

Editorial

Friday, November 29, 2019

CAB issue raise in Zero Hour – Is our MP think he can take an excuse from the act?

Something is better than nothing. Manipur MP Dr. Ranjan showed concern to the sentiment of the people in the wake of the Union Government effort to introduce the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), 2019 in the ongoing Lok Sabha session. The MP from the Inner Manipur Parliamentary constituency drew the attention of the house during Zero hour on Thursday about the need for insertion or an exemption clause in the proposed CAB to protect the indigenous people of the state.

Well, the agenda for introduction of CAB has already flared up large scale protest in the entire states of North East India since 2016. No doubt the BJP included the introduction of the CAB in their election manifesto of the last Lok Sabha election and they won. Forgetting the assurance by the Chief Minister of Manipur for urging the center to insert a clause for exemption Manipur from the purview of the CAB, many hard core BJP workers including a Minister who is also the spokesperson of the state made contradictory statement on CAB issue and have been trying to suppress the voice of the people against the introduction of the CAB. What is more interesting is that some barks of the BJP even consider the wining of the BJP candidate in Inner Manipur Parliamentary seat as a mandate for passing of CAB without having any understanding that last Lok Sabha election was not a referendum for CAB as there are many issues other than CAB. Besides, peoples' apprehension about the CAB has been diverted for some time with the assurance from the Chief Minister of Manipur. This is being reminded to make the elected MP Dr. Ranjan and the BJP workers, that CAB is an issue that the people of the state has been seriously opposing since the time it was introduced in the last Lok Sabha in 2016.

The question is – how serious is our MP Dr. RK Ranjan to this issue of CAB which has a tendency to spark another mass protest from the people of the state. Well on November 14 this year, talking to media at the sideline of a club building inauguration function at Bamol Leikai in Imphal East, Dr. Ranjan had stated that it is not his duty to go in the street for protest but it is his responsibility for putting up the matter of public concern to the Parliament (Lok Sabha) as he is a member of the house. This was on record and he was replying to a question raised by a journalist in connection with the alert protest being organised under the COCOMI in the backdrop of the final settlement of Naga Issue.

Now, what we in the Imphal Times would like to know from the Lok Sabha Member Dr. RK Ranjan is that, if he is so serious about the sentiment of the people why didn't he raised any question in connection to the ongoing peace talk between the NSCN-IM and the government of India during question hour or why not he demanded a short discussion to the issue. MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao had raised a question on the present status of the Framework agreement signed between the GoI and the NSCN-IM in the parliament session. He also sought clarification from the concern Minister to let the house know on whether the government of India has agreed for integration of the Naga inhabited area at different states bordering Nagaland.

Well at another case, a BJP MP from Darjeeling Raju Bista raise a star question at the Parliament in connection with the Health of Loktak Lake and well being of the surrounding villages/ farmers during question hour on Wednesday. As it was a star question the concern Minister gave proper reply.

Now, the onetime scholar, an academician and had served as Registrar of the Manipur Universities, besides his yearlong activism for protection of environment, DR. Ranjan only put up serious matter concerning Manipur in 'Zero Hour'. Whether the new MP have idea of Zero hour or is he assuming that people of the state have no knowledge of Zero Hour is a matter yet to be find out.

It is good that the MP Dr. Ranjan at least spoke about the sentiment of the people on CAB. But the question is that will his statement be heard or recorded in the parliamentary proceedings. Will his concern be taken into account by the concern Home Minister and if so why no answer from the Union Home Minister.

"Zero Hour" is not formally recognised in parliamentary procedure. However, Speaker, Lok Sabha/ Chairman, Rajya Sabha may allow or decline a Member to raise a matter of importance. For which, Members need to give prior notice before 9.00 am, that is before starting the seating. Only 20 such matters are being allowed to raise within time frame of 60 minutes at 12.00 noon in Lok Sabha.

However, on Thursday for the first time Lok Sabha saw the Speaker OM Birla allowing 162 members to speak of their concern for around 4 hours and 48 minutes. This is a privilege given to the Speaker of the parliament.

"Zero Hour" however is not recognized in the parliamentary procedure. Proceedings during Zero Hour, the members of both the Houses get a chance to raise matters of public importance that need immediate attention. Only after the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs gives assurances on the issues raised during 'Zero Hour', the relevant extracts from the proceedings are sent to the concerned ministry on the same day. The ministry takes over from there and initiates actions as deemed fit. Even if no assurance of action is given, the extracts are sent to the concerned departments. They may reply to the members after intimating the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.

The Government is not obliged to answer the questions raised during the Zero Hour.

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Uddhav Thackeray final takes oath as Chief Minister of Maharashtra

By Raju Vernekar
Mumbai, Nov 29

Ending a month long political impasse, Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray, Shiv Sena party president, was sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Maharashtra at a colourful function organised at historic Shivaji Park in Central Mumbai late Thursday evening.

He became the third Shiv Sena chief minister, earlier Sena CMs being Manohar Joshi and Narayan Rane, who were in the saddle in the Shiv Sena-BJP Government between the period 1995-1999.

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Thackeray. Six others - Eknath Shinde and Subhash Desai (Shiv Sena), Jayant Patil and Chhagan Bhujbal (NCP) and Balasaheb Thorat and Dr Nitin Raut (Congress) were sworn in as ministers along with Thackeray. Except Bhujbal and Raut all others swore in the name of god. Thackeray, the first from the Thackeray family to hold official position will now lead the Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition government (Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)).

Before taking oath he paid obeisance to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's idol kept on the dias and also bowed before the people. Uddhav Thackeray, who is currently not a legislator, will have to get elected either to the legislative assembly or the council within six months of taking oath. Additionally, a floor test will be held in the Maharashtra Assembly by 3 December, for which the tripartite alliance will have to keep its flock of MLAs together.

As the Governor arrived at 6.35 PM he was greeted with blowing of "Tutari" (traditional musical instrument like trumpet which was used during Maratha regime). He was received by Thackeray and a standing ovation was given to him by unprecedented crowd that gathered at Shivaji Park. This was followed by a national anthem played by Mumbai police band. The national level leaders who were present on the dias included many senior Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena leaders including: Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath, DMK's M.K. Stalin, senior Congress leaders Kabil Sibal, Abhishek Manu Singhvi and K C Venugopal, former Union Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde, AICC spokesman Rajev Shukla, NCP



President Sharad Pawar and NCP MPs Praful Patel and Supriya Sule, former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi (Shiv Sena), and Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut. Noted industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his wife Neeta Ambani, Uddhav's wife Rashmi and his son, newly elected MLA Aditya Thackeray were also present.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, former PM and JD(S) patriarch HD Deve Gowda and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav congratulated the coalition (MVA) and Uddhav Thackeray either through tweet or telephonically. Yadav in a tweet in Hindi said that BJP's *achhe din* (good days) are over.

A host of Maharashtra leaders including former Congress chief ministers Prithviraj Chavan, and Ashok Chavan, former Shiv Sena MP Chandrakant Khaire, Uddhav's estranged cousin and MNS Chief Raj Thackeray were present. Surprisingly NCP leader Aji Pawar (Sharad Pawar's nephew) who had revolted and sworn in as Deputy CM in the Devendra Fadnavis (BJP) on 23 November in covert early morning operation was also present. Fadnavis, and BJP leader who was

later forced to resign on realising that he had inadequate support, and BJP's Chandrakant Patil were also present.

The Shivaji Park witnessed a record number of people and activists who vied with each carrying flags of their party. In response to saffron flags of Shiv Sena, the NCP and Congress carried their flags with shade of tricolour. Even as the swearing in was going on, the activists and residents fighting to prevent a Metro car shed from being built at Aarey Colony in North Mumbai, to save the forest, were present at Shivaji Park, holding 'Save Aarey' banners.

Soon after Uddhav Thackeray was sworn in as the Maharashtra CM, Shiv Sena workers in Jammu celebrated the event by bursting crackers.

After the swearing in Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray in a late night cabinet meeting announced that Rs 20 crore have been sanctioned for the reconstruction of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's capital in Raigad Fort in Konkan region. The project, which costs Rs 600 crore, was allotted only Rs 20 crore in the past, he added.

He also announced that the aid announced as relief to farmers will

be reviewed and if need be a white paper will be published. Promising that the alliance will give Maharashtra a stable government, he said that he will check the reality of implementation of all state and Centre schemes aimed at helping farmers. "I don't want just memorandums and announcements. I want to see the ground reality when it comes to farmers. The fact is that after the loan waiver, did not benefit many farmers. I want to see to it that the money comes to the farmers," he added.

Responding to former CM Fadnavis' criticism of the common minimum programme of the MVA, not having a mention of Marathwada, Vidarbha and North Maharashtra regions, Uddhav said that the Cabinet's vision is for the entire state, not for a particular region. He also said that the government's aim is to make Maharashtra the top state in the country.

Uddhav Thackeray, a 1976-batch student of Balmohan Vidyanandir school at Dadar in Central Mumbai is basically a photographer. Known for his passion for photography, he started out in the advertising field by setting up an agency called 'Chaurang'. He specialises in aerial and wildlife photography.

He has two photo books to his credit, 'Maharashtra Desh' (2010) on the forts of the state, and 'Pahava Vitthal' (2011) on the Pandharpur wari (on pilgrimage to the temple town of Pandharpur). 'Maharashtra Desh' is full of breathtaking aerial shots, providing a glimpse into the cultural fabric, physical beauty and historical perspective of this wondrous state. A few years ago, he had organised an exhibition of his photographs and donated Rs 10 lakh from collected from their sale for farmer causes.

Lok Sabha witnesses uproarious scene over Pragma Singh Thakur's statement

AIR
New Delhi, Nov 29

Lok Sabha today witnessed uproarious scene over BJP MP Pragma Singh Thakur's statement. After the Question Hour, Ms Thakur, who is facing opposition fire for her remarks on Nathuram Godse, said in the House that if her statements have hurt anyone, then she would like to apologise.

She also said that her statements were misinterpreted. Her statement was followed by protests by opposition leaders who chanted slogans. Uproar continued as Speaker tried to pacify the agitating members. Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said they just have one demand, and that is unqualified apology. Intervening, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Prahlad Joshi said, Prime

Minister has instructed all BJP MPs including Ministers regarding the role of Gandhiji in India's freedom struggle and to take up pad yatras and spread the word on the 150th anniversary of Gandhiji. However, opposition members continued their agitation. Speaker Om Birla said he will meet leaders of all political parties in his chamber and adjourned the House till 2.30 PM.

XL State Level Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition for Children, 2019

DIPR
Imphal, Nov 29

Education Minister Thokchom Radheshyam has inaugurated the XL State Level Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition (SLSMEE) for Children, 2019 at T. G. Higher Secondary School, Imphal on the theme "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development" on Thursday. The exhibition was organized by The Science Unit, Department of Education (S) for students from Class IX - XII. The Minister said that the theme of the exhibition is very relevant as sustainability is the need of the hour for securing the future. As defined 'Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

He elaborated that 'sustainable' is the magic world of the modern world. If the present generation

used up all the available resources, there will be nothing left for the future generations. It is therefore important that sustainable means/methods are developed with science and technology through research, investigation and study. And thus, Science, Mathematics and Technology become one of the important sources for better future. Th. Radheshyam said that understanding of number and science is very important to become successful as it acts as powerful tools for investigating and understanding the nature and the world. Human negligence has been the reason for numerous natural disasters and calamities. Human being must maintain a good relation with environment to live a happy life. The universe and earth does not belong only to humans but to each and every living creature.

Commissioner Education (S), Shri Kh. Raghunani Singh while giving the Presidential speech elaborated on the sub themes of the SLSMEE - Sustainable Agricultural

Practices; Cleanliness and Health; Resource Management; Industrial Development; Future Transport and Communication; Educational Games and Mathematical Modeling. He also highlighted about the importance and the positive changes that science and technology has brought in different sectors and especially in field of agriculture.

Director, Education (S), Shri Th. Kirankumar appreciated the efforts of the teachers and guardians in guiding the students in developing the models. He said that new innovation grows a country to grow. India is advancing in terms of science and technology and space science. Science has major role to play in shaping the future.

In all 51 (fifty - one) models are being exhibited with 25 students participating in the Work Experience Camps (WEC) at the State Level Science Exhibition by students from 16 Zone. The SLSMEE is a culmination of the various exhibitions organized at the 17 Zonal

Level Exhibitions. From the State Level Exhibition best 15 (fifteen) exhibitors and 5 (five) selected students for Quiz/Work Experience Camp will participate in the Eastern India Science Fair Kolkata from 14th, 18th January, 2020. And subsequently best 3 (three) exhibitors will have the opportunity to be part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Science, Mathematics and Environment Exhibition, 2020.

The exhibition is being taken up as an annual feature in collaboration with NCERT. It is taken up to popularize Science, Mathematics and Environment Education amongst children, teachers and public in general. As a part of the exhibition a one day seminar on the topic - Periodic Table of Elements - was also held. The inaugural function was attended by concerned officials of the Department of Education (S), teachers, students and guardians. The exhibition will conclude on 30 November, 2019.