

6.00 P.M.

also to be recognized that beef is a very, very sensitive subject in India. You have to acknowledge that because you have to acknowledge that there must have been compelling reasons as to why in the Directive Principles, there is a clause about cow slaughter. You have to also recognize as to why so many legislations since Independence have been passed against cow slaughter and alas, they weren't passed by the BJP, they were passed by the Congress Governments. So, there is a certain degree of intense sensitivity. The question is how do we manage that sensitivity and, yet, prevent this sort of vigilantism. I think that is the real challenge which faces us. It is not an issue which should divide the House. It is a common project. It really is a common project. I find it very peculiar that a lot of people are trying to use this vigilante killing into saying, "You know the whole thing is that there should be an absolute food freedom." In that case, they will say that there should be absolute drink freedom and Bihar should take back its prohibition laws. So, there is no such thing as 'absolute'. There are certain sensitivities which had to be recognized. I believe that the Government and the Opposition must sit together to find out as to how best to manage such things. That is the real crucial thing. We have to get around over this ਕੁ-ਕੁ, ਝੈ-ਝੈ issue, while taking into account that law has to be respected. Sir, I think we need to recognize that this is an issue which has tarred the name of India. It has been deliberately done and it has been done with a certain sense of purpose and there are people who, in terms of trying to be more cosmopolitan, more enlightened, have tried to suggest that somehow they are lesser beings, who protect the cow. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Shri Swapan Dasji, your time is over.

SHRI SWAPAN DASGUPTA: Sir, I am just finishing. One last sentence. Certainly, everybody has political differences and these must be there. I think there is no reason to suggest that just because you are anti-lynching, you have to be anti-GST, you have to be anti-something else and this has to be connected with economy, etc. This is a separate problem. Address it, because if we don't address it, we are going to tar the name of India. Thank you very much.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Now, the Special Mentions. Shrimati Wansuk Syiem; not present. Shri Vivek Gupta; not present. Dr. V. Maitreya; not present.

Demand to exempt yarn from GST

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the intention of the GST is to give a boost to trade and business. The Minister of Finance said that the GST Council would consider if there are any genuine demands. And, true to his statement, 65 items were exempted by the Council and just hours before launching, the GST was reduced on fertilizers and tractor parts, which indicates that doors are not shut.

By providing more than 45 million direct, 60 million indirect jobs and 10 per cent of manufacturing, textile industry is the second largest employer, after agriculture. So, it is the Government of India's duty to address genuine problems of this sector. Under the GST regime, 5 per cent tax is imposed on man-made yarn, fabric and readymade garments. But, small traders are agitating because there was no VAT on hank yarn and handloom fabric, thus, this 5 per cent GST rate would make the yarn expensive for the handloom weavers.

The House is aware that majority of handloom weaver families eke out their livelihood by working on handlooms, that too for 15-18 hours/day. Imposing 5 per cent GST on yarn that they buy will cut into their meager earning.

Secondly, they sell fabric through informal business, and hence they cannot file GST returns to claim input credit. Even though they fall under exempted category as their income is less than ₹ 20 lakhs, they have to pay 5 per cent GST on yarn that they purchase. This will push them to further agony and debt trap. Hence, I request the Finance Minister and the GST Council to exempt yarn, man-made yarn used in handlooms, fabric including saris woven on handlooms and readymade garments made of handloom fabric from the GST.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Prof. M. V. Rajeev Gowda; not present. Shrimati Chhaya Verma.

श्रीमती छाया वर्मा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, निर्भया कांड के बाद महिला अपराध कम होने की बजाए बढ़ रहे हैं । ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): Just lay it on the Table.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, it was agreed that if a Member wants to read the Special Mention, he or she should be allowed. If they want to lay, they can lay. But it is not right to force a Member to lay a Special Mention. It was not the agreement. She should be allowed to read her Special Mention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL): I have just requested her. If she wants to read, she can read.