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Both these Bills are against our Constitution. Is it not true that in 1989, in Poonch and Rajouri, when our army went there, people of 28 villages left our homeland and went to the neighbouring country? The census till date says that these are uninhabited villages. Why are you not making provision for them? You say there is no security threat. When there is no security threat why do you want to make a nomination? After all, why are our soldiers dying there every month? But you say that you have established peace thereby removing Article 370. You have caused a huge loss to the Dogra people of Jammu. There were 112 rice mills, and now only 6 are left. You have ruined the entire industry of Jammu. All the hotels are unoccupied. I want to know from the government whether you have constructed even a single room in your industrial estate even though MoUs worth crores of rupees have been signed. You have shown so many dreams, but those dreams of the poor people of Kashmir are not

fulfilled. I want to know from the government when you will conduct elections there.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: These Bills will prove to be very helpful in removing the confusion that is there among the people and the authorities. The people of Kashmir have been expecting for a long time that when elections will be held, they will be able to choose their government. All the Members who have spoken on behalf of the government have talked about a period of peace and progress in Kashmir. If this is really so then I think there should be no delay in holding elections there. The economy of Kashmir has withered badly and the law and order situation is in a very bad condition. The way corruption has increased in Kashmir, it should not have happened. I would request that one seat be reserved for micro minorities and Jat Sikhs, Sunar Sikhs and Saini Sikhs should also be included in the list of backward classes.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I rise in support of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 brought by the hon. Home Minister. This amendment Bill has three main objectives. Kashmiri migrants should be given reservation, political reservation should be given, so that their overall socio-economic development can take place. There are Kashmiri migrants, displaced persons from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and third are Scheduled Tribes. This is an amendment Bill for all three. The former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir is sitting here, he should answer that after all there was such a large population of tribals, why did you not give them reservation? Now there is peace in Kashmir. Earlier it seemed that 70 percent of the land was not sown. Extremism was prevalent to such an extent there. People used to pray to God-Allah for the safety and security of their lives. In the last Rabi season, for the first time in the Kashmir division, mustard was cultivated in 1.43 lakh hectares. The Yellow Revolution has come in Jammu and Kashmir. There is also a record in agriculture that today the farmers of Kashmir have become the 5th largest income-earning farmers in the country.

The discussion was not concluded.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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