

The Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants), Bill, 2014

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Bill for withdrawal. Shri Kiren Rijju to move for leave to withdraw the Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 2014

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Sir, I move for leave to withdraw a Bill to provide for the eviction of unauthorized occupants from waqf properties and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The question was proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved. Now, there are two notices. One is given by Shri Abdul Wahab and the other is by Dr. John Brittas, opposing the withdrawal of the Waqf Properties (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Bill, 2014. The Members who are opposing the Motion may make brief explanatory statement. Now, Shri Abdul Wahab, not present. Dr. John Brittas, be very brief.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Thank you, Sir. Sir, I have submitted the objection under Rule 119. Sir, in 2014, this Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha, precisely because...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under which rule?

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, under Rule 119. It was intended to free the encroachment of Waqf properties. And, if you look at the objectives, these are all model objectives which we should have adhered to. This Government deliberately delayed getting the confirmation of the House and the Parliament. Now, Sir, this Bill is being withdrawn precisely to bring another Bill, that is to encroach upon the Waqf properties, diametrically opposite intentions, and the intention of the Government is suspect. They want to create polarization in the society. They want to polarize the Indian people. They want to play politics. And my submission is that the Government has no business to get into the Waqf properties. The Bill, which has been circulated, is against the spirit of the Waqf properties. They are diluting the Waqf Act. They are trying to bring in non-Muslims into the Waqf governing body. They are going to bring in a Collector to adjudicate on matters with regard to Waqf properties. I would urge

the Government that at a time when we have so many examples which are coming from neighboring countries, we should be striving to ensure that social fabric of this country remains intact. So, my only request to this Government is that, the Government should learn a lesson from the last mandate which was given by the people of this country. The people of this country do not appreciate your bulldozer politics. You indulge in bulldozer politics. You try to create polarization.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please,...

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: Sir, this is my right. So, my objection to withdrawal of the Bill is that this withdrawal is being effected precisely to bring in another Bill to dent the social harmony of this country. I strongly object to this. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is... *...(Interruptions)...* One minute. Leader of the House, what is your Member talking while sitting in the chair? *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Samik, you are speaking while sitting. This is not appreciated. *...(Interruptions)...* Never ever speak without permission and, after permission also, you should speak while standing in your own place. Thank you; Shri Abdul Wahab.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB (Kerala): Thank you, sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You were not here.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: I had just gone to the washroom, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But, I hope you did not hurry up! And I tell you why, when Dr. John Brittas is on his legs, you need not hurry up. Only the Chair has to look at the clock then.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: You are talking about the withdrawal of the bill, he is talking about the new Bill which is supposed to come. It has already gone to the JPC. Why we are opposing the withdrawal of this Bill is because the clauses in that Bill are against the Bill which is supposed to come, which is already circulated. The power to vacate the Waqf properties was stringent in that Bill. That is why we are opposing that Bill. So, to get a new Bill, you have to withdraw the other Bill. That is technical. But, you are going to withdraw the recommendations in the previous Bill which is already here in Rajya Sabha. So, when you are making a new Bill, you should consider what

was there for the benefit of those who made their properties under Waqf. Why are we making our properties under Waqf? It is to get the benefit. And what is our purpose of doing it? I may be giving my land for something, for which I am concerned about; my community or my family or whoever it is. But later, after some years, it is going to go to somebody else's hands for some reasons. In our State, Kerala and all, they are keeping the Waqf properties for a mere rent of Rs. 3,000 for two acres in Calicut city. So, all these things are happening. Earlier, no stringent action was there, we can evacuate these people and we can give it to somebody for the benefit of the people, though, it was given to Waqf. Now, in these circumstances, we fear that you have some plans behind withdrawing that Bill and that plan came in the open when our Minister circulated the Bill. That is why Mr. John Brittas is comparing it with that Bill. So, the idea of withdrawing this Bill is to bring new Amendments. We already knew the Amendments. Whether the Bill goes before the JPC or not, the intention of the Bill is clear and is not good. नीयत नहीं है।

MS. SUSHMITA DEV (West Bengal): They have ulterior motive. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Whatever motive they may have. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Minister, don't get provoked by all these things. ...(*Interruptions*)... Okay. Let the hon. Chairman intervene in that. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I am, through you, placing our feelings before Shri Kiren Rijju that in the JPC, if it goes, you should reconsider the Bill which you have circulated. When you are withdrawing the old Bill, you just see what the difference is. Don't give all powers to just an IAS officer. That is our sincere request to you. I am not going wild and all that. I am only saying it peacefully that our community has got a lot of fear. You should understand the feelings of 30 crore or whatever the figure is. I don't know about the latest figure. Whatever it is, but is subject to correction by Dr. John Brittas. Okay. I don't know the exact number. Please consider this seriously. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is that leave be granted to withdraw the Bill...

श्री इमरान प्रतापगढ़ी (महाराष्ट्र): सर, दो मिनट का समय दे दीजिए।...(*व्यवधान*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would have accommodated. But, notice was not given by you. And, rules allow everyone to give notice. I had only two notices. Next time, be careful and vigilant.

श्री इमरान प्रतापगढ़ी: सर, दो मिनट का समय दे दीजिए।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Against the rules, not even a second. Within the rules, I can moderate the time. The question is:

That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill to provide for the Eviction of unauthorized occupants from waqf properties and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

MOTION UNDER RULE 117

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Kiren Rijju to move a Motion under Rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Sir, I move:

That the debate on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2022, (Amendment of Article 16), by Shri Javed Ali Khan, and the discussion be adjourned for a day allotted for the Private Member's Legislative Business (Bills) during the next Session of the Rajya Sabha.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - (Contd.)

The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024

The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024

&

The Finance (No.2) Bill, 2024

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharama, to reply to the combined discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2024,