

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have given the floor to Dr. Subramanian Swamy. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will come back to you. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will come back to both of you. Dr. Subramanian Swamy. ...*(Interruptions)*...

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## MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

### Need for restructuring of Goods and Service Tax Network

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of this House a grave national security issue which should receive precedence well before we consider the GST Bill. There is a body, a private limited company, which was created in 2013 called GSTN, which is the cyber brain of GST, that is, all data processing is to be done by that. There was a Select Committee of this House, headed by Shri Bhupender Yadav, who is amongst us here. That Committee, unanimously, recommended the following. Unfortunately, the recommendation has been completely ignored and has not been in any part of any debate either in the Lok Sabha or here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA (Himachal Pradesh): But the debate has to take place in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Wait a minute! You do not have to defend it. The Committee feels GSTN shall play a crucial role in implementation of GST as it shall provide the IT infrastructure for implementation of GST. It has noted that non-Governmental shareholding of GSTN is dominated by private banks. This is not desirable because of two reasons. First, public sector banks have more than 70 per cent of the total credit lending in the country. Secondly, GSTN work is of strategic importance to the country — this is the point I want to emphasize — and the firm would be a repository of a lot of sensitive data on business entities across the country. In light of the above, the Committee strongly recommends — and that is unanimously — that Government may take immediate steps to ensure non-Governmental financial institutions shareholding be limited to public sector banks or public sector financial institutions. Now, one point here, the GSTN has been so designed that it cannot be audited by the CAG. Today's newspapers, particularly, *the Hindu*, says that the CAG is up in arms on that. All the money is public money. It has not yet been sent to the Home Ministry for security clearance. It cannot be questioned under RTI. I mean, this is a kind of a shady organisation that has come into being. ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, I would say this House should first discuss GSTN, whether they are going to restructure it according to the Bhupender Yadav Committee or not.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over. Okay; thank you very much. Shri Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI R. K. SINHA (Bihar): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Tiruchi Siva. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Harassment of fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Indian Coast Guard**

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. On the 29th of March, fishermen from Kathaigal and Jegathapattinam in 30 boats had gone out for fishing. They were returning after fishing. The Indian Coast Guard intercepted them in Indian waters and interrogated them as to where they had gone and how they were returning. They said that they had gone for fishing only within the Indian territorial waters and they were returning home. Whereas the Indian Coast Guard have interrogated them in different manner and rather started manhandling them. They have seized their identity cards and their license also. Sir, for no fault of the fishermen, who had gone for fishing and returning safely, they have been intercepted by the Indian Coast Guard. So far we have been raising issues that our fishermen were being harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy. But, now, the issue is with the Indian Coast Guard. The Sri Lankan Navy, nowadays, are foisting false cases against our fishermen. They put narcotic drugs into the boats of our fishermen and they are foisting cases that they are smuggling. On the other hand, the Indian Coast Guard, are also manhandling them, attacking them when they are returning and seizing their identity cards and license, means, the fishermen are totally deprived of going out for fishing at all. They do not know any other profession. All these days, we have been raising this issue many a time. We appreciate the intervention by the External Affairs Ministry in coordinating with the Sri Lankan Government. But, before solutions are being arrived at, the harassment of the fishermen is continuing on both the sides, one, on the Sri Lankan Navy side and another from the side of Indian Coast Guard. If this goes on like this, then, I think the future of our fishermen will be doomed. Already, they are suffering to the maximum and we have been insisting for a permanent solution for our fishermen to go freely in our own waters and do fishing and come back. So, in this case, this harassment by the Indian Coast Guard