

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART - I

(TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY SIXTH SESSION)

No. 5742]

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2024

**Brief Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Rajya Sabha held
on the 6th December, 2024**

11-00 a.m.

1. Papers Laid on the Table

1. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Notification No. A-12013/13/RR/2016-UIDAI(E)., dated the 17th October, 2024, publishing the Unique Identification Authority of India (Appointment of Officers and Employees) Second Amendment Regulations, 2024, under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

2. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -

- (i) (a) Seventh Annual Report and Accounts of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
- (ii) (a) Nineteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Development Finance Corporation Limited (JKDFC), Jammu, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

3. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 37 and sub-section (3) of Section 39 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005:-

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Kandla Special Economic Zone Authority (KASEZA), Gujarat, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Falta Special Economic Zone Authority (FSEZ), Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

4. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:-
- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), Ballabgarh, Haryana, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Brief of the above Report.
 - (ii) (a) Sixty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
 - (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC), New Delhi, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
 - (iv) (a) Sixty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the EEPC INDIA, Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
 - (v) (a) Sixty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Rubber Materials Research Institute (IRMRI), Thane, Maharashtra, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Account.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
5. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013: -
- (a) Forty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation (KCDC) Limited, Mangaluru, Karnataka, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Corporation.
6. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Centre for Cold-chain Development (NCCD), Gurugram, Haryana, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
7. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Notification No. N-10/001(2)/2024-PBRB., dated the 13th September, 2024, publishing the Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (Procedure and Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2024, under Section 34 of the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990.
8. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992: -
- (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2022-23.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

9. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under sub-section (2) of Section 39 of the National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Act, 2021: -

(1) I-11018/1/2023-ID., dated the 7th August, 2024, publishing the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management-Kundli, Haryana Academic Ordinances, 2024.

(2) I-12052/3/2023-ID., dated the 12th October, 2024, publishing the National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu Academic Ordinances, 2024.

10. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board (NMPPB), New Delhi, for the year 2022-23, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

11. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers: -

(i) (a) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA), Surat, Gujarat, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Association.

(ii) (a) Seventy-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association (SASMIRA), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.

(iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA), Mumbai, Maharashtra, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.

(iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA), Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.

(v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.

- (vi) (a) Fifty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Wool Research Association (WRA), Thane, Maharashtra, for the year 2023-24, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Association.

11-02 a.m.

2. Reports of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance

Shri Pramod Tiwari laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance:-

- (i) First Report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services, Investment & Public Asset Management and Public Enterprises);
- (ii) Second Report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- (iii) Third Report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs;
- (iv) Fourth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Planning;
- (v) Fifth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2024-25)' pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;
- (vi) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in 59th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Cyber Security and Rising Incidence of Cyber/White Collar Crimes'; and
- (vii) Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in 66th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on 'Performance Review and Regulation of Insurance Sector'.

3. Reports of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Shrimati Sumitra Balmik laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2024-25):-

- (i) First Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on "Implementation of reservation Policy in the Ministries/Departments of Government of India with specific reference to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)"; and
- (ii) Second Report on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report (17th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on "Role of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training) in formulation, implementation and monitoring of reservation policy".

11-03 a.m.

4. Motion for Election to the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

A motion for election of one Member to the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) was moved and adopted.

11-04 a.m.

5. Motion for Election to the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs & STs)

A motion for election of one Member to the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs & STs) was moved and adopted.

11-05 a.m.

6. Motion for Election to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar

A motion for election of one Member to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar was moved and adopted.

11-06 a.m.

7. Motion for Election to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri

A motion for election of one Member to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Mangalagiri was moved and adopted.

11-07 a.m.

8. Motion for Election to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur

A motion for election of one Member to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bilaspur was moved and adopted.

11-08 a.m.

9. Statement regarding Government Business

Dr. L. Murugan, Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, made a Statement regarding Government Business for the week commencing Monday, the 9th December, 2024.

11-10 a.m.

10. Announcement by the Chairman

The Chairman made the following announcement: -

“Hon’ble Members, I hereby inform that during the routine anti-sabotage check of the Chamber, after the adjournment of the House yesterday, apparently a wad of currency notes was recovered by the security officials from Seat No. 222, presently allotted to Dr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, elected from the State of Telangana for the term 2024 to 2026. The matter was brought to my notice and I felt it expedient, as per practice and ordainment, to ensure that investigation takes place in accordance with law, and the same is underway. Hon’ble Members, it was my duty and I am obliged to inform the House. And, information is imparted for a very simple reason that this is a routine anti-sabotage check which takes place. When it was brought to my notice, I thought someone would come to reclaim it. Nothing has happened this morning. Number one, I am not aware; you can't make out from the look, currency notes, whether they are fake or not. Apparently, denomination is 500 rupees. Wad appears to be physically of 100 notes. But, all these are subject to serious investigation. And I am sure no one should be opposed to an investigation because this House even otherwise has to send a signal.”

¶11-34 a.m.

11. Matters raised with Permission

1. Shri A. D. Singh raised a matter regarding demand to grant more Visas to technical experts from China.

11-36 a.m.

2. Shri Jose K. Mani raised a matter regarding concern over rising cases of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the country.

11-39 a.m.

3. Dr. Kalpana Saini raised a matter regarding demand to organize special classes of traditional sports in schools.

11-41 a.m.

4. Shri Tiruchi Siva raised a matter regarding demand for financial assistance to victims of devastation caused by Cyclone Fengal in Tamil Nadu.

11-44 a.m.

5. Shri Saket Gokhale raised a matter regarding need to improve the well-being of employees in private sector companies.

11-48 a.m.

6. Shri P. Wilson raised a matter regarding demand to expedite the work related to infrastructure and tourism development projects in Tamil Nadu.

¶ From 11-12 a.m. to 11-34 a.m. – some points were raised.

11-51 a.m.

7. Shri Baburam Nishad raised a matter regarding demand to start superfast train from Kanpur Central to Somnath.

11-53 a.m.

8. Shri Sandeep Kumar Pathak raised a matter regarding need to address the problem of rice mills in Punjab.

11-56 a.m.

9. Shri Pramod Tiwari raised a matter regarding concern over increasing cases of drug abuse in the country.

11-58 a.m.

10. Dr. Sasmit Patra raised a matter regarding concern over high pendency of court cases in India.

12-00 Noon

12. Starred Questions

Starred Question Nos. 121 to 124 were orally answered. Answers to remaining Starred Question Nos. (125 to 135) were laid on the Table.

13. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 1281 to 1440 were, laid on the Table.

∇1-01 p.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2-00 p.m.

#2-02 p.m.

14. Private Members' Resolution - Under Consideration

1. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB moved the following resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) the country's low judge-to-population ratio causes judicial officers to be under a lot of stress at work, which makes them prone to make mistakes;
- (ii) as per the directions imparted in the All India Judges Association judgement of 2002, by 2007, there should be 50 judges per million, however, there are currently less than 25 judges per million in the country;
- (iii) as a result, there are currently over 4.5 crore cases outstanding in the country, with over 2.5 crore of those cases related to criminal proceedings;

∇From 1-00 p.m. to 1-01 p.m. – some points were raised.

From 2-00 p.m. to 2-02 p.m. – some points were raised.

- (iv) the typical case pendency in country's High Courts is three years and the average pendency in lower courts is 6 years;
- (v) the average number of pending cases in the country is among the highest in the High Courts of Rajasthan, Allahabad, Karnataka, Calcutta, Orissa and Delhi;
- (vi) the Bombay High Court has the largest percentage of ongoing civil cases (65.2%), while the Jharkhand High Court has the most percentage of pending criminal cases (75%);
- (vii) Gujarat has the highest average pendency case count (9.51 years), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli (8.79 years);
- (viii) one of the main causes of pendency is administrative inefficiency along with deficiencies in infrastructure and human resources;
- (ix) in all States, the rate at which civil cases are cleared is higher than the rate at which criminal cases are cleared, which causes a greater number of criminal cases in the country;
- (x) despite this, there are still a lot of vacancies in India's lower, high and other courts;
- (xi) the country's judiciary has begun digitizing its records, but there are still many unnecessary procedures and a sluggish use of technology which should be avoided to improve the system's efficiency;
- (xii) because of the long processing time and low case resolution rate, dealing with the Indian judiciary is sometimes expensive and out of reach for those from underprivileged and economically disadvantaged groups in our society;
- (xiii) as per the NCRB data of 2022, it is a matter of great concern that out of the 5,73,220 inmates in Indian jails, 4,34,302 (75.7%) are undertrials and out of the 23,772 women in prisons, 18,146 (76.33%) are undertrials and many are incarcerated for far longer than they would be if they were found guilty of the charged offenses;
- (xiv) it is also extremely concerning that, as per the NCRB data of 2022, over 55% of the undertrial population is made up of members from Muslim, Dalit, and Tribal communities, and many of them are underprivileged; and
- (xv) the general public is becoming more skeptical in the legal system and its processes, and in the judiciary itself, which is raising concerns about the legitimacy of judiciary amongst the public,

the House urges upon the Government to:-

- (a) raise the number of judges in both lower and higher courts to at least 50 judges per million people;
- (b) ensure that all courts have an effective system and procedure in place for the vacancies to be filled up promptly;
- (c) ensure that Indian courts quickly embrace technological advancements in their proceedings and do away with redundant processes;
- (d) improve the infrastructural facilities and enhance human resource capacities at the lower courts and ensure that all citizens have the greatest possible access to the lower courts and legal rights;

- (e) ensure that every court makes special plans and arrangements to expedite and resolve the long-pending cases, especially those involving under-trial prisoners;
- (f) ensure that regular training to handle evolving legal situations is a fundamental component of the judicial process, which includes ongoing legal education to judges and enhancement of use of technology by giving training to court staff;
- (g) set up an expert group to carry out studies to enhance the current state of our legal system and promptly implement the recommendations after consulting the judicial community;
- (h) ensure that the Collegium encourages more young lawyers to join judiciary and elevate more young judges to High Courts and Supreme Court; and
- (i) encourage the legal community to instill trust in our nation's judicial system and its processes among the public.”

Shri Abdul Wahab had not concluded his speech when moving the resolution.

&2-04 p.m.

The House adjourned till 11-00 a.m. on Monday, 9th December, 2024.

(Due to gross disorderly conduct in violation of the rules and etiquette of Rajya Sabha by some Members, who disobeyed the instructions of the Chair and obstructed the proceedings of the House, the Chair adjourned the House at 2-04 p.m. for the day)

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General

&From 2-03 p.m. to 2-04 p.m. – some points were raised.