

GOVERNMENT BILLS — Contd.**The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I move:

That the Bill to amend the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Yechury. If you want to speak, you can speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Yechury.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, my only point is, a Bill is a Bill. Let us not devalue that process. You see, whatever be the technicality, even if it is a date extension... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; we will discuss it.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: A Bill is a Bill. There is sanctity for passing...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; we will discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, you want to discuss it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: And there is a procedure for it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not saying that there should be an elaborate discussion on the Bill. I am saying, 'don't bypass the procedure'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; no procedure will be bypassed. It is not possible.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Whatever you have allotted, ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not possible to bypass any procedure. If any Member wants to say something about the Bill, I will allow. Why should I not allow? Mr. Anand Sharma, do you want to say something? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, without discussion...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Who said it? Why are you raking up the issue unnecessarily? ...*(Interruptions)*... You sit down.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, you are in the Chair and that is why I am asking you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: See, if the House is for that, I am for that. That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, you are in the Chair and that is why I am asking you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, the Chair cannot impose anything. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Raja, I always say, if the House is one, I have no problem. That is all.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, we want discussion. It should not be passed without discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH (Telangana): Sir, as far as the Government is concerned, it is an important Bill. But as far as we are concerned, after this, we have to give two hours' time for the Short Duration Discussion on Andhra. If you agree, then, we have no problem.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, we agree. There is no doubt. There is no problem.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Both the issues are important. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will tell you one thing. It was already decided by the House yesterday that we will take up the Short Duration Discussion on the Andhra issue. That will be done and implemented. Now, this is only a small Bill. If you want to pass it without discussion, you can pass; or, if you want to discuss, we can discuss. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Anand Sharma. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have a small point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, once the Bill is passed, we can have the statement of the Defence Minister — it is a very important issue — about the missing aircraft. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): It will be taken up after the Andhra issue. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is very important, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Anand Sharma. *...(Interruptions)...* We will go by the decision. I don't want anything... *...(Interruptions)...* No, no. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, the statement will not take much time. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, 29 people are missing. Sir, it is a very serious issue. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agreed. Sit down. Let it be over.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, 29 people are missing. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You sit down. Let it be over. *...(Interruptions)...* You raise it at that time. Sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, you cannot raise it. *...(Interruptions)...* See, I have already started the Bill. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, it will create a new problem. Sir, if this message goes that the House is not interested or not giving priority to those 29 lives, it will also send a very wrong message. So, please find a way out. *...(Interruptions)...* It should be completed today. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, what I said is only this. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, the statement can be made by the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hon. Minister is saying 'yes'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, it won't take much time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...* Please sit down. You are a Vice-Chairman as well. See, I have only one problem. If Shri Tiruchi Siva had raised this issue before moving the Bill, and before calling Shri Anand Sharma, I would have immediately allowed. Now, the question is, the process of the Bill has started. The Minister has moved the Bill; I have called Shri Anand Sharma. As soon as the Bill is over, I can consider it. You raise it at that time.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Okay; agreed. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Anand Sharma.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, the Minister has brought a Bill which seeks to amend Section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 (1 of 2014). I have gone through the Amendment Bill. One thing we would like to put on record here. It is true that there have been consultations with the Government and a need was felt because of the representations made by various organizations. Our understanding is that it is only to have a re-examination, by the Standing Committee, of the matters raised and the representations received. So, it is only to have time to reach clarity and conclusion on the issues that have been raised and we hope that there is no intent to dilute the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill in any manner, which we will not be a party to.

Secondly, it is important for the entire House to bear in mind that this country has seen enough turbulence; there were agitations and there was a demand. The Government of the day, the UPA Government, responding to the demand, enacted the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill. Once these issues get addressed, it is incumbent on the present Government — and I would urge the Government, through you — to complete the process and appoint the Lokpal so that the purpose for which this law has been made is achieved.

I hope that the Government would agree that there is a strong sentiment and there is a need for accountability, probity and transparency. We had, unanimously, agreed in this House and the other House. So, to get it in time, we hope that Mr. Chairman will also advise the Government to take it expeditiously to the Standing Committee so that when the House reconvenes in the next Session, the House is then informed about the Standing Committee's scrutiny and its recommendations for the House to deliberate upon them.

We have placed our views on record categorically for no dilution, no delay. We understand the circumstances, the background. Therefore, we support. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, since Anandji raised that issue, let me also put it on record that after this issue was mentioned in this august House by various political parties, I took an initiative and discussed with the Leader of the House. An all-party delegation also met hon. Prime Minister. That is why this has come about. There is no intention from the Government side to dilute or delay it. This should be very clear and let it be on record. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदय, इस बिल पर हमें भी बोलना है। ... (व्यवधान) ... मुझे भी इस बिल पर कुछ कहना है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: After Mr. Navaneethakrishnan, please.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you. Hon. Amma is our Lokpal and Lokayukta. ...(Interruptions)... I have to make this very clear. We want to convey the message. The hon. Chief Minister Amma is our Lokpal and Lokayukta. These institutions must come into being as early as possible. I support this Bill. Thank you.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय उपसभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी जो अमेंडमेंट लेकर आए हैं, हम उसका समर्थन करते हैं, लेकिन हम तो पूरे लोकपाल के विरोध में हैं। इस सदन में बहुत कम लोग होंगे, जो सत्यता बोल सकें। अगर इस देश में यह सोच बन जाएगी कि प्रधान मंत्री बेईमान है और लोकपाल ईमानदार है, श्रीमन्, इससे बुरा कुछ हो ही नहीं सकता है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is a sweeping remark. That is not good.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: मैं जो बात कह रहा हूँ, बिल्कुल सही बात कह रहा हूँ। कोई यह कहने की हिम्मत तो करे। क्या देश का प्रधान मंत्री भी बेईमान हो सकता है? चाहे ये रहे हों या पहले रहे हों, अगर प्रजातांत्रिक व्यवस्था में यह सोच बन जाए कि जिसको इस देश की 125 करोड़ जनता चुने, वह बेईमान होगा और जो एक आदमी रिटायर हो जाए, वह लोकपाल बन जाए, वह ईमानदार होगा, तो श्रीमन्, पता नहीं यह कौन सी सोच है? यह अप्रजातांत्रिक सोच है। मैं बिल्कुल इससे सहमत नहीं हूँ। समाजवादी पार्टी खुलकर कहती है, मुझे कहने में डर नहीं, ये लोग डर में ले आए थे, जनता ने इनके साथ क्या किया? कितनी जल्दी इनके नेता ने कहा था कि हमको अगर दो साल की सज़ा हो जाए, तो हमारी एमपीशिप तो गई। हमारे यहां से वह चला गया और बहुत डर कर सब लोग ले आए। जनता ने क्या नतीजा दिया? मैं तो कहता हूँ कि हमें प्रजातंत्र में हिम्मत करनी चाहिए, बहुत डरना नहीं चाहिए। मैं तो इनसे कहता हूँ कि एक बार पूरे लोकपाल पर फिर से चर्चा हो जाए, लोकपाल व्यवस्था पर चर्चा हो जाए, क्योंकि लोकपाल व्यवस्था एक पैनल व्यवस्था होगी, जो इस प्रजातांत्रिक देश के लिए अच्छा नहीं होगा और संविधान के लिए भी अच्छा नहीं होगा, यही मेरा स्पष्ट मत है।

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, to avoid repetition, I endorse the views expressed by Shri Anand Sharma, and I support this Bill.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA (Nominated): Sir, as a Nominated Member, I have certain luxuries which people...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: 'Nominated' itself is a luxury.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Not that, and one of it is to be blunt. I think the appropriate name for this amendment should be the *Prayaschit* amendment. The reason for it is, as Shri Anand Sharma pointed out, there were certain circumstances and the most important circumstance of this Act — how it came into being — was that it was done virtually at the gunpoint as a result of which..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Parliament of India at gunpoint! What are you talking? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Unfortunately, the political class... *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, whatever the reason is, because of the intense pressures, we saw that the political class, as a whole, did not apply its mind sufficiently and it was waylaid and unduly influenced by a category of people who we have celebrated as activists and activists who sometimes... *...(Interruptions)...* Today, the irony of the situation is that the revolution which the activists unleashed is threatening to devour its own parents. Hence, the need for this amendment. We could have seen this from activism, the destruction of the entire voluntary sector. Sir, these are harsh truths which need to be said. Therefore, all I want to say is that in the past there have been a lot of times when mindless activism has swayed the nature of various Bills and Acts and we are suffering the consequences of that and we have to do many more *prayaschits* in the coming days. Therefore, Sir, it is just my observation that while we take this into account, while we pass this amendment, we realise what damage it can do if the political class does not apply its mind independently.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, there are people supporting it.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, on lines with the Lokpal and LokayuktaS Bill, in the year 1974 itself, when DMK was ruling in Tamil Nadu State and our Leader, Dr. Kalaignar, was the Chief Minister, we had enacted a law called Misconduct of Public Servants Act. So, we are totally in support of this Bill. Earlier, when there was a Select Committee to give recommendations — now the Leader of the House who was the Leader of the Opposition then, was in the Select Committee and I too was there — and we had made some recommendations. They have been incorporated and recently, the Members of Parliament as a delegation have met the Prime Minister with some concerns. I think that will also be considered. The DMK Party totally supports this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, when the issue was taken up with the hon. Prime Minister, there was a very limited purpose and that was the deadline. Sub-section (iv) of Section 44 says, “Every public servant shall file, with the competent authority, on or before 31st July of every year.” That was the urgency when the issue was taken up with the hon. Prime Minister. So, the amendment should be only on this issue. It should not go beyond that. If that goes, then there will be a dilution. This amendment should not be used in order to dilute the very objective of the law. This is number one.

Second one is, the need for a thorough financial disclosure regime is being recognized globally as an important element in an anti-corruption framework. After all, Parliament enacts laws and it should be sincere to its own laws. If we have committed some mistake, we can discuss. But the point is, we should not act in desperation so that the Act is totally diluted. So, the hon. Minister should make it

[Shri D. Raja]

very clear on the Floor of the House that this amendment is only for this limited purpose. The deadline is 31st July. So, extension of time should be given. Only for that limited purpose the amendment should be taken up, not beyond that. This is our position.

Thank you.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (महाराष्ट्र): सर, सेक्शन 44 में अमेंडमेंट का बिल लाया गया है, हम इस का समर्थन कर रहे हैं क्योंकि इस में डिस्कलोजर की डेट ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have given my name.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Your name is not there.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: आपका नाम वहां नहीं है।

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Sir, I have given my name.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, let him speak now.

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: गवर्नमेंट उसकी डेडलाइन को एक्सटेंड कर रही है, लेकिन इस में एक प्रॉब्लम यह है, इस में एक ऑब्जेक्शन यह है कि जिन एनजीओज को ग्रांट मिलती है, उन्हें डिक्लेअर करना है, जिसमें ट्रस्टीज को भी डिक्लेअर करना पड़ेगा जोकि पैसा देते हैं। उन ट्रस्टीज का यह कहना है कि हम क्यों इस चक्कर में पड़ें? वे अपने आपको यदि विद्वां कर लेंगे तो जो अच्छे एनजीओज भी सफर करते हैं। गवर्नमेंट को इस पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत है।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि इसे स्टैंडिंग कमेटी को रेफर किया जाए। लोकपाल बिल के बारे में तरह-तरह की बातें हो रही हैं। उसमें लोग कोर्ट में जा रहे हैं। मेरा मानना है कि पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी एक-एक चीज के डिटेल् में जाती है। तो पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी इस की अच्छी तरह से जांच कर ले और जहां अमेंडमेंट्स जरूरी हैं, वे कर लें और जो grievances हैं, उन्हें address कर ले और लोगों के सजेशंस ले ले। फिर आप इसे पास कराएं और लोकपाल की व्यवस्था कराएं वरना बाद में कोई चैलेंज करता रहेगा। इस तरह की समस्या आएगी।

दूसरी बात डिस्कलोजर की। यह impression अखबारों में दिया जा रहा है कि politicians डिस्कलोजर नहीं करना चाहते। यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है। यहां चाहे राज्य सभा के मेंबर्स हैं या लोक सभा के हैं, सब का इलैक्शन कमीशन में बहुत डिटेल्ड डिस्कलोजर जाता है — उसमें पिता का, माता का, पूरे परिवार का और इतना डिटेल्ड कि आप पूछिए मत। लेकिन इस बात को इस तरह फैलाया जा रहा है कि ये लोग कर रहे हैं। उनका तो पूरा डिस्कलोजर हर साल जाता है। तो politicians का इस में कोई बचाव नहीं है। वे तो अपना डिस्कलोजर करते हैं। सर, मैं तो कहता हूं कि जूडिशियरी से लगाकर सभी का डिस्कलोजर होना चाहिए। वे क्यों छिपाकर रखते हैं? बाकी सब का हो जाए, politicians का हो जाए, उनका न हो। यह नहीं है कि लोकपाल चंद्रमा से आएगा, मंगल या बृहस्पति या किसी दूसरे प्लेनेट से आएगा और यहां पर सब कुछ ठीक कर देगा। लोकपाल भी हम और आपके बीच से होगा, तो जब उसके हाथ में सब की कुंजी दे रहे

हो — Politicians, Ministers, MLAs, Prime Minister, IAS, IPS सब के भविष्य की कुंजी उसके हाथ में जा रही है, तो इस में ऐसी व्यवस्था बने जब अच्छी तरह पार्लियामेंट की कमेटी इस पर विचार-विमर्श कर ले। वह सारी चीजों को समझ ले, तभी इसे लाना चाहिए।

सर, उससे पहले Time-bound Delivery And Grievance Redressal Bill आना चाहिए। उससे आम आदमी की समस्याओं का हल निकलेगा। उसे पहले लाना चाहिए।

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: This Bill was passed after a very big movement outside Parliament. There was a big Anna Hazare Movement. The Movement was throughout India. The Bill was passed in the midnight of 2013, December. Even in the last election, the main agenda was development and corruption. The corruption was placed before the people and people elected this new Government. In fact, I wanted to set the record straight. When there was a meeting with the hon. Prime Minister, myself, Shri D. Raja and Shri C. P. Narayanan went there. We did not know the agenda. In fact, when agenda was proposed by some other two Members, I intervened and said that the Lokpal should be made more stringent. The bribe-giver is escaping even today. Now, for the last two-three years, everybody is keeping quiet. Now, at the fag end, they want this to be sent to the Standing Committee. I would like to say that it is not correct. Normally, the corrupt people put their money only in their wife and their children's accounts. *...(Interruptions)...* They have two-three wives. They put money into the account of their twothree wives. *...(Interruptions)...* We cannot support these corrupt people. So, it is a very serious thing. The CPI(M) and the Left do not support these types of amendments. Everybody must file their details before 31st July. If they get escaped, the Government will earn a bad name. So, I do not support this Bill.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members, Shri Anand Sharma, Shri Naresh Agrawal, Shri Tapan da, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shri D. Raja, Shri Rajeev Shukla and Shri Rangarajan, who have given their valuable inputs.

At the outset, as was mentioned by Shri Anand Sharma, I wish to reiterate that there is absolutely no intention to dilute or to deviate from the Lokpal Act, which came into being in January, 2014. The Government stands by the Lokpal Act and is also committed to implement it in letter and spirit. The exercise undertaken this evening should not be construed, directly or indirectly, as a tendency or inclination otherwise.

I would also agree with the hon. Members who suggested that the message should also not go out that the hon. Members in the House, across the party lines, have joined together to get away from the provision of stating their assets. And,

[Dr. Jitendra Singh]

it is also a fact that under the People's Representation Act, what we are declaring is much more than what is declared by any other class or section of the society. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: That is true. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: That is true. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: That is regardless of whether we have the Lokpal Act or not. Particularly when one of us enters into an election, we are very cautious because your declaration goes to the opponent and you also run the risk of being disqualified by the Returning Officer. Why I am stating this, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, is just to reiterate that this exercise has been taken in an absolutely good faith, with certain valid reasons, some of which are also technical. Just to go a little back into it, when the Government took over in May, 2014, we were keen to implement the Lokpal Act, which had come into force in January, 2014. An exercise was also undertaken. But when we tried to study it deeply, we found that there were certain missing links, which were coming in the way of making it workable, making it feasible. Just to cite one instance, the Selection Committee for appointment of the Lokpal envisages that the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha has to be a Member. All of us know that in the 16th Lok Sabha, we do not have an acknowledged Leader of the Opposition. Therefore, it was, in all wisdom, thought that an amendment should be brought in, suggesting that the Leader of the largest opposition party should be a Member. Likewise, there were a series of other amendments. For example, the tenure of the Members had not been defined. And, this amendment also was a part of that. In December, 2014, a Bill, with the amendments, was brought in the Lower House. And, thereafter, the suggestions of all the hon. Members were sent to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee Report has been submitted. While it is still under consideration, suddenly, this urgency has come, as has been pointed out by hon. Anand Sharma and other Members. This particular Amendment has been necessitated by the fact that it is directly linked to the deadline of 31st, July. It is just two days away. It envisages declaration of assets by public servants, political functionaries and NGOs, some of which are running good educational institutions, as was suggested by Shri Rajeev Shukla. Some of them are also running media houses, both the electronic and the print media. ...*(Interruptions)*... Most of them are running them. Therefore, it was thought that the principal legislation be placed before the Standing Committee. It came back, and, then, the date of 31st, July was suggested. So, the Government is of the opinion that since this law was framed after

a detailed consideration by the Standing Committee, it would be in the fairness of things and also in the spirit of democracy that we try to take all the stakeholders on board. Observations and inputs were sought to be obtained across the sections of the society, from all the representatives of the political parties and also from hon. Members cutting across party lines. At the same time, even from the public servants, there were some issues, as far as the declaration of assets is concerned. How it has to be done, whether the declaration of the assets of the spouse and the children also is to be required and whether it has to be put into the public domain, as had been suggested. And, if yes, then, to what extent? Similarly, the NGOs also had some issues. Therefore, it was considered in the fitness of things that the best democratic option was, because it was already in the form of a law, to send it back to the Standing Committee. *...(Interruptions)..*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, is this another attempt to circumvent and prevent a discussion on Andhra Pradesh? Sir, it is such a simple thing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. There is no need for all these explanations.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Therefore, we have decided to send it back to the Standing Committee. Sir, if I don't speak, then, I will be accused of having some. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. Everybody understands. *...(Interruptions)..* There is no need for all these explanations. *...(Interruptions)..*

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: You please give an assurance that it will come to Parliament before the next Session. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: That is what I am saying. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no need for this explanation. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: You please give an assurance that it will come to Parliament before the next Session. *...(Interruptions)..*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody has understood. It is okay.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Sir, that is why we are sending it back to the Standing Committee and keeping up the spirit of the House, we expect that it will be done expeditiously, possibly before the next Session of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes; that is the only point. It should come back before the next Session. That is all. Now, the question is:

6.00 P.M.

"That the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Missing Indian Air Force operated AN-32 courier aircraft bound for Port Blair from Chennai on 22nd July, 2016

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, as per the understanding, we have to take up the Short Duration Discussion. But Shri Tiruchi Siva has raised a point about the missing of IAF AN-32 aircraft. It will take only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*.. It will take only two minutes. We will hear that. ...*(Interruptions)*.. You will get the copy also. The copies may be circulated.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): Sir, the IAF operates a courier service from Tambaram to Port Blair thrice a week using AN-32 aircraft. On 22.07.2016, at about 1225 hours, Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre (MRCC), Chennai, reported that an IAF AN-32 (AF-330) was not in contact. The aircraft was *en route* from Chennai to Port Blair, having departed from Tambaram at 0830 hours. The aircraft had a crew of six and was carrying 23 passengers. Weather in the area approximately 500 km. South East of Tambaram was mainly overcast with multi-layered clouds and embedded convection. One thundershower cloud was reported in the area. The aircraft had weather avoidance radar and had asked for deviation to the right to avoid it. The flying time to Port Blair is three hours. The Expected Time of Arrival (ETA) of the aircraft was 1130 hours. Overdue action, as per the SOP, started at 1230 hours.