

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

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 / Chaitra 12, 1947 (Saka)

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRIMATI SHOBHANABEN MAHENDRASINH BARAIYA** laid a statement regarding four-laning of NH 848 and construction of a bridge over Vatrak river near Vatrak Village in Gujarat.
- (2) **SHRI SURESH KUMAR KASHYAP** laid a statement regarding the need to check smuggling of Chinese Garlic.
- (3) **SHRI RAJU BISTA** laid a statement regarding the need to expedite construction of alternative highways to Darjeeling and Siliguri Ring Road Projects in West Bengal.
- (4) **SHRI ANURAG SHARMA** laid a statement regarding inclusion of 'Bundeli' language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.
- (5) **DR. SANJAY JAISWAL** laid a statement regarding the need to establish an Intra Circle Hub (ICH) Centre at Narkatiaganj in West Champaran district, Bihar.
- (6) **SHRIMATI MANJU SHARMA** laid a statement regarding the need to constitute an Airport Advisory Committee for Jaipur Airport.
- (7) **SHRIMATI ANITA SUBHADARSHINI** laid a statement regarding the need to expedite environmental clearance and land acquisition process for

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

speedy implementation of Pipalapanka Dam Project in Aska Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

- (8) **DR. K. SUDHAKAR** laid a statement regarding delay in distribution of assistive devices to Divyangjans and Senior Citizens in the Chikkaballapur Parliamentary Constituency under ADIP and RVY Schemes.
- (9) **SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH PATEL** laid a statement regarding the need to increase sections from class I to VIII and introduce teaching of all subjects in class XI and XII in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kasrawad in Khargone Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
- (10) **SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN** laid a statement regarding the need to set up fast-track courts for the disposal of cyber crimes.
- (11) **SHRI DULU MAHATO** laid a statement regarding alleged misappropriation of coal in Dhanbad district, Jharkhand.
- (12) **SHRI DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY** laid a statement regarding the need to increase the width of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- (13) **SHRI MITESH PATEL (BAKABHAI)** laid a statement regarding the need to establish Grain ATM-Annapurti in Anand Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.
- (14) **SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SURESH DHANORKAR** laid a statement regarding the need to increase the quantity of foodgrains distributed through PDS.
- (15) **SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL** laid a statement regarding the allocation and appropriation of Lignite Mines in Barmer, Rajasthan.
- (16) **SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH** laid a statement regarding the need to declare Kuttanad and Upper Kuttanad in Kerala as a Special Agricultural Zone (SAZ).
- (17) **ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE** laid a statement regarding the need to address the problems faced by the Department of Posts.

- (18) **MD. RAKIBUL HUSSAIN** laid a statement regarding the need for a CBI investigation into the death of workers due to alleged illegal rat-hole mining in Dima Hasao, Assam.
- (19) **SHRI RAMASAHAYAM RAGHURAM REDDY** laid a statement regarding the need to establish a National Design Centre (NDC) in Telangana.
- (20) **SUSHRI IQRA CHOUDHARY** laid a statement regarding various issues relating to Railway Services in Kairana Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
- (21) **SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR** laid a statement regarding the need for legislation to uproot superstition from the country.
- (22) **PROF. SOUGATA RAY** laid a statement regarding the need for comprehensive measures to address the increasing incidents of suicide committed by students in higher educational institutes.
- (23) **SHRI TAMILSELVAN THANGA** laid a statement regarding the need to review the decision regarding exclusion of farmers from the PM-KISAN Scheme owing to acquisition of land ownership after 1st February 2019.
- (24) **SHRI G. LAKSHMINARAYANA** laid a statement regarding the need to establish a Textile Park in Anantpur Parliamentary Constituency, Telangana.
- (25) **SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE** laid a statement regarding the need to increase the amount of pension under the National Social Assistance Programme.
- (26) **SHRI RAJESH VERMA** laid a statement regarding the need to establish a modern multi-purpose stadium under Khelo India Scheme in Khagaria district, Bihar.
- (27) **DR. D. RAVI KUMAR** laid a statement regarding the need for legislation to control crimes/killings in the name of honour in the country.
- (28) **SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY** laid a statement regarding problems being faced by the chilli growers in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

- (29) **SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN** laid a statement regarding the need to sanction for development of Kollam-Edamon and Edamon-Punalur bypass projects on old NH-744 in Kerala.
- (30) **SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY** laid a statement regarding alleged coal-pilferage in Jharkhand.

THE BANKING LAWS (AMENDMENT) Bill, 2024

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY) *moved that* the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 be taken into consideration.

The Motion was adopted and the amendments were agreed to.

THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) Bill, 2025

(As reported by the Joint Committee)

AND

THE MUSSALMAN WAKF (REPEAL) Bill, 2024

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU) *moved that* the Bill further to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, as reported by the Joint Committee and the Bill to repeal the Musselman Wakf Act, 1923, be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH) *intervening said:* The Union Cabinet had piloted a Bill to this effect in the House subsequent to the same being approved. Thereafter, it was referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee by the Hon. Speaker

and the Opposition had also made a vociferous demand for the same. The Committee took a well-considered view, which in turn was taken up in the Cabinet again. The Union Cabinet accepted the suggestions made by the committee and the Bill has been moved again with amendments by the Minister of Minority Affairs. This happens only when official amendments are moved without Cabinet approval.

RULING BY THE SPEAKER

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, an issue has been raised with respect to the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 that certain extraneous clauses have been added to the Bill by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which are beyond the purview of the Bill. On this issue, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members towards the Practice and Procedure of Parliament written by Kaul and Shakder. The powers conferred upon the Joint Committee are the powers of the Joint Parliamentary Committee very wide and extensive. The Committee can amend any Bill in its entirety or can prepare its new draft as well. It can also change the long title and short title of the Bill without changing its Statement of Objects and Reasons. Thus, the Committee can insert new provisions in a Bill and determine its scope. There are numerous instances of such amendments having been made to the Bills by the Joint Parliamentary Committees.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: All I would like to say this much that this time, in the Joint Committee, there were the most extensive deliberations on the Waqf Amendment Bill in the Parliamentary history of India. In all, 97,27,772 petitions have been received online, physically as well as in the form of memorandum, requests and suggestions. The Government has looked into them thoroughly, whether it came through the JPC or have been given directly. Till date, such a large number of petitions have not been received on any Bill. A total of 284 delegations have put forward their views and suggestions before the committee. The Waqf Boards of 25 State Governments and Union Territories have submitted their representations. Apart from this, a number of legal luminaries, scholars, community leaders, representatives of various religious institutions, charitable organizations, civil society, academicians, researchers, policymakers, etc. have put forth their views before this committee. I would like to make my points with the conviction that everyone will support this Bill with positive thinking. Several Members have spoken their minds. Some stated that this provision is unconstitutional and illegal. I would like to mention that after independence, in the year 1954, the Waqf Act became an

Act of independent India for the first time. At that time, the 1954 Act also provided for a State Waqf Board. Since then, in 1995 with a number of amendments, a comprehensive Waqf Act was enacted. In the year 1995, for the first time, a provision was incorporated for the setting up of a tribunal so that if anyone disagrees with the decision of the Waqf Board and if he wants to challenge it, he can move the Waqf Tribunal. In the year 2013, such steps were taken, that will definitely raise the question in the mind as to why these were taken. The first change that came in the year 2013 was that any person, whether he is Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Buddhist or Jain, could create Waqf in this country. Everyone knows that Waqf is created for a charitable and religious purpose in the name of Allah. But by diluting it, the then-UPA Government made a provision in 2013 that anybody can create a Waqf. Secondly, it was specifically provided for the Waqf that Shias will remain in the Shia Board, Sunnis will remain in the Board and no one else can come to it. There was a provision in Section 108 that the provisions of the Waqf Board will be over and above any existing law in this country and it will have an overriding effect. How can such a law be accepted in this country? There has been a case in Delhi since 1970. The Delhi Waqf Board claimed that the CGO complex, Parliament Building and many properties within Delhi as waqf properties. At that time, the UPA Government denotified the entire land and gave it to the Waqf Board. Had we not brought this amendment today and if the UPA Government had continued, we can't say which buildings could have been denotified. I would like to say that the amendments brought by this Government are a provision for monitoring the administration of governing the Waqf property and for monitoring those who manage the Waqf property. It does not manage the Waqf Board and Waqf property in any manner. It does not interfere with the Waqf Board and Waqf property management. The Government is not going to interfere in any religious system, any religious institution and any religious work. The provisions of the Waqf Board have nothing to do with the management of any religious institution, rather it deals only with the management of property. On March 5, 2014, 123 prime properties, which were under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, were transferred to the Delhi Waqf Board. Regarding the creation of Waqf, our Government has revived the provisions of the year 1995 and added that only a person who has been practising Islam for a minimum of five years can create a Waqf. We want to make Waqf Boards very secular and inclusive. Therefore, the provisions have also been made to include backward Muslim people, women and expert non-Muslims in it. Out of the total 22 members in the Central Waqf Council, there cannot

be more than four non-Muslim members. It will consist of three Members of Parliament including the post of ex-officio, ten members from the Muslim community, two former judges as members, as well as one advocate of national eminence from the Supreme Court and High Court. There will be four persons of national eminence from various fields. One member will be the Additional Secretary or Joint Secretary of the Government of India. It is mandatory to have two women members out of ten Muslim members. Similarly, out of 11 members in the State Waqf Board, there cannot be more than 3 non-Muslims in it. It will consist of a chairperson, an MP, an MLA including ex-officio member, four members from the Muslim community, two members with professional experience, a member of the Bar Council and a Joint Secretary to the State Government dealing with Waqf matters. Out of the four Muslim members, two will be women. We have replaced arbitrary and insufficient provisions with new provisions. The Waqf Board in our country has the third largest land bank. When our country has the largest number of Waqf properties in the world, why has no work been done till date for the education, medical treatment, skilling and income generation of our poor Muslims? This Bill is intended for the upliftment and welfare of the people through that property and this Waqf Amendment Bill is the need of the hour to cater to their needs. In the year 2006, the total income from 4.9 lakh Waqf properties was Rs 163 crore and even today it has gone up to only Rs 166 crore. If even after 10 years, the total income generation of the world's largest property increases by as meagre as Rs 3 crore, then we can never accept it. It was also stated at the time of the Sachar Committee that if these properties were managed with little efficiency, then Rs 12,000 crore per year should have been generated at that time. Today, the total number of Waqf properties in our country has increased from 4.9 lakh to 8.72 lakh. If the 8.72 lakh Waqf properties are managed effectively, it will transform not only the destiny of Muslims but also that of our nation. Many recommendations from the Joint Parliamentary Committee have been incorporated in this Bill. It is incorrect to claim that these recommendations have been ignored. There is extensive hope attached to this Bill, which is why it has been aptly named '*UMMEED*'—Unified Waqf Management Empowerment, Efficiency, and Development. This Act aims to empower all sections of the Muslim community, including Shias, Sunnis, Bohras, Agha Khanis, and Pasmanda Muslims—especially marginalized groups such as women and children. Through the application of technology, we will enhance efficiency, establish a centralized database, and ensure comprehensive registration procedures. Additionally, provisions have been made to address bureaucratic challenges. Audits

will be conducted by the State governments, as the ultimate authority over these properties rests with them. The appointment board will also be constituted by the State Government, as the land falls under the State List. The Union Government is not assuming any additional powers; the entire framework remains under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The Waqf Board has been established to serve three key purposes: religious, charitable, and sacred works. The Bill also outlines mechanisms for generating income through effective governance. It is noteworthy that any Muslim willing to manage their property under the provisions of this Waqf Board is welcome to do so. Following the removal of the 'Waqf by User' provision, we have ensured that registered properties, with proper documentation where prayers are offered, will remain protected from interference. This law is not designed to encroach upon anyone's land or property. The Bill stipulates that when a Muslim creates a Waqf, the rights of the women in that family must be safeguarded first. A Waqf can only be established in respect of a property where the individual holds 100% ownership. In line with the committee's recommendations, we have empowered senior officials above the Collector level to oversee such matters. To protect the interests of tribal communities, Waqf properties cannot be created in Scheduled Areas under Schedule 5 and Schedule 6. The proposal to include three members in the tribunal and define their tenure has been approved to ensure the speedy resolution of disputes. In accordance with the committee's recommendations, the contribution for the Mutawalli has been reduced from 7% to 5% in order to allocate more funds for charitable activities. Furthermore, the stringent provisions of Section 40 have been abolished. We strongly urge everyone to support this Bill. Hon. Prime Minister has allowed an ordinary Member like me to undertake this noble task and present this Bill before you. For this, crores of impoverished Muslims across the country will be showering their blessings.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI *initiating said:* In 2013, misleading statements were made regarding the UPA Government. We challenge them to verify these claims. The Constitution of India guarantees every individual social, economic, and political justice, along with the freedom of thought, expression, belief, religion, and worship. It also upholds the principle of brotherhood, ensuring the dignity of the individual and the integrity of the nation. This Bill strikes at the very foundation of our Constitution. The entire speech delivered is an assault on our fundamental rights and the federal structure of our democracy. The government's objective appears to be to weaken the Constitution, spread confusion, insult minority communities, and

sow divisions within Indian society. While claiming to show sympathy towards minorities, the power that be has failed to provide them adequate representation in the Lok Sabha. Today, the situation for minorities has deteriorated to the extent that they are required to obtain a religious certificate from the government. India is a land rooted in *Sanatan Dharma*, where every religion, culture, and tradition is respected. Would the Government demand such certificates from people of other religions? Why is the government interfering in the matters of religion? Furthermore, the Government has even removed Clause 3R (1) today. It is reflected in our secular nature that any person can do Waqf. The rights of any person should not be taken away. Whether it is the protection of a widow or providing more support to women, all these provisions are already there in the law. The revenue outlined under clause 33 has been reduced. The revenue share has been reduced from seven percent to five percent, thereby further weakening the Waqf Board. My suggestion is to increase the revenue from seven percent to eleven percent. Today, the Government is targeting the land of a particular community through the Bill and I am concerned that in future, the Government may target the land of other communities as well. The Bill requires amendments. While I am not opposed to amendments, they should strengthen the Bill rather than weaken it. Unfortunately, some of the amendments proposed are controversial. The process of Waqf has a long history, dating back to the advent of Islam. The powers of the Waqf Board have been diluted significantly. For instance, Section 110 has been completely removed. Section 110 deals with the power of the Board to make regulations. According to the Parent Act, the Boards can make some rules with the permission of the State Government. An attempt is being made to reduce the authority of the State Government through the present amendment. Furthermore, confusion has arisen regarding the role of the High Court, even though its responsibilities are clearly defined in Sections 83(A) and 96 of the Parent Act. These sections should not be removed through amendments. If there are mistakes or areas needing correction, we are sensitive towards that. However, the introduction of provisions from the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 for amendment under Section 64, Clause 29, adds to the confusion. I must point out that the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) did not accept any amendments proposed by the opposition, and there was no clause-by-clause discussion; only a voting process has taken place. The current Bill also seeks to remove Section 108(A), which grants overriding power, a provision still present in the Acts of different states. We oppose this Bill as it is against the integrity of our country, our constitutional values,

the dignity of our minorities, and our peace and tranquillity alongwith the way it should have been discussed in the House and the JPC.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I hail from Bihar, where many backward Muslims reside. They are also there in Uttar Pradesh, and we refer to them as Pasmānda. This group consists of various categories. They do not get opportunities in the management of Waqf and in the light of Article 15 of the Constitution, a provision is being made in this Bill that backward Muslims will also be given representation in the Waqf Board. The amendment that is being made in the Waqf Bill has been allowed under Article 15 of the Fundamental Rights. It is important to note that Waqf is not a religious institution; it is merely a legal institution. The second point concerns the role of Mutawalli, who is essentially a manager. If the properties associated with a Waqf are being misappropriated, will we remain silent about it? There are approximately eight lakh properties involved. These encompass both graveyards and mosques in it. Today I want to raise this question in front of the Parliament: how many schools were built on Waqf property, How many hospitals have been established? How many skill centers have been opened? How many orphanages have been opened? How many widows, daughters, and sisters have been imparted skills such as sewing and embroidery to improve their livelihoods? If we regulate Waqf land through this law, it can lead to better funding for these properties and lend credence to people from the community towards it, then what is wrong with that? Now I would like to refer to some properties. Today there are eight hundred thousand properties under the possession of the Waqf. This is the largest in the world. It is managed by Mutawalli. I am a Member of Parliament from Patna Sahib. In my constituency, there is a pond on Government land in Gardanibagh where people offer *Arghya* during *Chhath*. The Government deposed before the High Court that it is Government land. A graveyard is located five to seven kilometers from there. This is recorded in the year 1920. Some people claim that it is their waqf and they oppose it every time during Chhath celebration. The same situation exists across India. I would like to submit one more thing regarding this law. It is very important to make it stricter. One thing repeatedly mentioned is that earlier the High Court also had power in this regard. The High Court did not have any direct power. The High Court can call for or file a complaint if it wishes. Today, the Christian community and the churches are awfully disturbed by the encroachment of their property under the garb of Waqf. This Bill opens the way for those poor marginalized Muslims who are living among those who are engaged in

encroaching, looting, and acting as intermediaries of Waqf property. This Government has acted in the spirit of '*SABKA SATH, SABKA VIKAS, SABKA PRAYAS*' and has worked for the welfare of all people without discrimination in any form and structure.

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: The failure of this Government is not just about demonetization, but also about unemployment, about inflation, and failure in doubling the farmers' income. The Ganges and Yamuna rivers have not been cleaned, smart cities have not been built. This time, the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has become a cover for this failure. I hail from the state of Uttar Pradesh. I am not insulting anyone. I am speaking the truth. Whenever the Government brings a new Bill, it is for covering its failures. I am coming to the Waqf. The Government must guarantee that Waqf land will never be given to anyone for any other purpose through any maneuvering. The objective of including outsiders in the Waqf Board or Council is to deprive our Muslim brothers of their rights and diminish their importance and control. The biggest issue is that the Government has neither any policy nor any intention behind presenting the Waqf Bill. The goal of this Government is to take control of the Waqf lands and hand them over to its people through the backdoor. The Government aims for polarization so that it can derive political benefits. The introduction of the Waqf Bill will also send a wrong message to the entire world. This Bill will prove to be a Waterloo for this Government. The attempt of the Government is to create a divide within the Muslim community through this Bill. I oppose this Bill.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: This present Bill covers importantly two areas of Waqf. One is the management of religious affairs of the Waqf Board. Two, providing power to the State Government to decide disputes in respect of the Waqf property, including land and buildings. The Waqf is an institution for religious and charitable purposes. But, the purpose of the Bill is a clear breach of the right of Muslims to perform their religious duties and manage their religious affairs, and therefore it is completely in violation of Article 26 of the Constitution of India. The Parliament has no power to legislate any law in respect of the land and buildings declared as Waqf property because the State only has the power to legislate such laws. But, the Parliament is now encroaching upon the power of States to legislate in deciding the question of the land and buildings of the Waqf. Thus, it is completely unconstitutional. Hindu trusts follow English law. Muslim law does not follow

English law. This is the basic difference. The various provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 are manifestly arbitrary and therefore cannot be passed by the Parliament itself. Waqf properties in India form the backbone of the Muslim community's social, cultural and religious life - playing a pivotal role in maintaining their collective identity. These endowments sustain mosques, madrasas and cemeteries while providing essential resources to marginalized sections of the society. Waqf, under the Islamic law, is intended to function independently to serve its religious and charitable purposes. The Waqf Act was first introduced in 1953. Thereafter, so many related Acts were brought including the 1995 Act and Amendment of 2013. Now, by introducing clause 2 in the proposed Amendment, the title of the Act is being amended. There is no rational basis to make such an amendment to the title of the Act and it is absolutely unwarranted. The term 'Waqf' is a sacred concept deeply rooted in Islamic tradition and jurisprudence. The insertion of clause 2(a) tantamount to nullifying all the earlier judgments, decrees, and orders of any court in respect of the Waqf. Any attempt to nullify the Supreme Court judgment by legislative process is illegal and unconstitutional. Various sects and sub-sects have also been created as per the proposed Bill. The intention to legislate such a classification of the Waqf Board based on sub-sects shows that the Government has evil intentions. The creation of various Waqf Boards on the basis of sub-sects itself creates a de-unification between the sects and sub-sects of the Muslims. The introduction of the definition of Government property seems to be mischievous. It is an attempt to legalize the illegal occupation of the Waqf property by Government organizations. In Rajasthan, 80 per cent of the Waqf properties have been occupied by the Rajasthan Government itself. The precondition of practicing Islam for at least five years before making Waqf is thoroughly unreasonable. As per this clause, a person of another religion cannot make over any property to Waqf. The proposed amendment is thoroughly misconceived, arbitrary and irrational, and violates Article 14 of the Constitution of India. Through this Bill, the Government is trying to take away the basic reason for several judgements of the Supreme Court. The verbal declaration of Waqf has also been taken away. Therefore, it hits the basic structure of the Constitution. The proposed Amendment proceeds with the assumption that Waqf is riddled with the issues of mismanagement. And primary basis of this assumption is the quantum of pending litigations surrounding Waqf. However, it should not be the basis of such an assumption as there are a higher number of civil and criminal cases pending before different courts. The Bill also mandates that every Waqf Board shall file the details of the Waqf and the property

dedicated to the Waqf. The Parliament has no power to legislate law in respect of that. The Waqf Board itself is a statutory body. The proposed amendment creates sub-classes amongst the Muslims which may give birth to disputes. The provision that requires the appointment of two non-Muslim members to the Waqf Board is totally unacceptable. It is a violation of Article 14 of the Constitution of India which provides equal opportunity to everyone. The provision regarding the removal of the Chairperson by a vote of No-Confidence has been deleted. Such deletion is improper and illegal also. This Amendment is also taking away the power of the Waqf Board regarding receiving registration of Waqf and it has been envisaged to empower the Central Government to control everything. Clause 20 of the Bill is amending Section 40 of the original Act. If Section 40 is deleted, then there is no necessity to keep the Waqf Board itself. The proposed Amendment Bill empowers the Central Government to make regulations with respect to everything. Therefore, the power of the State Government is being taken away and it violates the federal structure of this country. The proposed Amendment empowers the Central Government to call for the audit of any Waqf by the C&AG. This is absolutely illegal and improper. Earlier, if there was a delay in going for an appeal, there existed a provision for condonation of delay. One could have gone for a judicial review then. The High Court had the power to condone such delay and to pass an interim order. But, the proposed Amendment has also taken away that right. Actually, the proposed Waqf Bill is a clear attempt on the part of the Government to curtail the rights of Muslims in our country. This is not right.

SHRI A. RAJA: The Government says that the minority rights are going to be protected by way of this Bill whereas their party has no Members of Parliament from the Muslim community. The Waqf Bill is against the minorities' rights and religious freedom. The Waqf Act was originally enacted in the year 1954. After that, whenever the amendment came into existence, on the reasonable basis, on the institutional outcome, the amendments were done. On what basis this Bill is being brought to the House? The 'Statement of Objects and Reasons' of the present Bill says that despite the amendments, it has been observed that the Act still requires further improvement to effectively address issues related to the powers of the Waqf Board, registration, survey of the properties, removal of encroachments, including the definition of the Waqf. Now, I come to these five components. The 'definition of the Waqf' has nothing to do but to artfully confuse people for the non-existence of waqf. 'Removal of the encroachment' is nothing but empowering the Government to

grab the property. 'Survey of the property' is nothing but a mockery because the Government of India has already filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court that more than 90 per cent survey is already over. Enhancement in 'powers of the State Boards' will make it a recreation club. In the name of improvement, the Government attempts to defeat the concept of Waqf and they want to snatch the entire Waqf property in the name of the Act for the Government. Coming to the second point of the survey of the Waqf properties and the removal of the encroachment, that itself is contradictory. The survey of the property is affirmative; encroachment of the waqf property is negative. Now, the Survey Commissioner has been replaced with a District Collector. In any dispute between the Waqf Board and the Government, how can a collector be a judge? This Bill wants to revisit encroachment. Section 54 deals with encroachment. Did the Government change a full stop or a comma or a single letter in Section 54? The Govt. did not change anything. I would like to mention about Tribunals. The Government constituted a Tribunal and very clearly said that the Tribunal's decision is final. Why is it final? Now, I come to the issue of registration in 36(1). Earlier, the waqf property could be declared by virtue of Section 36(1) as waqf property after the due process. Now this will be done under Section (7A). It is a peculiar provision, which will defeat the entire waqf properties. The Collector will hear the matter for registration and during the registration, if any dispute is found, then the final decision will not be taken. It will be decided by the court, which court, up to the Supreme Court. It will take 30 years and till then this property will be deemed as a Government property. What does it mean? As regards the constitution of Boards, all Members have spoken about it. Why is the Government injecting non-Muslims? Section 40 is very important. Why is the Government removing this provision? It was not at all deliberated in the JPC. Section 108(a) speaks about overriding power; the safeguard. Whatever be the special legislation made either by an Assembly or by Parliament, such an overriding power must be there to protect the interests of a particular community. The Government is removing that.

SHRI KRISHNA PRASAD TENNETI: The Muslim community in our country needs to be provided with support for their upliftment. This minority community faces economic, educational, and social hardships. As per NSSO, nearly 31 per cent of urban Muslims live below the poverty line. Their average monthly per capita expenditure is among the lowest across all major religious groups. There is a need to take care of their welfare and uplift the lives of the minorities. In light of

these challenges, the presence of the vast waqf properties valued at over Rs. 1.2 lakh crore and covering approximately 36.18 lakh acres present an opportunity for economic and social transformation. However, these properties have largely been underutilized due to administrative inefficiencies and mismanagement and several times with malafide intentions. Our Party firmly believes that these resources must be used for the welfare of the Muslim community, particularly the women, the youth and the downtrodden. In support of this vision, my Party advocated for the establishment of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The functioning of the Joint Parliamentary Committee has been both extensive and transparent. The Committee engaged with 284 stakeholders, 25 State Waqf Boards, 15 State Governments and various ministries. A total of 97.27 lakh representations were received, considered and discussed. Our party, the Telugu Desam Party, suggested three important amendments to ensure the welfare of Muslims. Our Party also played a pivotal role in strengthening the State authority regarding disputes over wrongful claims by the Waqf Boards. The TDP also proposed an amendment to extend the timeline for uploading Waqf property documents on the Central Portal. Originally, the Bill required registration within six months, but recognizing practical challenges, we pushed for an extension. This ensures that all Waqf properties have sufficient time for proper registration. We see Muslims as an integral community that deserves protection and upliftment. Ensuring the welfare of minorities has always been the top priority for us. Given that our party established the Minorities Finance Corporation in 1985 to provide financial assistance and business opportunities for Muslims. In 2001, a Hajj House was established in Hyderabad. We introduced Ramzan Tohfa Scheme, "Dulhan Scheme", Foreign Education Scheme etc. for Muslims in our State. I urge the Government to consider providing flexibility to the State Governments in deciding the composition of their Waqf Boards. Providing States the power to determine the composition of the Waqf Boards will ensure the welfare of the Muslim community. I hope the interests of Muslim women, youth and downtrodden Muslims will be taken into consideration while framing the rules under the Act.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: This Bill is not anti-Muslim in any way. Waqf is a kind of trust, regulatory and administrative body, which works for the rights of Muslims. Today, some people in the country are against this Waqf Amendment Bill. We are not interfering with the functioning of the Waqf. Rather, this amendment will work for the rights of Muslims, better

management and prevent misuse of funds. A mechanism to monitor the functioning of the Board is being evolved. I would like to know whether the backwards among the Muslim community have been given credit. For us, secularism means working for every section of the society without courting any controversy. The work that the Bihar Government has done in the last 20 years for the benefit of the Muslims had not been done anywhere right since independence. It created Taleemi Markaz for Muslims and introduced the Hunar scheme. Through the Waqf Amendment Bill, work is being done to deliver justice to the backward, poor and the lowest category of Muslims. Women of the Muslim community are being linked with Waqf, this is a commendable step. We are moving forward to promote secularism across the country and to this end in mind, we are working with every section of society and every State of the country to develop it. The Custodian of the Revenue Record is the District Magistrate. Common Muslim people will visit the office of the District Magistrate and they will get justice there. Repeal of Section 40, is a commendable step. As per the extant provisions, the Tribunal would take years and years together to conduct the trial of the complaints and must not that in case of the decision being made in favour of the Waqf one was left with the only option to approach the same Tribunal for revision. This government has endeavoured to bring transparency by doing away with this practice. That is why the Government has introduced this Amendment Bill to ensure that the entire Waqf activities and the entire Wakf properties are utilized in the interest of the common and the poor Muslim men and Muslim women.

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT: There was never a clause-by-clause consideration on this Bill in the JPC till the last moment. We saw in the JPC that non-stakeholders were also called in to be part of deliberations. We have realised that there is a complete mismatch between the words and deeds of the Government. Muslims have also sacrificed their lives for the sake of freedom of the country. But there has to be a matter of justice. The Board is constituted through election, but now the Government is going to constitute it through nomination. Reservation for women was provided in the year 1995. The government is not doing anything new. On the one hand, there is talk of a common civil code, while on the other hand, two non-Muslims are being given a place in the Waqf Board. I am afraid, over a period of time, it may happen to other religions also. There is a provision of a Collector who himself is a Government official. Henceforth, nobody will waqf it orally. It must

have ownership and possession of the property for registration. But the purpose for which you have brought this Bill is not fair and clear.

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UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

** Supplement covering the rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debate of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 / Chaitra 12, 1947 (Saka)

THE WAQF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025
(As reported by the Joint Committee)
AND
THE MUSSALMAN WAKF (REPEAL) BILL, 2024

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***SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:** The Government is saying that Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024 has been brought to empower Muslims, but, some doubtful and serious issues are there. It seems that the Government is trying to seize the Wakf properties. I have got a few suggestions. While considering and respecting the feelings of minority people, appropriate representation must be ensured in the Governing Board. Minorities such as Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Parsis, Jains, and Buddhists are the strong foundation in nation-building. Earlier, Wakf Committee Chairmen used to be elected through the democratic process, but, now the Govt. will appoint them. Earlier all the economic transactions by Waqf used to be scrutinized through State Audit Inspection. But, now this will be done by the CAG. These are direct interventions by the Government. I request the Government to consider the feelings of the Muslim community and the principles enshrined in our constitution.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: This Bill brings hope for all those poor people of the Muslim community, whose rights have been snatched under the guise of Waqf and Waqf has been turned into a means of corruption and loot. An amendment, termed as 'Waqf by User' was introduced. All the properties which

* Speeches made by other hon. Members have already been included in the Synopsis (Main).

**Original in Marathi.

remain undisputed before and after the introduction of this Bill will remain under Waqf. Justice is being ensured for the people of the Muslim community by bringing this historic Bill to this House. This is not an act of appeasement, but a big step towards upliftment. This Bill is not for gaining votes but for the progress of the country. This Bill does not constitute betrayal to anyone but is a means of ensuring justice for each section of society. The Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 is neither against any community nor does it intend to hurt anyone's religious sentiments. This Bill promises to bring transparency. It has been brought with the resolution to free the Waqf properties from encroachments. This Bill is a tool to empower Muslims by providing them with education and employment, uplifting the living standards of Muslim brothers and sisters struggling with poverty and has not been brought to snatch their rights.

SHRI IMRAN MASOOD: Most of the people who drafted this Waqf Bill had no idea about Waqf. The entire management of the Waqf Board is in the hands of the government. The biggest thing that has been mentioned in this is that we have eliminated the Waqf by-user clause. In Uttar Pradesh, out of 14,500 hectares of Waqf land, 11,500 hectares have been declared government-owned. Now, whenever some dispute arises, in the event of that dispute, the designated officer will examine this and he will decide who is the owner of that property, but the time limit has not been fixed. You say that the Wakf Council will have 22 members. Out of 22 members, 10 will be Muslims, it is true. This will also have two women members and 12 non-Muslim members. Will you allow the people of another religion to administer a religious trust, it should not be allowed. The ex-officio chairman of the Vishwanath Trust in Uttar Pradesh is the District Magistrate, but if the District Magistrate is a Muslim, then an officer below or above him will be the ex-officio chairman of the Trust. Now you have opened the floodgate of lawsuits against the Waqf properties. Now, the occupants can claim adverse possession and seek to acquire ownership. You have provided bail options to the criminal occupants who have been bailed out. You have an eye on the lands of all the communities and the money generated by the trusts. The property recorded on the Wamsi portal is the graveyard and inside the graveyard, there is the *wazu gah*. On the portal, there is a separate record for the *Wazu Gah* property, a separate record for the mosque property and a separate property record for the graveyard. Means, a single property has been recorded as three or four separate properties. You could not register all the properties on the Wamsi portal in 10 years and now you are saying that all the properties should be

registered within 6 months. This is a direct violation of Article 14, Article 16, Article 26 and Article 25 altogether. You repeatedly talk about practicing Muslims. How will you decide that we are practicing Muslims? Who will explain the definition of a practicing Muslim? Not all Muslims pray five times a day, not all Muslims observe fast. You have encroached upon the fundamental rights conferred under Article 14 of the Constitution.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Unified Waqf Management Empowerment, Efficiency and Development (UMEED) is not just a Bill, it is a hope. This hope has empowerment, efficiency and development. I thank many organizations like Muslim Rashtriya Manch, churches and other Muslim congregations for supporting it. Waqf has become a den of oppression and corruption, and the time has come to end and change it. Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 is a message that only one law will prevail in the country - the Constitution of India. Through this Bill, we will bring transparency and also fix accountability. This will be the final nail in the coffin of the appeasement politics of the Congress party. Congress and its allies have traded the Constitution for a vote bank, but this Bill is an attack on the root of injustice and after this attack, everyone will get justice. This Bill is not against any religion. This Bill is against corruption, fraud and religious feudalism. This Bill is not about Hindus versus Muslims; this Bill is about law versus lawlessness; Constitution versus corruption; and Bharat versus internal partition. 53 historical monuments in Karnataka have been declared Waqf property. Rahul Ji talks about farmers' welfare, but his government in Karnataka has taken away 15 thousand acres of land from farmers. They are anti-farmer. They are anti-women. Our government wants to make Waqf transparent and accountable. This Bill will bring a major change in the lives of Muslims. The work of providing better education, better facilities, better houses, better healthcare and a better future has been done by this government. This Amendment to the WAQF Board Bill will show a new hope through UMEED.

SHRI ARUN BHARTI: The basic objective of the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 is to establish transparency, accountability and an equitable system for the management of Waqf properties. There are three conditions necessary for Waqf. They are religious and pious purpose, permanent dedication and legitimate ownership. The Sachar Committee report says that the Muslim community is facing challenges at the social and economic levels. This Bill is an attempt to integrate the

Muslim community into the mainstream. This Bill is not against any religion or religious community and I express my support for this Bill.

SHRI MOHIBULLAH: This is due to the foresight and wisdom of our leaders that every religion in the country has been given the freedom to flourish, and run its Organisations, which is provided in Articles 25 and 26 of our Constitution. This right is not only our Constitutional right, but this is one of our Fundamental Rights also. The Waqf Amendment Bill that has been presented before the House today is not only against our fundamental rights, but it is clearly against the Right to Equality also. The very first amendment in this Bill is to change the name of the bureaucrats, but the amendments that are being introduced in reality have nothing to do with the basic principles of the Waqf and the exercise of jurisprudence. The principles of the Waqf should be legally validated, not amended. Then, the other amendment introduced is that the Waqf is now reserved only for Muslims. You are stopping non-Muslims from doing Waqf. The third amendment introduced is the provision to abolish elections for the Board and transform it into a complete Government Organisation.

SHRI P. V. MIDHUN REDDY: In spite of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill being referred to the JPC, the minority community has raised concerns. A lot of organizations and various other Muslim organizations have raised their objections and most of them were not considered. In a country with almost 14.06 per cent Muslims, I think their concerns should be taken very seriously. This Bill is unconstitutional as it violates Articles 14, 25 and 26 read with Article 13 of the Constitution. There have been unnecessary changes like changing the name and inclusion of non-Muslim Members. The Bill weakens the Waqf Board financially. The amendment to Section 72 (1) has the potential to bankrupt the Board. There are various other concerns also. So, we oppose the Bill.

SHRI SUDHAKAR SINGH: I strongly oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the House today. This Bill is an open attack on the basic spirit of our Constitution, democratic principles, ideals of secularism and the pluralistic culture of India. The Waqf Board is a constitutional and statutory body under Article 12 of the Indian Constitution. The Waqf Council is under the jurisdiction of States and its members are appointed by States. This committee is being weakened with the appointment of a Collector in this committee. This constitutes a case of conflict of interest also and it is also a big conspiracy by the Government of India to usurp land.

The Bharatiya Janata Party does not have a single Muslim representative Member of Parliament. The trusts of the Buddhist temples at Bodh Gaya do not have practising Buddhist members in them. They have a majority of people from other religions. They want to apply the same here. A time will come when attempts will be made to take over the land and wealth of temples as well. The state will get more discretionary powers over Muslim religious properties. This Bill is completely against the Constitutional values. Our country follows the path of secularism. But, it is being observed in recent years, that majoritarian politics and forces which divide the public are trying to disturb this balance. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is not only an attempt to hurt the religious and cultural heritage of the minorities but also to challenge the fundamental principles of the Constitution. I would like to know as to why reservation to women and backward classes was not provided when the trust for the construction of Ram Mandir was being constituted.

***SHRI K. RADHAKRISHNAN:** While moving this Bill, the honourable Minister for Minority Affairs said that it is for the poor, children and women of the minority community. However, the government knows very well that this Bill is not for them. Instead of solving the problems faced by the majority of the population, the government is trying to divide the people. If they genuinely want to protect the interests of the poor and children among Muslims, they should take steps to reinstate the scholarships for minorities. But in reality, we see that every year, scholarships for minorities are decreasing. This Bill is an attack on the autonomy of religious institutions. The purpose of the Bill is to control the Waqf properties, and to weaken the rights of Muslims, and to intrude into their religious faith. Muslims should have the right to perform their religious affairs, and that right should not be denied. The appointment of non-Muslims to the Waqf board is a direct attack on the religious autonomy of the Muslim community. We should provide opportunities to each religion to protect their religious interests.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: The Bill provisions to include non-Muslims in the Central Waqf Board and State Waqf Board. But the Waqf Board is based on religion like the Devaswom Board in Kerala where the member has to be selected by elected Hindu MLAs. There are many churches in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and in Manipur, which have been attacked. The Government's target is to establish Sangh Parivar's agenda to destroy minorities and to attack the freedom of religion

*Original in Malayalam.

in this country. The Bill specifies that only a person practising Islam for at least five years may declare waqf but who will identify such a person? Targeting religious freedom is going to have consequences. The Government is not bothered about these consequences. This country wants peace, harmony and togetherness. This Bill is going to shatter that.

HOME MINISTER; AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH): I rise to support this Bill. Efforts are being made to spread many misconceptions through this House in the entire country. Waqf is an Arabic word. It means donation of property in the name of Allah, donation of property for sacred religious purposes. The contemporary meaning of waqf as we understand it today came into existence during the time of the second Caliph of Islam Umar. Waqf is a type of charitable endowment where a person donates property, land or valuable assets for religious or social good without the intention of taking it back. Waqf first came into existence in Delhi in the early Sultanate regime when Mohammad Ghori held the seat of Governance. Before independence, all these processes were carried out under the Charitable Act. In 1995, the Wakf Justice Tribunal and Wakf Boards were established. I want to clarify that no non-Muslim will be a member of Wakf. We have not made any provision to have any non-Muslim person in the religious institutions. Non-Muslim members will be kept in the Wakf Council and Wakf Board. Their job is not to be involved in religious activities. They will be the administrators of Wakf. They Will only look after administration and management. Endowment to Waqf, only a Muslim who is a follower of Islam can do it. We have taken this from the principles of Islam. I want to tell the Muslim brothers and sisters across the country that Non-Muslims will not be allowed to be the part of it. There is no such provision in this Act. However, the work of the Wakf Board and Wakf Council is to monitor the Wakf properties and to stop their misuse. If the 2013 amendment to Waqf had not been done, then there would have been no need to bring this bill. Everything was going well. Elections were to be held in the year 2014. In 2013 when the elections were on the verge, the Waqf law was made extreme overnight for appeasement. Through that action, the Congress government handed over 123 VVIP properties of Delhi Lutyens to Waqf. Delhi Waqf Board declared the land of Northern Railway as Waqf. In Himachal, an illegal mosque was built by declaring the concerned place as Waqf property. Waqf acquired 12 villages with an area of 250 hectares, and then 400 acres of land of the 1500-year-old Tiruchendurai temple of Tamil Nadu was declared Waqf property. I am reading the report of the

Manipatti Committee of Karnataka. According to this, 29000 acres of Wakf land was leased for business use. Between 2001 and 2012, Waqf properties worth Rs 2 lakh crores were transferred to private institutions on a 100-year lease. Claimed 1500 acres of land in Honvad village of Vijayapur, Karnataka and brought it into controversy. The land worth Rs 500 crores was given on rent to a five-star hotel for Rs. 12,000 per month. This money belongs to the poor Muslims of the country and is not for misuse by the rich people. Claimed Dattapeeth temple in Karnataka, claimed 600 acres of land in Taliparamba based on a 75 -75-year-old claim and also occupied a lot of land belonging to the Christian community. The Waqf Board forcibly took over the land in Telangana, Bihar, Haryana, Prayagraj and Maharashtra. The Government does not want to interfere in the trust formed by the religious activities and donations of the Muslim brothers. The Mutawalli will be theirs; the Waqif will be theirs and the Waqf will also be theirs. If some king donated this property hundreds of years ago, would you give it to a five-star hotel for Rs. 12,000? Do welfare of poor Muslims, divorced women, orphan children and unemployed. Does skill development work for Muslim youth? This is a land worth lakhs of crores of rupees and the income is Rs 126 crore. All the prime land has been sold by the people working in the Waqf Board. In Patna itself, all the properties of the Dak Bungalow have been converted into apartments. Today, audits are conducted but there is no system to submit online reports. Audits will be conducted and reports will have to be submitted. Balance sheets will have to be submitted. This will bring transparency. Another rumour is being spread that this is coming with a retrospective effect. I want to make it clear that after passing, the Government of India will issue a notification, it will be implemented after that day, there is no retrospective effect. The collector will investigate whether the land that the Waqf is using is its own or not, there should be no objection to it. The second reform in this is that in Section 36, Waqf properties cannot be registered without any clear procedure, through the owner's process. There is no provision for appeal in the present Act, there is no provision for appeal against the decision of the tribunal. We have made provision for appeal and refused to apply the Wakf Act to properties donated by non-Muslims. The amendment bill that was introduced in 2013, due to which this bill had to be introduced. There was a discussion for five and a half hours in both Houses. This bill is being discussed for 16 hours by both Houses together. Apart from this, a demand for JPC was made. 38 meetings of the committee were held, 113 hours of discussion took place, 284 stakeholders, Wakf Boards of 25 states were present, representatives of 15 state governments came, eight MPs were present,

seven MLAs-Legislative Council were present, three study tours were conducted and five minority commissions were called. Out of these, 92.68 lakh, almost one crore suggestions came online from across the country. This law has been made after analyzing them. Whose land was usurped. Where will it go? You did this for the vote bank, we are rejecting it. In the case of Syed Fazal Fukkoya Thangal vs Union of India, the Kerala High Court said that the Waqf Board is a statutory body. It is not a representative body of the Muslim community. Its functioning is administrative. From the year 1913 to the year 2013, the total acreage of the land of the Waqf Board, including all Waqfs was 18 lakh acres and from the year 2013 to the year 2025, the result of making this law was that another 21 lakh acres of land has increased. Leased properties were 20,000 and as per records in the year 2025, It has become void. This bill will secure the land of Schedule-5 and Schedule-6 of the tribal brothers. Private property, which belongs to common citizens, will also be secured. Ownership is necessary to make it a Waqf. One can only donate his own property. The rights of the Waqf Board to declare the property as Waqf have been abolished. Now it will have to be certified by the Collector. The new Waqf will also have to be registered in a transparent manner. There will be an office for land records. Its advertisement will be given in newspapers and in regional languages. We have made a lot of provisions in it. We have included women, Shia, backwards, Bohra, and Ahmadiya in it. This has become a fashion. That rivers of blood will flow in the country, Muslims will come on the road, this will happen to Muslims, that will happen to Muslims. When the bill related to triple talaq came, CAA came, and then it was said that Muslims would lose their citizenship. Not even a single Muslim has lost his citizenship. Article 370 was removed, they were saying that this will happen to Muslims, that will happen. Congress party and its allies have worked to create their vote bank by scaring Muslim brothers. They are neither concerned about the backwards nor about Muslims. They have been working on the basis of casteism and appeasement for years. Since 2014, the Government has established the politics of development in this country by ending casteism, appeasement and nepotism together.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: This Government is planning to do further injustice to the Muslims. That is a classic example as far as this legislation is concerned. We have seen the JPC and after that Bill of 2024. Previously, we have seen other JPCs. In 2013, a report had come. What exactly was that? There was a threadbare deliberation. There were very effective kind of discussions. Finally, in

2013, some amendments were unanimously passed. This Bill removes the power of the Waqf Board to inquire and determine whether the property is that of auqaf or not. All the powers, be it related to Waqf Board, be it related to survey and be it related to tribunal, have now been transferred to the Government offices. It means that they are undermining all these statutory bodies. In the parent Act, Section 104 allowed persons from any community to donate for the waqf. That was a beautiful culture. That was a signal of communal harmony in this country. This amendment falls under religiously biased legislation. This Government is having ulterior motives in bringing this legislation. That is why, we are opposing this Bill.

DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 does not interfere with religious freedom, rather religious freedom is being expanded through this by including Muslim women in Waqf properties. This Bill will prove to be helpful in ensuring the use of Waqf properties for welfare purposes. The Waqf Board currently has 8.7 lakh properties across India, which are spread over about 9.4 lakh acres of land. According to an estimate, their total value is around Rs 1.2 lakh crore. Therefore, efficient management of this huge amount in a just manner becomes necessary, which has been arranged through this Bill. It has been made mandatory to have two Muslim women members among the Muslim members of the Central Waqf Council. This provision shows the priority of our Government towards our Muslim sisters. Also, if the property donated in this way comes under the ownership of the Government, then the District Magistrate of the district will be able to use it for the welfare of widowed women or orphans. During the last few decades, there have been many complaints of misuse and unauthorized occupation of Waqf properties, and rampant corruption has been seen there. If we look, those Waqfs which are under government control are working very smoothly. On the contrary, those Waqfs where people from the same community hold posts like Chairperson, *Mutawalli* and other posts, have become the places of rampant corruption. A lot of valuable Waqf lands are given on very low rent and leases by the chairman and *Mutawalli* by taking bribes. *Mutawalli* and the Chairperson have converted graveyards into big buildings and have earned a lot of wealth. Their corruption should be investigated and action should be taken against them. Thus, it is clear that the objective of the Government through this Bill is not to take over the properties of Waqf but to ensure better and more efficient administration of the same in a just manner.

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 is a planned, systematic attack. This is the Waqf Religious Act under Islamic Law, which is protected by the Constitution, especially Articles 25 and 26. The failure of the JPC to have a proper discussion clause by clause and its refusal to provide necessary documents raises serious concerns. I want to request you to scrap this Bill. This government has been targeting Muslims ever since it came to power. Funds have not been received for AMU, Kishanganj till date. This Bill will keep society in a state of polarization. The weakening of Waqf bodies, Waqf Councils, Waqf Boards, Waqf Tribunals and the Limitation Act will lead to legal disputes anywhere and anytime. This Bill is an attack on the Constitution. Right to Equality, Article 14; Right to Freedom of Religion, Article 25; And the right to establish and manage religious institutions is violative of Article 26. In Section 100, there will be no lawsuits or legal proceedings against the board or the CEO. That means, if you mess up, nobody can remove you. You have legal protection. You can understand what will happen. Clause 26, Section 52A had punishment for encroachments. The punishment was non-bailable with rigorous imprisonment. Now, in this Bill provision has been made for simple imprisonment for the period of two years. You know that if the punishment is for less than two years or three years, then the person is bailable, the person leaves at that time only without any imprisonment. Clause 40, Section 104 prohibits donations from non-Muslims.

SUSHRI IQRA CHOUDHARY: There are lakhs of poor people and women in the country who are earning their employment from Waqf property. With the removal of Waqf by User clause, lakhs of Waqf properties will lose their status and similarly lakhs of people will be on the streets. What is Waqf, what is Waqf by User, it means that if a property is being used for religious and welfare works for years, then it will automatically be considered as Waqf. The amendment made by the Government, which has been accepted, has no meaning. The Government has done another icing on the cake by removing section 107 of the Waqf Act. The Limitation Act has a provision to go to court against someone only for 12 years. In section 107, the Board was relieved from the Limitation Act. Hence, this bill is not for the welfare of Muslims but is a bill to destroy their existence and heritage. Under Article 26 Clause 2, religious sects are given the right to administer their religious institutions, but the opposite is being done in the case of the Waqf Board. The Government considers it a secular body and is talking about including non-Muslims in it. This is the same Government that wrote in the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust that if there is a

District Magistrate, he should be a Hindu. Just tell me, why was secularism not adhered to there? The Government says that it will provide representation to Muslim women on the board, even before this law, Muslim women have been members of the board. There was a provision of at least two members, there could have been more than that. What new measure has the Government taken for women, which every member of the Government is talking about? They do not want to give us anything. A narrative is being spread in the media by creating tokenism in the names of Muslims. This bill is not for the welfare of Muslims, but to destroy their identity.

***SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:** This Bill is an attack not only on the Muslim community but also on the Constitution of India. It is an attack on minority institutes. There is a provision in this Bill that only that person can donate a piece of land to Waqf who has been practising Islam for the last 5 years. Article 14 is being violated here. This Bill aims to encroach upon and control the properties of Waqf. Malerkotla town under my Parliamentary Constituency Sangrur is an example of peaceful co-existence and brotherhood among Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Christians. I promised to the people of Malerkotla that I will oppose this Bill tooth and nail. The country can only progress if people belonging to all religions of the country live together amicably.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK: Whether it is government land, private land or anyone's land, all belongs to our country. China is encroaching on the lands of our country near the border, a lot of buildings are being built there by them, but the Government will not discuss about it. They want to put pressure on the minorities in our country. Today they are trying to put pressure on a minority community, the next day they will put pressure on another community and one day they will do the same with the rest of the people. Their agenda has never been 'Nation First', instead it has been 'Friend First' always. Whether it is the railway or the land of the army, and the changes that are being made in the Waqf Board law today, it is also being done to benefit someone closer to them. Manipur has been disturbed for months and months but they did not go to save children and women there. We have seen the situation there and how the people have been suffering there. The Constitution, women's upliftment, children's safety, and orphans' safety have never been the agenda of the Government. Our Constitution gives us the right to follow any religion in this country. The land is the state's subject. Suggestions should have been taken

*Original in Punjabi.

from the states and they should have been incorporated in it. The report of the JPC committee was also not incorporated here. They do not want to discuss about unemployment, employment and inflation, but they give more importance to the issue of land.

SHRIMATI KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT: I thank our reputed Prime Minister and the Minister of Minority Affairs for bringing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. Sadaqah Jariyah has been described as very important in Islam. Sadaqah Jariyah refers to an act of charity in which a property received in such charity is supposed to be used for the social and economic welfare of all sections of the Muslim community. At present, the Waqf Board of India has the largest assets in the world. All Waqf property should be used for the economic and social upliftment of the Muslim community of India. The Sachar Committee report also points towards this fact. The opposition colleagues are spreading misinformation about the Waqf Bill. People who differentiated on the basis of Islam left our country in the year 1947. Today, the citizens of India, whether Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian, consider this country as their own and exhibit faith and sentiments towards the nation. The crux of the matter is that the Waqf property is not being managed properly. Compared to the year 2006, the number of Waqf properties has almost doubled in the year 2024 but the income from them has increased almost negligible. I thank the Hon. Minister from the bottom of my heart for removing section 40. I have been a victim of this section. Delhi Waqf Board has 1047 properties. If you look at their rent, it ranges from one rupee to 11 rupees. In view of all these facts, I welcome this unprecedented decision of the Government. The opposition never thought about the welfare of Muslim women, especially about matters like Triple Talaq etc.

***SHRI SUBBARAYAN K.:** I oppose this Amendment Bill for two reasons. On one hand, this Bill is categorically rejecting the Constitutional provisions. On the other hand, since the conception of this Bill till the recent intervention made by the Minister of Home Affairs in this House, the approach has been undemocratic and dictatorial. The ruling dispensation is not concerned with Muslims, Christians and Communists. The government is creating divisions among minorities. This includes their actions of making divisions among minorities in the name of Christians, Sikhs, Jains etc. Lakhs of acres of land are attached to Hindu temples. Poor people have been ploughing these lands for decades. I urge that this Union Cabinet should bring

*Original in Tamil.

legislation for providing land to these landless labourers so that they have their own homes to live in.

SHRI TANGELLA UDAY SRINIVAS: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, a reform aimed at ensuring efficient management of waqf properties across India. India's Waqf Board collectively managed land spanning over 36.18 lakh acres. These assets valued at over lakhs, and over crores, hold immense potential for public welfare, yet they are plagued by corruption, mismanagement and encroachments. One of the key amendments in this Bill addresses the Waqf Tribunal structure. The Bill initially proposed restructuring the Tribunals to consist of a District Judge as the Chairman and an officer of Joint Secretary rank in the State Government. However, after extensive review, the JPC has suggested that an officer above the rank of Collector be designated by the State Government to conduct inquiries into disputes over waqf property claims. One of the key challenges in Waqf property management has been the lack of transparency and accessibility in land records. In many cases, outdated or missing records have led to the manipulation of land ownership details, leading to widespread encroachments and legal ambiguities. The digitization of waqf records will also empower community stakeholders to monitor the status of waqf assets and hold authorities accountable. This Bill will not hamper the rights of our Muslim brothers and sisters. Rather, it will strengthen their legal safeguards and ensure that waqf properties will truly serve the purpose for which they were established. With the passage of this Bill, we will lay the foundation for a more accountable, efficient, and transparent waqf administration.

SHRI MIAN ALTAF AHMAD: This Bill is unconstitutional and illegal. The most important thing about the Indian Constitution is that everyone has equal rights in this country, no matter what religion, caste or place they belong. This law was to be brought by the State Governments. The Government attacked the powers of the state Governments and snatched them away and brought this law here collectively. This bill has been brought for a particular section. Each person in India understands this. Our country India is famous for secularism all over the world. By bringing this bill and making such laws, the whole world is putting a question mark on the character of secularism in our country. This country will be respected in the entire world only when every person in it, every flower in this bouquet is content and respected. If there were some lacunae in the management of Waqf, then they could have been changed. But there is no purpose in changing the entire law in this manner.

Similarly, it has been said here repeatedly that we are providing concessions to backward Muslims. I ask where is it written that this is being provided to backward Muslims, this is being provided to poor Muslims. You should let the Muslims remain united. Do not try to break their unity. You are not going to get any benefit from this.

SUSHRI S. JOTHIMANI: I rise to oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. It is a direct assault on the principles of justice, fairness, and religious autonomy enshrined in the Constitution. The proposed amendments directly violate the Articles 14, 25 and 26 of the Constitution. One issue, which deeply concerns me, is about allowing non-Muslim members into the Waqf Board and Council. The Government do not want this country to move forward. They do not want to talk about education, employment, economic growth, social justice, and harmony. Instead, they focus on Hindu-Muslim and are stuck in the past. The Government is not ready to acknowledge the present and is not ready to acknowledge the Indian Independence movement. Muslim brothers and sisters have fought shoulder-to-shoulder with other Indians. Indian Muslims had a choice and when India-Pakistan was being divided, they chose this country as their land. This should be respected because it is their country also. I have one more issue. Section 3 (ix)(a) of this Bill introduced an arbitrary restriction by saying that non-Muslims cannot donate to waqfs. Further, the Government is saying about 'five-year practising Muslim'. How is it possible to find out if somebody is practising Muslim or not? This is what the Government is trying to impose which is not acceptable to us.

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA: This historic Bill aims to undo the Constitutional fraud that was imposed on this country by the Congress Party over the last seven decades. Through the Waqf (Amendment) Bill from 1954, 1995 to 2013 Amendment, the Congress Party created a parallel Government system. The draconian provision of Section 40 was introduced in the 2013 Amendment. This Section 40 gave the Waqf Board the powers to declare any land it 'believed' and that is the word. No documentation was required. No evidence was required. After such declaration under section 40, sections 6 and 5 mandated the revenue authorities to compulsorily change revenue records and mutation register without even allowing being heard for the affected parties. This was the Frankenstein monster that was created by the Waqf Act of 2013, where the Waqf Board was judiciary, legislature, and executive, all rolled into one. I come from Karnataka and the Waqf Board has

filed a claim over the most important monastery of the Lingayat Veerashaiva tradition, Anubhav Mandap Basavanna. In Vijayapura district, 15,000 acres of land have been taken over by the Waqf Board. You tell me why a body like the Waqf Board is not there for Christians, or Buddhists or Jains in this country? In 2013, they expanded the jurisdiction of the Waqf Tribunal to include non-Muslims. If you can include non-Muslims under the jurisdiction of the Waqf Tribunal, why cannot non-Muslims have representation in the Waqf Council and Waqf Board?

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN:** I strongly oppose this Waqf Amendment Bill as this Bill is not only against Muslims but also against the country, and the Constitution of India. This Bill is like a conspiracy to acquire all the properties of Muslims. In the Management Committee created for the purpose, out of 11 members, 7 non-Muslims are included in the Board. At the National level Central Council, out of 22 persons, 12 are from non-Muslim communities. By bringing this Bill, you are expressing your politics of hatred against Muslims. You have aimed to create separate Waqf Boards for Aghakhani Muslims, Shia Muslims and Bohra Muslims to create a rift among Muslims. You have already been dividing Hindus in the name of castes. You have divided the Scheduled castes people into separate groups. The Ruling party is disappointing Muslims; suppressing Christians, and threatening the Jains and Sikhs of the country. This Bill is against the Unity of India. This is against religious harmony.

SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH: Today is 2nd April, a historic day as the tariff imposed by the United States of America is going to come into effect from today. It is historic in the sense that we are not discussing this issue, rather we are discussing the Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Minister. We are not discussing the agenda relevant for today, instead we have taken up another agenda to divert the relevant issue. You have brought forward this agenda to promote the politics of polarization in the country. Your intention is to further push the Muslim Community into a corner. We are against this Bill. We want to say that we should not implement two types of laws in the country. Buddhists of Mahabodhi have been fighting for a long time for the complete management by Buddhists in the Mahabodhi Temple, but you have a different policy there and here it is a different one. I oppose this bill.

SHRI M MALLESH BABU: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025, is a

*Original in Tamil.

significant legislative reform that aims to bring greater transparency, accountability and fairness in the administration of waqf properties across our great nation. The Bill proposes a comprehensive digitization of waqf properties. By redefining the jurisdiction and powers of the Waqf Boards, the Bill ensures that disputes and claims are resolved in a fair and timely manner. It introduces stringent measures to prevent arbitrary land acquisitions and fraudulent transactions. The Bill mandates that the composition of the Waqf Board must include two Muslim women. This inclusion is much more appreciated as it brings in more representation of the view of Muslim women and their needs and issues. The Bill takes representation and inclusivity further by mandating also that the Waqf Board ought to have at least one member each from Shias, Sunnis and backward classes of the Muslim community. This amendment does not encroach upon any religious practice or fundamental rights. Instead, it aims to protect the sacred purpose of waqf properties. The provision for judicial oversight ensures that no undue interference takes place in matters of faith and religious endowments.

SHRI AFZAL ANSARI: Hon. Minister said that through this Bill, the Government wants to protect the Waqf properties. He said that the Waqf properties where mosques, Eidgahs and graveyards are located will not be affected, but the vacant lands will be declared dispute-free and those properties will be sold to benefit poor women and backward Muslims.

SHRI AMRINDER SINGH RAJA WARRING: Hon'ble Home Minister said that if the 2013 bill had not been passed and the UPA Government had not brought this bill, there would have been no need for this bill today. Why did you introduce the bill, because you have come to know that the Muslims of the country are not supporting you? The Limitation Act does not apply to any religious place. Why is it being applied in this case? You have imposed another condition on 'practising Muslims'. They must be practising Muslims. This is a grave injustice. In the future, you may amend the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee 1925, established under the Sikh Gurudwara Act. This is your mindset. I oppose this Bill.

SHRIMATI SMITA UDAY WAGH: I rise in this Hon'ble House to fully support the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024. This Bill will ensure transparency, accountability and fairness in the management of Waqf properties as well as remove injustice. The function of the Waqf Board is regulatory and not religious. Its responsibilities, such as property registration, financial audit, legal compliance and

dispute resolution, are statutory in nature, just like those of Charity Commissioners of public trusts. Despite Waqf properties being worth crores of rupees, these have not been used properly due to corruption and weak policies. Compulsory participation of women in Waqf boards will be ensured. Revenue from Waqf properties will be used for the education and health services of Muslim women. A large part of the revenue received from Waqf properties will be used for the welfare of poor Muslim families and employment generation. Section 40 has been abolished under this, due to which the Waqf Board now cannot arbitrarily declare any private or Government land as Waqf. Under judicial reforms, appeals in the High Court will be allowed in Waqf cases. This historic amendment is an important step towards true empowerment, inclusiveness and justice for common Muslim citizens.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: The party which claims to be sympathetic to Muslim women does not have a single Muslim woman member. BJP's politics is based on Hindu-Muslim polarization. Its entire politics is based on Pakistan-Muslim-Khalistan. Their sympathy is only in words, not in action. Maximum Waqf properties are in Uttar Pradesh, that is 27 per cent. This Bill is meant for the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh. If you have pain for the minorities, then we Sikhs have been demanding amendment in Article 25B for many years. We are Sikhs. We are not Hindus. You are not giving us our identity. Introduce that Bill. We all will support it. You demolished Dongmar Sahib Gurudwara in Sikkim, Gyan Godri Sahib Gurudwara in Haridwar, and Mangu Math in Odisha, you are demolishing Gurudwaras of minorities. A very good temple has been built in your Ayodhya, but if your intentions are clear then you should put two Muslims on its board. It is just your intention to take over the lands of the Muslims, to take over their money and just as you have taken out the elected members from the boards of our Nanded Sahib and Hazur Sahib and placed your nominated members on top of the institutions of the Sikhs. You broke our SGPC in Haryana. You did the same in Patna Sahib. You are adopting the policy of divide and rule with Muslims. Its impact will be international. I oppose interference with minorities. This Government wants to do politics by creating panic among the Hindus.

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT: I support this Bill. This bill has been brought in the interest of the nation and the welfare of the Muslim community. This Bill has been brought in the interest of the common Muslim people who have not been able to get justice so far. In this Bill, provision has been made to benefit the

poor, widows, orphan children and people of extremely backward classes of the Muslim community. The ownership of government property identified as Waqf will be determined by the Collector. The finality of the tribunal's decision has been abolished and the Bill provides for direct appeal to the High Court against the decision of the tribunal, which was not there in the 1995 Act. The Bill makes a provision to include non-Muslim members by changing the composition of the Central Waqf Council and the Waqf Board. The Bill aims to establish mosques, graveyards, educational institutions, and health institutions and provide financial assistance to the poor, disabled, widows and orphans of the Muslim community. There is a provision that an appeal against the orders of the tribunal can be made in the High Court within 90 days. The Bill allows the states to nominate members to the State Government's Waqf Board. The bill promises to bring transparency. This Bill pledges to free Waqf properties from illegal encroachments.

SHRI HIBI EDEN: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 will infringe on the rights of the minorities of this country. The Bill will destroy the secular fabric of our country; the Bill is anti-constitutional; and the Bill is anti-minority. It violates the Article 25. It is a blatant assault on the secular Constitution. This is an anti-minority law. We strongly oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

SHRI GEORGE KURIAN: The hon. Member was talking about attacking the church. On 10th September, 2021, the Bishop's house in Pala was attacked by PFI. Why did the PFI people attack the Bishop's house? We will save the Munambam people. Only Narendra Modi ji can save them.

DR. SAMBIT PATRA: I would like to say that if Muslims are safe the most anywhere in the world then the name of that country is Bharatavarsha i.e. Hindustan. Whether there are any Waqf properties in Islamic countries? It is in Bharatavarsha that we have a Waqf Board here and legal security and protection have been provided to Waqf properties. We want everyone's support. We want the support of the Pasmanda community which is a backward class of Muslims. There should be representation of women. This bill will provide protection to Muslims as well as all other communities of the country.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: I have not come here to oppose any party, nor am I in favour of anyone. You have brought the Bill against the minorities and the Waqf Board but you say that you have brought the Bill to protect them. You say that

you have brought it for women. I would like to say that you do not bring the Women's Reservation Bill because you don't want to give reservations to the most backward castes, backward castes and Dalit women.

SHRI SHYAMKUMAR DAULAT BARVE: I oppose the Bill. BJP is inciting Hindus against Muslims. It is spreading poison in society. Hindus have occupied Buddhist monasteries in Bodh Gaya. Will a Bill be passed on that too? You are misleading the country by just talking about Hindus and Muslims. Muslims are not going to get anything from Waqf. This Bill is nothing but hypocrisy and deception. Muslims are backwards in every sphere of life. Their educational and economic status is pathetic. In the year 1995, there was a survey commissioner in the Waqf Act, who was appointed by the state government, who inquire about and survey the Waqf property. Anyone's property, whether it belongs to the government or to any other person, cannot be given to the Waqf. It was not written anywhere in the law of 1995 that you can not make a woman member. This Government is dividing people in the name of religion.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Prophet Muhammad advocated for Waqf. The first person who made Waqf to Muhammad Sahab was a Jew. If Waqf was started by Jews, if Waqf property was given by kings and Maharajas in India, then why would you not make Hindus members at any cost? Here in India, Gori started Waqf. In 1910, the Congress Party reserved a seat for Muslims in Mumbai. Jinnah was made a Member of Parliament from this seat. He formed the Muslim Waqf Board in 1911. It was formed by a private person. It was formed by Jinnah, who created Pakistan. The Wakf Act of 1954 was a private bill but Congress wanted to pass this bill due to the politics of appeasement of Muslims and it came as a private member bill. Will you convert a private member bill into a government bill and talk about the rights of Muslims for so long? Thirdly, if the President of America takes an oath, he takes it on the Bible, if the Heads of State of all Muslim countries take the oath, they take it on the Quran. What kind of rule have you made that we can take oath on the Constitution, but cannot take it by placing our hands on the Gita? There is no Muslim country in the world that has given such rights to Waqf. When Jawaharlal Nehru took oath as Prime Minister in 1947, the Constitution was not there, he took oath as Prime Minister by placing his hands on the Gita. Do you consider him secular? There is a lot of discussion going on that Waqf is different and religion is different. My place is having one of the 12 Jyotirlingas. The legislature has made a law and being

its secretary, a Member of Parliament, I am its trustee. My predecessor, MP Furqan Ansari, was its trustee. The property of those who went to Pakistan from here became the property of the Indian government under the Evacuee Property. I have brought five orders of the Home Ministry that this is the Evacuee Property Act, which has been taken over by the Waqf and it is illegal. In Bangalore, the Waqf property ITC Windsor runs its business for just Rs 50,000 per month and feeds pigs to people. In Municipal Corporation Andhra Pradesh, the tender was not finalized for twenty years because what was the property of the king, which would have been the property of the Government of India or the Government of Telangana, was taken over by the Wakf, this is the order of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said that at least 1500 acres of land worth Rs 50,000 crore has been forcefully taken over by the Waqf in Hyderabad city. In the end, I would like to say that whether it is enemy property or evacuee property, it is the property of the Government of India. You try to spread hatred in the name of Waqf. The Bharatiya Janata Party will not allow a division between Hindus and Muslims.

***SHRI ABU TAHER KHAN:** I am speaking in this August House on behalf of the All India Trinamool Congress, opposing the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025. Today, in India, the minority community is donating land in the name of Allah. Muslim brothers are donating their own land for good purposes and for the development of the minority community. Mosques and Madrasas are being built for the upliftment of the poor people. Muslim minority communities donate the Waqf property for this noble cause. And when they donate, investigations and checks are carried out by an SGO-ranked officer and then hearings are held and then these are recorded. Yet, it is being repeatedly said here that there is no clarity on how these properties are being registered. I would like to humbly appeal that since this donation is for the development of the Muslim community, people of other communities shouldn't be part of the board. We cannot support the agenda of crushing the hopes of the minority community throughout India. I want to state one thing very clearly that we are totally opposed to this Bill.

#SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I want to oppose this Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025 on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. I want to ask as to why the Government which has brought anti-Muslim Bills time and again worried about the

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problems being faced by Muslims. The Government is talking about giving more importance to women in this Bill. Already women have served Waqf Boards in the past. Even now there are two women serving as Members of the Waqf Board of Tamil Nadu. If you see the Waqf properties, the number of such assets stands at 8,70,000. Out of which 9,40,000 acres of land is in India. Its worth is approximately Rs. 1.25 lakh crore. Twenty-five percent of all these properties are in Uttar Pradesh. Will the Government leave them as it is? What will the Government gain by doing so? Why is the Union Government working against the interests of minorities? The Government is not doing anything with the right and good intentions. The Government is trying to deceive people. It is engaged in vote-bank politics.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: I oppose the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 as it is totally anti-constitutional, anti-federal, and anti-secular. This Bill violates the fundamental right of freedom of religion. It is violating Article 13(2) of the Constitution; so, it will not survive in law. Waqf means it is a dedication on the part of a believer to the God, Allah. Waqf Board is meant to administer the gift deed or the dedication. Its function is religious and that is why I am saying that it is a violation of the fundamental rights of the Constitution, that is freedom of religion under Articles 25 to 28. In the new Amendment Bill, the number of Muslim members has been reduced to a minimum of 10 number of persons out of 22. It means that the Muslim community is losing their majority. I have a simple question for the hon. Home Minister. What about Devaswom and the Devaswom Board? There was the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board, and the Tirupati Devaswom Board was there. Will the Devaswom Board come into the purview of the religious function or will only the Devaswom come within the purview of the religious function? The Waqf Board is administering the entire activities of the mosque also. It means that if the Devaswom and the Devaswom Board are both religious functions, then definitely the Waqf and the Waqf Board are also religious functions and inclusion of non-Muslims into this Waqf Board is an insult to that community. Will the Government allow a non-Hindu to be in the Guruvayoor Devaswom Board, in the Kochin Devaswom Board or in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam Board? The Government is targeting a particular community. So, politically also we are strongly opposing this, Bill. This bill is against the principles of natural justice of being heard. Waqf Board is totally disempowered. Also, the rule-making power is with the Central Government, and the State has no provision. Hence, it is against the federal principles. So, this Bill is not good for the country and that is why we are strongly

opposing the Bill.

SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN: The government is curtailing the authority of the Waqf and the Tribunal through the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025. The powers of the Waqf Board are also being drastically reduced. All this is being done so that the Government can easily have control over the properties of the Waqf Board. Your intention to harm the Muslim community by targeting them is now clear. If we talk about women's respect, there were already two women on the Board. Then how are you empowering more women? This Bill is so dangerous that it is disturbing the fabric of the whole society. On the one hand, you are discontinuing the scholarships for Muslims and on the other, you talk about giving rights to Muslims through the Waqf. New controversies are being given rise by bringing the new Bill. Why do you want to bring everything under the control of the Government by nominating the chairperson and members of the Waqf Board? This Bill should be withdrawn. This Bill can lead to bureaucratic excesses which can reduce the trust in the Muslim community. The protection of culture and religious heritages should never be affected. What is the point of having people from other communities in the Waqf Board? Would you also have people from the Muslim community in other religious institutions?

SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT: I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. The Waqf Bill used to be for those who had no heirs and they could donate their property for the betterment of the community. Such property was meant for the religious and social welfare of the Muslim community. Today, it is being commercialised. Today Muslims are being targeted, tomorrow tribals, Dalits, Christians and poor Hindus will also be targeted for religious property. When there was a BJP government in Jharkhand, they also used the land of the places of worship of tribal Dalits as a land bank, then the tribal community opposed it. In the Waqf Bill, they appointed a non-Muslim community and two women in the Waqf and the Collector is being made the Chairperson. It is good that women should be respected, but I would also like to say that there have been many incidents in the country where even the entry of women into Hindu temples has been banned.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: First of all, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on the Waqf Amendment, 2025. The whole discussion took place here. Certainly, the message is going to the Muslims that this Bill is against

them. In the last few years, various allegations have been made about the properties of the Waqf Board. Is this a solution against those allegations or is there a political agenda? We are against this Bill. Is there a conspiracy to declare Waqf properties as Government property? I want to ask whether all the properties will not be declared as government properties by nominating people in this Bill and giving power to the Collector. How will it be ensured that the rights of the Muslim community are not violated?

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHEIKH: I oppose this Bill tooth and nail. The BJP openly reminds Muslims of their status. But as far as the Congress is concerned, they put daggers in the sweet juice of secularism and stab Muslims behind their backs. Article 370 was hollowed out by the Congress. All the five Congress MLAs have sought votes for the restoration of Article 370. I want to ask what is their stand. My only request to Muslims is that this is a numbers game and you are being killed in between. It's a case of 80 and 20. I'm totally against the Bill. Let the Muslims of the country introspect. Are we not wrong in terms of using Waqf properties? How many hospitals we built from Waqf, how many universities we have built, how much work we have done with Waqf, how many schools and colleges we have built, this is a matter of concern. If we are sympathisers of Muslims, then open big universities, hospitals and colleges in the Waqf properties.

SHRI MOHMAD HANEEFA: The government says that the Waqf has been brought into the entire country to improve the arrangement and monitoring of its properties. But there are such proposals in this, which become the source of deep concern and trouble. Under this Bill, it has been proposed to appoint non-muslims to the Central Waqf Council and the State Waqf Board. The Waqf Board is an important part of the religious freedom of the Muslim community. This Bill appeals against Article 26 of our constitution. If non-Muslim people are included in the Waqf Board, then it will be a direct violation of the religious rights of the Muslim community. In this Bill, the principle of waqf-by-user is being abolished. Earlier, the property which had been used for religious activities for a long time was given the status of Waqf. Today, more than 50 per cent of Waqf properties in the country are under the by-user principle, most of which may be unregistered. Now, with the idea of abolishing it, many such properties may be disputed. Under this Bill, five years of religious obligation has been made mandatory to give one's own property to Waqf, it is against Article 25 of the Constitution. All the authorities of the Waqf Tribunal

are transferred to the DM or some other Senior Government officer. Instead of bringing reform in Waqf, the government wants to abolish it completely. Excellent arrangements and protection are necessary for the Waqf property so that the religious and cultural heritage is protected. Therefore, I rise against this Bill today.

ADV. FRANCIS GEORGE: The Home Minister while speaking on Waqf (Amendment) Bill said that the Kerala Catholic Bishops Conference and the Catholic Bishop Conference of India are supporting this Bill. They said if there are any provisions in this Bill to help the hapless people of Munambam, then it has to be supported. The occupants of Munambam require a permanent solution. The occupants of Munambam purchased the property having valid title deeds. The said properties were not included in the Asset Register of the Waqf Board. The above properties were registered in the year 2019 based on the recommendation of the Inquiry Commission named Nizar Commission. There is ambiguity in Section 51, Section 51(1)A and Section 52 of the Waqf Act as to whether the transfer becomes *void ab initio*. By making such clarification in the above Section, the entire issue can be sorted out without affecting any fundamental rights of the Muslim community. I request the Minister to make necessary amendments in the said provision without affecting any rights of our brothers and sisters. The amendment carried out through this Waqf Bill 2025 is very much in conflict with the fundamental right prescribed in Part III of the Constitution and there is every probability of declaring the same as Unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. The definition of a Government organisation under Section 3 (f) (a) is so wide that even an autonomous body under the Central or State Government can raise a claim against a worker's property. The term 'practising Muslim' carries far-reaching implications. There is no provision for the registration of existing waqf by users who are not yet registered. Section 3 (c) grants unbridled power to the District Collectors or designated officers to conduct inquiries. No provision is provided against the report of the designated officer.

ADVOCATE CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is a serious threat to constitutional values and communal harmony. The Bill claims to make Waqf Management efficient and effective but its 44 amendments fail to deliver on these promises. We believe that this amendment will violate fundamental rights. Decisions without religious expertise or community consultation will lead to property disputes and a lack of trust. The Government aims to deprive Muslims of their Waqf properties and restrict the rights to establish Waqf. You are

requested to reject this Bill in its present form and ensure inclusive consultation, legal clarity, and protection of constitutional and religious rights. I strongly oppose this Bill.

SHRI ABHIJIT GANGOPADHYAY: When the Bill was introduced, a very obnoxious campaign was going on all over India where it was stated that the Muslims' property would be taken away. There is no such thing in the Bill. The definition of waqf shows permanent dedication. So, how can a property which is being used by some community be a waqf property? I will request all the respected persons and all the erudite scholars on the Waqf Act to go through Sections 109 and 110 of the 1995 Act. Kindly show me where it is written that the amount to be collected from waqf would be spent for the Muslim widows, Muslim children and orphans. But it is categorically written by the Government that the amount will be used for the widows, for the poor and for the orphans.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: I stand to oppose this Waqf Amendment Bill. My madrasas, mosques, khanqahs and dargahs are being targeted. Muslim Waqfs have been divested of Waqf -by-user. A Muslim Waqf property will be encroached. If delimitation is done, the encroacher will become the owner overnight. This is in violation of the provision of equal protection of laws under Article 14. Here you are appointing a designated officer. He will decide whether this property belongs to the Waqf or the Government. Is this not against the principle of natural justice? You are taking away Waqf-by-user status from Muslims and on the other hand, the followers of other religions have complete freedom to follow their religion. It has been said that 17 thousand encroachments have taken place. You have removed Waqf -by-user. What condition have you put on this? If there is a dispute in it pertaining to the Government property when the bill is amended, only ancient temples will be protected, not mosques. This bill takes away any kind of management from the hands of Muslims and divests Waqf of any power vis a vis any other stakeholder. I can bring a no-confidence motion against this Government, but I cannot bring a no-confidence motion against the Chairman of the Waqf Board. What kind of a joke is this? Waqf Board is a completely religious organization. This needs to be understood. The Minister of Home Affairs said about Section 2A, you did not even mention the name of Dawoodi Bohra in the proviso, why did you not mention his name? Clause 39 says, a person practising Islam for five years, you may please clarify what kind of practice would it be? If a Christian accepts Hinduism,

cannot he donate property to the temple? Under Clause 20C, Section 652A, if someone sold the property, the punishment was two years, which has been reduced to six months, it was a non-bailable offence, and you made it bailable. The purpose of this bill is to humiliate and disgrace Muslims and to treat them as second-class citizens. I do not accept this law.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY: I believe that in the judgments given by the Supreme Court from time to time, whether it is the Waqf Board or whether it is the Council, they have been considered as institutional bodies, they are not religious entities. The duties of the Mutawalli are also purely secular. It is clear from this that the things related to the Waqf Board do not fall under the category of fundamental rights. As far as Waqf properties are concerned, out of the total 8,72,000 properties, only 1,000 properties have been transferred by deed. About 4,00,000 properties are waqf by-users. Under the Acts of 1954, 1995 and 2013, any waqf by user property was considered as waqf property without waqf, without any document, without mutation, without survey and without any process,. Section 40 states that if any question arises whether a particular property is a waqf property or not, it may, after making such inquiry as may deem fit, decide the question. The decision of the Board on a question under sub-section (1), unless revoked or modified by the Tribunal, shall be final. There is also no provision for an appeal against the order of the tribunal. Now, in this amendment Bill there is a mandatory provision that waqf will now be done by deed and not by oral waqf. Section 108A of the Act, brought by the Congress government in the year 2013, is being omitted. This is absolutely justified. The Waqf has declared many people's private properties as the Waqf property and it is being used. Whatever be the evidence and grounds for it, those properties are considered to be the properties of the Waqf. Of all the properties of the Government of India, 108 properties of DDA were taken over as Waqf properties. This is an Act where the Limitation Act does not apply. The Limitation Act applies to all the laws of India. The Amendment Bill provides that one can appeal against the order of the Tribunal. Earlier, this provision was not there. Having this provision in place will provide further relief.

SHRI DURAI VAIKO: This Waqf Amendment Bill is against the interests of the Muslim people and the principles of the Constitution of India. The Waqf properties are created by Muslims to engage in the implementation of the words of Allah and to engage in religious activities. I oppose this Bill which snatches away

the right of the management of Waqf properties from the Waqf Board. It is stated in this Bill that the donor should be practising Islam as a religion for at least 5 years. It is awkward to separate philanthropists and donors on the basis of religion. An amendment is being made to include two non-Muslims as members of the Waqf Board. Religious properties or Waqf properties should only be managed by Muslims. That is true justice. They only know the real intentions behind the creation of such properties. I urge that this Bill threatening Muslims and the very fabric of religious harmony should be withdrawn by this Government.

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY: Today, I rise to speak in favour of this historic Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025. The amendment proposed in the Waqf Bill will provide justice to Dalit and Pasmanda Muslims and at the same time, people entangled in most of the disputed cases in the Waqf Board will get justice and they will also get an opportunity to approach the High Court and the Supreme Court.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am fortunate to serve as the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) related to Waqf. This Bill was referred to the JPC to engage with all the stakeholders of the country, including all the State Officials, representatives from both Shia and Sunni Waqf Boards, Islamic scholars, Bar Associations and former judges. This Joint Parliamentary Committee has held 38 meetings in five months. It has given its recommendations on the basis of points that came up during such meetings. The Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Members of the JPC. Recent amendments to the Waqf Act in 1995 and 2023 have granted the Waqf Board unlimited powers, which have effectively placed it above the Constitution. Section 43 mentions that any land of the Waqf Board, even if someone has owned it for years, can be declared as Waqf. This is a violation of the Right to Property. The Constitution has been breached. The Waqf Board cannot take property without any hearing. Section 32 gives the Waqf Board the power to take over any property without compensation. This is a direct violation of Article 300A, Right to Property. As per the Sections 28 and 29, the Revenue Department will not have control over the Waqf Board. Sections 51 and 52 state that the government can denotify Waqf properties whenever it wants. The opposition talks about revision, review and writ. However, this Government has for the first time provided a right to appeal, which is a fundamental right, allowing individuals to approach the High Court and the Supreme Court. This is a matter of good

governance. This is the most important amendment Bill of the third term of the NDA government, which will benefit the Pasmada community. Previously, the Waqf amendments of 1995 and 2013 allowed the Waqf Board to automatically claim government land, disregarding protections for other religions and violating Articles 14, 15, 19, 21, and 300A. Now, it is mandated that there will be two women on the Waqf Board and two women in every council. We are implementing the Sachar Committee report, and the income generated by the Waqf Board will be utilized for education, health and employment. If the audit is done by the auditor appointed by CAG then the poor, common and Pasmada Muslims will avail its benefits.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU *replying said:* Some Honorable Members have called this Bill unconstitutional. I would like to clarify that this Bill was introduced in 1954 after independence, and no court has struck it down. Therefore, how can this Bill be considered unconstitutional? Concerns were also raised regarding the omission of "waqf-by-user." I would like to explain that if someone claims that their forefathers used a piece of land in a certain way and the Waqf Board declares it as Waqf property, how can we accept that without proper documentation? If someone provides a certificate proving it was used as Waqf property, it can be declared as such. This issue is not related to religion. Several Members have alleged that this Bill is anti-Muslim. Allegations must be backed by justification. I want to be clear in informing my esteemed colleagues that the removal of "waqf-by-user" from the Bill is due to inadequate documentation of ownership, which has led to numerous disputes pending in tribunals. We must ensure speedy justice and take proactive steps. Some colleagues have questioned why provisions for Waqf-al-Aulad are being made for Muslims but not for Hindus. I would like to point out that such provisions already exist for Hindus, so there is no need for separate legislation. This Bill includes provisions to address the shortcomings in the practice of Islam concerning women and children. It was also suggested that the contribution from the Mutawalli to the board, currently set at 7%, should be increased to 11%. We believe that instead of simply supporting the board, this money should be utilized more effectively for the welfare of the poor. Therefore, a provision has been made to increase it. Concerns were raised about the trustworthiness of the collector. The collector is responsible for revenue, administration, and other district-level functions. Instead of criticizing the collector, I would have welcomed constructive suggestions for better management of Waqf properties. This Bill provides that any property-related matter can be brought before the civil court, thus establishing a legal right. Regarding the

limitation period, we have applied the law of limitation to ensure that cases are resolved promptly. Removing it would allow indefinite claims, increasing pending cases. Some have questioned the involvement of non-Muslims in religious matters. As explained earlier, this is not the case. According to court orders and explanations I have provided, non-Muslims' involvement does not interfere with religious affairs. The use of Waqf properties for welfare purposes is less than 1% nationwide. For instance, out of 1,389 acres of school land, only 0.037% is used for welfare. Similarly, out of 1,85,756 acres of madrasa land, 4.9% is used for welfare, and of 6,27,692 acres of agricultural land, only 16.7% is utilized for welfare. Regarding allegations of dividing Muslims, I want to state that the old provisions required separate boards for Sunni, Shia, and other Muslim sects. This Bill unifies all Muslim sects under one board, promoting unity. You claim that minorities do not support this Bill, but we have received appeals from Christian organizations across the country urging all MPs to support this Waqf Amendment Bill. This appeal reflects the views of the entire Christian community. Our Government is not engaged in any form of appeasement. Concerning the safety of minorities, I would like to highlight the launch of the "Jeeyo Parsi" scheme for the Parsi community, the smallest community, to prevent its extinction. India has always been a safe haven for minorities. Whenever religious persecution occurred in neighbouring countries, minorities sought refuge in India. Regarding secularism, India adopted this principle during partition. India is secular because the majority of its people uphold secular values. I am confident that after the passage of this Bill, millions of poor people, women, children, and underprivileged Muslims will express their gratitude to the Honorable Prime Minister.

The Bills, as amended, were passed.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Re: Approval of the Proclamation issued by the President in relation to state of Manipur.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH) *moved that* this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 13th February, 2025 under article 356(1) of the Constitution in relation to the State of Manipur.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *initiating said:* This is a very serious moment in our country's history and in the history of Manipur. Decision-making power has been shifted from locally elected representatives to the Union Government and the Governor appointed by the Union Government. That is a very onerous responsibility at a time when sadly our own Prime Minister has not gone to listen to the pain and trauma of the suffering people. Even the Supreme Court has sent a delegation two weeks ago. We would urge that this omission be rectified as soon as possible. The people of Manipur have suffered a long history of insurgency. Governance and law enforcement have been pretty much non-existent under the previous Government. Manipur has a rich cultural heritage, natural resources, and yet it is struggling with economic underdevelopment, limited industrialization, high unemployment rates and inadequate infrastructure. On top of that, the biggest crisis we are facing today is that there has been an erosion of public trust in the State, the State of India, the State of Manipur, and its institutions. That legitimacy has to be regained during this period of President's Rule. We would like to see the President's Rule as an opportunity to heal the State. It has to be an opportunity to foster dialogue amongst communities, to promote economic development, to ensure accountability in governance. We now have 288 companies of Central Armed Police Forces, and 150 battalions of the Indian Army and the Assam Rifles. They can deal with the violent conflict and the insurgency. It is the fact that the State has lost legitimacy that permits violence to run rampant. So, we hope that the Government will go in with a larger vision of how the President's Rule can be used to restore faith in the institutions of our State. We will be able to restore Constitutional order, social order, and peace and healing to the people who have suffered such terrible anguish.

SHRI LALJI VERMA: Undoubtedly, the events that occurred in Manipur are a black mark on our country. The entire opposition was united in demanding at that time that the government be dismissed and the President's Rule be imposed there. However, the President's Rule was not imposed. Along with the President's Rule, reformative measures should be undertaken. Efforts should be made to earn the trust of the people there and provide them with the opportunity to choose their government. All necessary actions should be taken to normalize the situation and promote development in the region.

SUSHRI SAYANI GHOSH: The delay in imposing the President's Rule proves that the power that be neither had the will nor the competence to handle the

Manipur crisis. The Government functioning with the traction of double engine had since the very beginning no intention to provide protection cover or relief to those sadly subjected to the ethnic violence in Manipur. Had it been the case, they would not have allowed the situation to go from bad to worse over such a long period as 22 months. As recently as just one day ago, the Ministry of Home Affairs has effected the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland by extending it for a further period of 6 months. This is the marker of the gravity of the law and order situation in Manipur. I would simply expect the Government to improve the situation, address the needs of the people and restore normalcy at the earliest in Manipur by balancing the volatile atmosphere prevailing all around.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI: In Manipur, more than 260 lives have been lost and 67,000 people have been displaced. Around 5,000 homes have been destroyed, and churches and temples have been vandalised. It is so sad that an elected representative has been involved in creating more violence and encouraging violence. How did arms and guns go to the hands of terrorists and protesters there? What has the Government done about over 14,000 students who have not been able to go back to school? But you are reducing the Budget. The Government has also cut the food budget by over 28 per cent. We want an elected Government to return and an elected Government will ensure that there is peace and harmony. You talked so much about women in this Bill which we passed here. But do you care about women in Manipur?

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT: Manipur is a border state. If there had been any other government, it would have imposed the President's Rule there immediately. However, they did not impose the President's Rule. The Prime Minister has not visited there till date. Now that the President's Rule has been imposed, I expect more attention to be given to the education of children who have been affected, and focus should be placed on schools, colleges, and medical colleges in the region.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: It is a very complex democracy. What surprised me about Manipur is that when Manipur was burning, we did not have a single debate here. We expected a lot from the hon. Home Minister but we are not very satisfied with what happened in Manipur. I hope he brings a strong intervention in Manipur, brings in peace and conducts a fair election there. We all must work together, put our minds together and bring in peace and give fair livelihoods to

people by restoring peace among all the communities.

SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA: Violence continued in Manipur for months. Houses were set on fire, and barbaric acts were committed against women. I would like to say that an immediate relief and rehabilitation plan should be implemented for the affected communities. Thousands of people in relief camps should be rehabilitated with dignity. Their homes, businesses, and livelihoods should be restored. As soon as peace is restored, free and fair elections should be ensured there. Additionally, a judicial inquiry into the failures of the Manipur government should be conducted. Furthermore, those responsible for the violence should be given strict punishment.

SHRI KISHORI LAL: This is not just a constitutional measure but a clear evidence of the government's failure. Manipur is currently going through a critical phase due to insecurity, violence, and administrative failure. To date, around 300 to 350 people have lost their lives, and nearly 70,000 have been displaced. Arms and ammunition have been looted, and all the youth have taken to the streets. Therefore, efforts should be made to heal the wounds of the people there. Manipur is a sensitive state and should not be neglected. It should not be treated unfairly. The people of Manipur should be rehabilitated, and peace should be restored in the region.

MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH) *replying said:* I have come up with a resolution to approve the proclamation issued by the Hon. President on Feb 13, 2025, in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her under Article 356(1) of the Constitution. We all are in the know of the fact that it was the High Court Judgement that triggered conflict between two communities of Manipur on the issue of the provision of reservation that fuelled racial violence. As a matter of fact the eruption of ethnic violence between two communities can primarily be ascribed to the interpretation of a judgment by the High Court. All the Members have voiced their deep concern over the tragic development. They have made a vehement demand for the restoration of peace and have raised their voice for the immediate remedial measures for the rehabilitative measures, judicial probe into the impugned matters, alleviation of the sufferings and pain inflicted upon the victims and the reparation of the losses incurred by them. I would like to share with the House that there has been no incident over there for the past four months. As far as the Camps are concerned, all sorts of basic amenities have been made available in the camps. There have been

instances of ethnic violence in the time gone by also. If we make a comparative account of the incidents occurring earlier, the number of voilences in our regime are few and far between. However, I hold the conviction that that there ought to be zero violence. At the risk of reiteration I would like to submit that unfortunately some judgment was pronounced by the Hon. High Court that gave way to ethnic violence between the two communities in the State of Manipur. In its aftermath, the Government immediately sprang into action and was able to control the situation sans delay. In terms of the tragic death of the people , I would like to place on record that 80 percent death tolls out of 260 had been reported in the very first month itself and the rest of the death cases were reported in the succeeding months. It has also been alleged that the incidence of violence was subjected to neglect. On this count I would like to tell the House that on the very day of the Judgment being pronounced, Air force companies had been despatched from here . It was not at all overlooked. All I would like to submit that the Government is making all efforts employing whole hosts of measures at the highest level to restore law and order over there. I urge all the Members not to politicize it. In the wake of the proclamation issued by the Hon. President we did have deliberations with both of the communities. Two separate meetings were held with all the institutions associated with both of the communities and not long afterwards, a joint meeting is also going to be held with the officers of the Department of Home Affairs. We are also finding a way forward to this end in mind. As far as moving of No confidence Motion in the Manipur Legislative Assembly is concerned, there is no No Confidence Motion is on the records. It is in compliance of the Supreme Court Judgment of getting the proclamation issued by the House approved within a period of two months that has obligated me to come up with this Statutory Resolution. I would like to submit that the Government wants to restore peace and rehabilitation at the earliest possible and to alleviate the sufferings of the masses over there. Kindly approve the decision to impose President's Rule unanimously.

The Resolution was adopted.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
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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