REPORT CARD TO THE PEOPLE OF KARNATAKA

Budget Session of Parliament 07th July 2014 To 14th August 2014

From

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR
Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
Transform India

In Parliament

Budget Session: 2014 July 7th to August 14th

My Attendance in Parliament: 96%
National Average: 84%

27 days of session, I was present for 26 days.

Parliament Questions:
- 42 by me
- 20 Governance 47.6%
- 7 National Security & Armed Forces 16.7%
- 7 Karnataka/Bangalore 16.7%
- 6 Economy 14.3%
- 2 Internet Governance 4.7%

Speeches Delivered:
- Debates/Discussions: 4
- Zero Hour Mentions: 1
- Calling Attentions: 1
- Short Duration Discussion: 1
- Special Mentions: 2

Source: PRS Legislative Research, New Delhi.
CHAMPIONING THE CAUSES OF BANGALORE AND KARNATAKA

The ailing Vishveshwaraya Iron and Steel Plant in Karnataka is set to receive a fresh lease of life, as the Government of India has allotted 140 Ha iron ore mining area in the NEB range of Bellary District for its use. Based on a question raised in the Rajya Sabha on details of iron ore reserves available to VISL and protecting the interests of VISL employees, the Minister stated that these reserves had been allotted through a re-survey. The Minister also assured the interests of VISL employees would be taken care of, in case of formation of a Joint Venture company.

2014, July 23

ENSURING THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSICAL KANNADA

To ensure the preservation of Karnataka’s rich literary heritage, followed up on the issue of the Government of Karnataka’s proposal to shift the Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada (CESCK) from Mysore to Bangalore.

The Minister assured that the Government of Karnataka has already identified 3.00 acres of land in the Bangalore University Campus and that the Government is willing to make this land available free of cost. Assurance was also given that the research and documentation of six near-extinct mother tongues/languages of Karnataka namely, Asalaru, Siddi, Iruliga, Malakuduya, Maratta & Tokri Koli has been conducted in partnership with Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute (KSTRi) Mysore.

2014, July 14

WOMEN AND CHILD SAFETY

Deeply disturbed by the increasing atrocities against children in Bangalore and across the country, was the First Member of Parliament to raise the issue of the brutal sexual assault of children in Parliament.

During a Zero Hour Mention, raised the issue of rising instances of horrific crimes against children & stressed the need for Government, police and the judiciary to adopt a zero tolerance approach to paedophiles and crimes against children. Also stressed on the need for amendments to Protection Of Children Against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO Act) to ensure responsibility of schools towards child safety.

Our concerted efforts was widely appreciated by media, NGOs and citizens alike for taking up on behalf of such a sensitive issue ignored by other MPs so far.

2014, July 23

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

During a discussion in Parliament on functioning of Women & Child Development Ministry, urged for a combined effort of legislation, enforcement & advocacy in order to address the rising crimes against children in the country. In the speech, stressed on the fact that Fast Track Courts were not set up despite mandated under POCSO Act, hence Law & Child Safety should be the priority for the next five years for the Ministry of Women & Child Development. Also suggested to the Ministry to develop bifurcated, exclusive plans each on women’s and child welfare and safety while also urged that the sensitization and advocacy efforts in society be scaled up in order to address the issue of Child Safety.

2014, July 31
GOVERNANCE REFORMS

BOTTLENECKS IN PROGRESS OF VARIOUS PROJECTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

2014, Aug 07

Raised serious concerns over the delay in implementation of various projects in the country that have resulted in cost over-runs to the tune of one lakh crore.

Through Zero Hour Mention, stressed that over 42% of projects have been delayed, which highlights a problem in our system of governance? Have also pressed for the government to take immediate action and ensure faster implementation of long pending projects, by including the introduction of efficient institutionalized processes, addressing systemic bottlenecks and building capability across industries. Media widely appreciated raising the pertinent question.

SUGGESTIONS TO MODERNIZE AND TRANSFORM THE INDIAN RAILWAYS: DISCUSSION ON THE RAIL BUDGET

2014, July 22

In a discussion on the Railway Budget, while stressing on the need to modernize and restore the vitality of the Indian Railways through structural reform, suggested splitting the Railways into three entities- Passenger, Freight and Rail Network Infrastructure, to ensure more focussed action and increased investments, drawing parallels from the aviation sector. Also suggested a Fiscal Responsibility charter that prevents future Ministers and bureaucrats from making arbitrary decisions and prohibits announcement of any new project until its financial viability and financing is secured. To spearhead the IT initiatives, suggested that the Railways should also appoint a Chief Technology Officer.

NATIONAL SECURITY AND WELFARE OF OUR ARMED FORCES

SETTING UP OF THE VETERANS COMMISSION

2014, July 08

Raised the issue of the need for a Armed Forces Veterans Commission to deal with the long pending concerns and demands of India’s armed forces veterans with a question to the Defence Minister. In reply, the Defence Minister assured that a Veterans Commission would be set up. In response, wrote to the Minister with suggestions to make the Veterans Commission more effective- suggesting that the Commission should be a statutory body comprising of veterans of repute, accorded the powers to deal with and resolve all issues of the ex-servicemen community.

SETTING UP SEPARATE TRIBUNALS FOR PARAMILITARY FORCES

2014, Aug 13

Questioned the Government on the lack of adequate grievance redressal mechanisms available to the paramilitary forces in the country and sought the Government’s view on setting up special paramilitary tribunals in line with administrative tribunals.

The Minister in his reply, assured that owing to the large number of litigations, the Home Ministry has taken up a proposal to ensure the Central Administrative Tribunal could now hear cases concerning the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), which were up until now, not under its purview.
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BUDGET SESSION

100
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80
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ECONOMY

REBUILDING THE ECONOMY: DISCUSSION ON THE UNION BUDGET

2014 July 08, 22, 24

During the discussion on the Union Budget, Rajeev highlighted two critical issues that can help rebuild the Indian Economy – the need for public investments & the role of private capital/Entrepreneurship. In his speech, Rajeev drew attention of the Finance Minister to the mismanagement of PSEs & urged the Government to develop a new paradigm for how PSEs are managed & how public money invested in these banks. He also highlighted the sharp rise in NPA's of PSU banks, wherein 10 industrial groups account for about 80% of NPAs of India's banking system, and urged that re-capitalization of these banks must be accompanied with significant restructuring and reorganizing of these banks.

FEEDBACK AND RESPONSES

Thank you very much for your sincere efforts to the welfare of Veterans.

SURESH BABU

Great sir we are proud of you. We need a great politician like you from Bangalore to address our grievances.

KRISHNA PRASAD JP

Good job. Thank you sir. As an MP you have done your duty.

K R NAIR

Sir you have done a great and appreciate job.

SAMARENDRA BISWAL

RC sir, I feel u r the one man army struggling to WIN! The battle to transform INDIA! It will happen. V the youth r with u!

APARNA PAVATE

Sir really admire u for putting up relevant questions which r real challenge towards the betterment of our country.

SUNNY BAGGA

Thank You, Shree Rajeev Chandrasekharji, for doing so much for the Armed Forces and the Veterans. I as a Veteran request you, to help out in nudging the DROPr forward, as it seems to have got stuck somewhere in between the MOD and the CGDA. I am sure you will be able to help in ensuring that the DROPr finally gets implemented and soon, by using your good offices with the PM and the Chief of Defence Staff. You were in the forefront of getting the parliamentary committee to recommend the DROPr... Will be very grateful, Sir...

SUNDER RAJAN

We appreciate the fact that you have used your good office in doing the needful of the school rape.

RAVI KHANOLKAR

Sir I fully respect the great job you are doing this country a better and safer place. Please make the concerned people also attentive to the sexual assaults against women and not just children. I would say not just attentive but the criminals shd be given such a punishment that nobody would dare to think about such kind of heinous acts.

PREETI KHADILKAR

On behalf of all the citizens of Chitrakuta, I'm saluting & respect sir

MUKUND RAJ M N

Yes sir... u have asked very relevant question. and another problem is the way of response. Oftenly we observed that the person who is responsible for this job is not well trained. And another one is time gap between action taken.

ABHISHEK PRAKASH
Discussion On The Working of The Ministry of Women and Child Development
2014, August 13

Sir, as a nation, we have let down our children on this issue of safety and are continuing to let them down. Let the Hon’ble Minister change this permanently by making Child safety the focus of the Ministry for next five years - to tackle this shameful scourge head-on, with a combined effort of legislation, enforcement and advocacy.

I would like to suggest a bifurcation within the Ministry, of Child Safety and Women’s safety and welfare... While the case may not exist for a separate Child Welfare Ministry, it is clearly not the case that children’s safety and women’s safety are linked. They are two very different issues - Child abuse and assault occur at homes and schools, and women’s safety issues are in the external world. There are over 400 million children in India, which constitutes approximately 30% of the population. Children have specialized social, psychological and health needs – and these cannot be subsumed into a mandate for a group of people – women – who have equally complex needs. The focus on these two separate issues needs to be driven by either departments or institutions like National Commission for Women (NCW) and NCPCR that have to date not covered themselves with glory.

Children are the most vulnerable members of our society. It is the duty and obligation of society to care and nurture them. Sexual offences and crimes against children are the worst and most horrific forms of cruelty, especially when perpetrated by adults, because it violates basic trust and humanity. Crimes committed at school are even worse because it violates the trust that the parents and children reposes on the school and teachers.

Zero Hour Mention on Bottlenecks in Progress of Various Projects Across Country
2014, August 7

... Government revealed that the number of projects delayed as of February 2012 was 233 out of 555, or nearly 42 per cent of the total projects. This highlights a major problem of governance within our system. In my home State of Karnataka alone, Sir, there are railway projects that have had overruns of almost 900 per cent, and are in no sight of being commissioned any time soon. The problem extends beyond the railway sector. Nearly 60 per cent of the projects in the petroleum sector, for instance, are delayed.

Speech during the debate on the Union Budget
2014, July 24

The Banking sector in India, has begun to resemble something from Alice in Wonderland with the banks in particular looking like Piggy Banks for the rich and powerful. The sharp rise in NPA’s and fall in their profitability has not been challenged or questioned enough. The NPA’s have gone up alarmingly in the last 2-3 years and there is a direct loss in value of public equity of these Banks. The move to capitalize the PSBs with Rs. 2.4 lakh crores is a significant investment of public money. This capitalization must be accompanied with significant restructuring and reorganizing of these banks and how they are managed, especially in areas of risk and credit assessment.

The phenomenon of big businessmen glibly escaping the responsibility of repaying personally guaranteed loans while banks pounce on small and middle income families and SME’s defaulting on home, car, 2-wheeler, farming, education loans and other loans – exposes the double standards in Public Sector Banking. This is neither tenable nor acceptable, and constitutes a moral hazard of the worst kind, made even worse when some of these businessmen are in Parliament. The Public Sector Banking system needs reforms.

The problems for this trend of price rise are the structural issues with our economy that have been created over these 4-5 years. The economy has become stuck in a low growth and high inflation mode for several years now causing many connected problems. Most of the reasons for this situation can be attributed to the out-of-control profligacy that has been unmatched in its size and scope.
Global Humanitarian & Environment Protection Trust (Regd.)

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Dated: 26 JUL 2014

TO:
MR. NIBYCH CHANDER SHEKHAR,
M.P. ( INDEPENDENT)
R.N.Z.N. (OFFICIAL HOUSE),
PARLIAMENT, NEW DELHI

HON'BLE M.P. sir,

With due regards and regretting, we salute you for raising your voice in the plight of the poor children of the PUBLIC/PRIVATE SCHOOLS in the country.

As is evident from the name of our TRUST, we are deeply involved and dedicated to the human rights. We are usually mobile in the matter of human rights' violence with the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, and we are feeling pleasure to inform you that in around 10 cases cases, we have been up through our trust to the N.H.R.C.

Our Trust is with you in your fight, which you have just started.

We have come to know about your fight through an interview published in local Hindi Newspaper, namely VISHV UDAAN, DATED 26/07/2014 on page 10, we are enclosing Xerox copy of the interview.

We appreciate your efforts and extend you our moral support and blessing.
May God bless you in all your efforts and help you on your way.

With kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Secretary General,
Global Humanitarian & Environment Protection Trust
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