

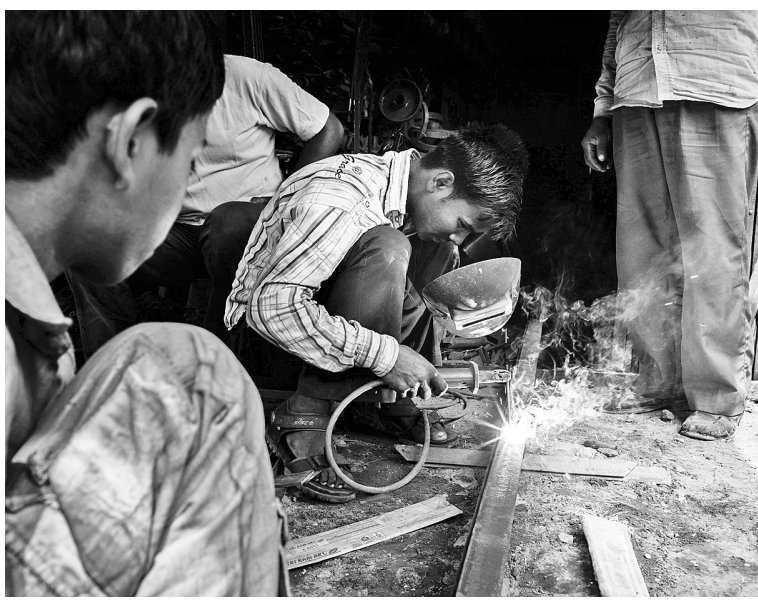
Not consulted over note ban, says statistics ministry

AMIT AGNIHOTRI
New Delhi, 18 February

The government did not consult the ministry of statistics over the impact of demonetisation, officials told a parliamentary panel. The issue cropped up on Thursday when TCA Anant, secretary, statistics and programme implementation, appeared before the parliamentary standing committee on finance, sources said. The committee is reviewing the ministry's demands for grants for 2017-18.

When several members asked Anant if the ministry was consulted over the likely impact of demonetisation before the government announced it on November 8, 2016, the secretary replied in the negative. Several members expressed concern over joblessness in the country and noted that data available with the ministry was not reflecting the true picture. The members urged the government to provide more accurate and analytical data supported by field studies so that it could deal with the problem better.

The Opposition has been targeting the government over the note ban, saying the controversial move



The Opposition has been targeting the government over the loss of jobs in many small and medium enterprises due to note ban

took away hundreds of thousands of jobs. The government claims the move will bring benefits to the system in the long run. Noting the ministry was missing

out on its objectives, Trinamool Congress member Dinesh Trivedi said the government should remember the contribution of noted statistician PC Mahalanobis, who had done

seminal work in generating economic data.

Trivedi further said the gross domestic product data were not meaningful in understanding the widespread problem of unemployment. The lawmaker also said India need not blindly follow the UN on issues like sustainable development goals and climate change but must develop homegrown models to come up with solutions to these issues.

Sikkim Democratic Front member PD Rai told the officials their data were obsolete and needed to be updated keeping in mind emerging social and economic challenges. He urged the ministry to regularly update data on joblessness.

Referring to Bhutan's Happiness Index, one of the members wondered why the Centre should not do something to measure the well-being of citizens.

Bharatiya Janata Party member Nishikant Dubey pointed at the discrepancy in data originating from the ministry and the Indian Statistical Institute due to recent changes in the Union Budget from plan and non-plan to revenue and capital expenditure-based projections.

Budget cuts affecting foreign policy objectives: Tharoor

AMIT AGNIHOTRI
New Delhi, 18 February

A shortage of funds for international projects was denting the credibility of India's foreign policy, said Congress MP and former UN diplomat Shashi Tharoor while urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intercede in the matter.

Expressing concern over delays in completion of projects announced by Indian prime ministers abroad as the finance ministry was not able to back them with adequate funds, Tharoor, a former minister of state for external affairs, said budget cuts over the past few years had affected many such projects in Asia and Africa. He, however, refrained from naming specific projects to protect the national interest.

According to Tharoor, who heads the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs, Indian prime ministers announce various projects on foreign soil but when the foreign ministry is not able to pursue them as the finance ministry cuts its budget, the foreign policy establishment suffers embarrassments.

"The biggest challenge to Indian foreign policy is not from Pakistan but from the finance ministry," Tharoor told *Business Standard*. "The PMO should intercede in the matter and play referee. At present, it is not doing enough," he said.

Citing an example, Tharoor said while analysing budgetary allocations for the external affairs ministry during 2015-16, the panel found the ministry had sought ₹22,967 crore but the actual allocation was ₹14,966 crore.

He further noted that though the panel had urged the external affairs ministry to pursue substantially enhanced allocation at the revised estimate stage, the committee was disappointed as the situation did not improve despite the intervention by both the external affairs minister and the foreign secretary.



THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE TO INDIAN FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT FROM PAKISTAN BUT FROM THE FINANCE MINISTRY. THE PMO SHOULD INTERCEDE IN THE MATTER AND PLAY REFEREE

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Tharoor said it was disturbing that over the years there had been a discernible gap in budgetary demands made by the external affairs ministry and the actual allocations provided despite optimum utilisation of funds. Fund utilisation was 100 per cent in 2013-14 and 96 per cent in 2014-15, he pointed out. Further, the depreciating rupee and general inflation resulted in under-provisioning of 187 Indian missions abroad, Tharoor said, adding the government should come up with a coherent policy regarding such establishments in 123 countries.

The second-term Congress MP from Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala suggested the external affairs ministry explore integration of other sources of funds as developmental partnership with other participating ministries to pursue foreign policy goals. The external affairs ministry's view that it will not be

taking any new projects this year and only focus on completing the ongoing ones has found favour with the parliamentary panel as a practical solution to the problem of budget cuts. Defending its position before the panel, the external affairs ministry had said progress had been slow in some projects due to adverse climatic conditions, geological changes and technological issues, causing time and cost overruns.

According to Tharoor, who was minister of state for external affairs during the United Progressive Alliance government, the problem of budget cuts for the ministry spanned the Congress and the BJP-led regimes at the Centre. "This is not a Congress versus BJP issue but a FM vs FM situation. The finance ministry fails to support the foreign ministry. But you can't tell this to a foreign government," he said.

Palaniswami wins confidence vote amid ruckus

T E NARASIMHAN & GIREESH BABU
Chennai, 18 February

Amid absolute pandemonium in the Assembly, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami won the confidence motion on Saturday.

Backed by party chief V K Sasikala, he was supported by 122 members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

Of the 234 members of the Assembly — one seat is vacant since the death of J Jayalithaa on December 5, 2016 — 230 were present in the House on Saturday. Eleven AIADMK members, all supporters of former CM O Panneerselvam, voted against Palaniswami; 89 members of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and eight of the Congress did not vote.

All DMK members were ejected as they disrupted proceedings and broke the speaker's microphone and table. The Congress members staged a walk-out.

Besides Palaniswami's supporters, all other legislators demanded that the speaker postpone the floor test. Their reason: To allow MLAs who had been holed up with



DMK working president M K Stalin (centre) along with his party MLAs at the Tamil Nadu Secretariat in Chennai on Saturday

PHOTO: PTI

Sasikala at the Golden Bay resort near Chennai to meet voters before casting their votes. There was also a demand for a secret ballot.

Both demands were denied, resulting in protests that soon turned chaotic. Speaker P Dhanapal said in the 12 confidence motions in the history of the House there had never been a secret ballot.

The drama on Saturday was reminiscent of a similar incident in the House in January 1988, because of an internal power struggle in the AIADMK between Jayalithaa and Janaki Ramachandran, the wife of the party's founder M G Ramachandran.

After adjourning the House twice, Speaker Dhanapal called for voting at 3:10 pm.

Palaniswami would have needed 117, even if the Opposition was there.

Panneerselvam said, "The battle is over, but the war will begin soon. Amma's government would be restored by her team. It will take time though."

The new CM along with Sasikala's relative and AIADMK Deputy General Secretary T T V Dinakaran went to

Jayalithaa's memorial to pay respect.

Palaniswami later told reporters his priorities were getting compensation for damages caused by Cyclone Vardah, to get the President's nod on an ordinance to not conduct National Eligibility and Entrance Test (NEET), and compensation for drought from the Centre.

On Thursday, he had claimed the support of 124 MLAs, but former Chennai police commissioner and Mylapore MLA R Nataraj said he would not support Palaniswami. On Saturday morning North Koval MLA Arun Kumar also decided to not take part in the voting as a mark of protest against Sasikala and her family. He also resigned as the district secretary of the party. DMK chief M Karunanidhi could not take part in the voting because of ill health. His son and party Executive Leader M K Stalin emerged from the chaos in the House with a torn shirt. He went directly to the Raj Bhavan to complain to the governor, and then, along with his supporters, proceeded to Marina beach — the site of Jallikattu protests last month — to stage a fast. He was promptly arrested.

NPPA asks stent makers, importers to submit price list by March 1

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked manufacturers and importers of coronary stents to submit details, including price list of their products, before March 1. The NPPA also asked the manufacturers to furnish quarterly returns of production/import and sale of coronary stents. PTI

Dialogue stasis in Kashmir driving civilians to confront army

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 18 February

The government's silence in the face of simmering anger in Kashmir is throwing into dangerous confrontation two crucial protagonists — the army versus unarmed Kashmiri civilian mobs.

The army, on the one hand, must intensify counter-infiltration operations to keep militants at bay until snow closes routes across the Line of Control (LoC). And, with nothing to show for months of violent street protests after the killing in July of popular local militant, Burhan Wani, Kashmiri separatists have little choice but to up the ante, if necessary by confronting the army directly.

On Wednesday, a day after four army men were killed and several others injured in three encounters in North Kashmir, army chief, General Bipin Rawat bluntly warned that stone-pelting Kashmiri mobs who interfered in army operations would be fired upon.

Calling such mobs "over-ground workers of terrorists", Rawat also warned that civilians waving Pakistani or Islamic State (IS) flags would be treated as "anti-nationals".

These strong words had been carefully calibrated. The army, highly experienced in counter-insurgency operations (COIN), faces a worrying new challenge from flash mobs of Kashmiri civilians, who hurl stones at soldiers moving to cordon a suspected militant hideout, or closing in for the final engagement. This facili-



Stones thrown by protesters litter the street in Srinagar after the violent street protests against the killing of popular local militant Burhan Wani

REUTERS FILE PHOTO

tates the militant's getaway. Alternatively, like on Tuesday, it distracts soldiers at a critical moment, causing additional casualties. Since insurgency broke out in the Kashmir Valley in 1990, even through sustained spells of violent civilian protests, mobs had prudently avoided direct confrontation with the army and its counter-militancy wing, the Rashtriya Rifles.

Most seminal confrontations with civilians have involved the "central armed police forces" (CAPFs), or the J&K Police (JKP). From the blood-bath in Srinagar in May 1990, when some 50 Kashmiri mourners in

Mirwaza Mohammed Farooq's funeral procession were shot dead by a panic-stricken Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) detachment that feared it was being overwhelmed to the three summers of violent street protests across Kashmir in 2008, 2009 and 2010, it was always CAPFs or JKP that came into direct confrontation with civilians. Even through periods of extended bitterness, the army and civilians extended unusual courtesies to each other. Army posts were seldom directly targeted and army convoys moved with relative freedom.

There were two reasons for this. First, violent civilian mobs were largely an urban phenomenon; and the

police, not the army, controlled the Valley's big cities. Second, Kashmiri separatist leaders realised there would be bloody costs to directly confronting the army, since that would be responded to, not as civilian protest, but as a threat to the territorial integrity of the Line of Control (LoC), which the army guarded.

Few Kashmiris would admit this, but there is a grudging public respect of the army's operational restraint and "winning hearts and minds" campaigns that have materially uplifted living conditions in remote border areas ignored by the state government.

This balance, however, began changing in 2014-15, when the first civilian flash mobs appeared in rural South Kashmir and challenged on-going army cordon-and-search operations. Inexorably, incidents grew of unarmed locals pelting stones at armed soldiers in cordons and of interference in actual firefights.

This mindset change across rural Kashmir is blamed on two reasons. Firstly, after the mass agitations of 2008-10, Kashmiris expected an outreach from New Delhi, including a political dialogue. Not only did the United Progressive Alliance betray that expectation but, since 2014, the National Democratic Alliance government inflamed Kashmiri opinion with "anti-Muslim" confrontations like the beef ban, the Dadril lynching and the "love jihad" controversy. As bitterly resented were a series of local controversies, internal to Kashmiri politics, that separatists presented as an assault on the Kashmiri identity —

such as allegations that New Delhi was transforming the Valley's demographic profile by sponsoring "Pandit Colonies" and "Sainik Colonies".

Further, Kashmiri youth were bitter at the abject failure of armed militancy, with new militants often surviving less than a month in the field before being gunned down by the security forces. The frenzy after the gunning down of Burhan Wani last July, more a social media star than a dreaded militant, reflected public bitterness at an underdog swallowed by the maws of a pitiless security establishment. Many of those pelting stones at an army cordon are driven by the frantic need to rescue a young man whom they know intimately.

The army, however, does a dangerous job, in which it already imposes numerous restraints on itself to make COIN operations less hazardous to the public — such as abjuring the use of mortars, artillery, helicopters or air power. Senior commanders realise that soldiers' hands cannot be tied beyond a point.

Hence General Rawat's warning to civilians, which is not the first. Last April, after a dozen soldiers were injured in stone pelting, the army publicly warned it would use force against civilians breaking a cordon. Earlier, two civilians were actually killed near Pulwama while they attacked an army cordon. "We have painted the Kashmiri youngsters into a dangerous corner. The only way of relieving the pressure is dialogue. Otherwise, this will not end well", says a senior military officer, serving in the Valley.

Yuvraaj Hygiene Products Limited

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NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT

Members are hereby informed that the Company has on Friday, 17th February, 2017 completed dispatch of the Notice of Postal Ballot dated 14th February, 2017 ("Notice") together with Postal Ballot Form & self-addressed postage prepaid envelope in compliance with Section 108 and 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rules 20 and 22 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended by the Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2014 and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 to all the shareholders at their registered addresses or e-mail IDs whose names appear in the Register of Members as on Friday, 10th February, 2017 for seeking approval of members for the resolutions as set out in the Notice.

The Board of Directors of the Company have appointed CS Manish L. Ghia, Partner, M/s. Manish Ghia & Associates, Company Secretaries, Mumbai (Membership No. FCS 6252) as Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot process including the e-voting process in a fair and transparent manner.

The members of the Company are also hereby informed and requested to note that:

- The business as set out in the aforesaid notice is to be transacted by the members through postal ballot including e-voting process. The Company is providing facility for voting through e-voting platform of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The necessary instructions for e-voting have been set out in the said notice.
- The Notice of Postal Ballot along with the Form and instructions for remote e-voting are available on websites of the Company viz. www.hic.in, BSE Limited viz. www.bseindia.com, and CDSL viz. www.evotingindia.com.
- Member(s) can opt for only one mode for voting i.e. either by physical Postal Ballot Form(s) or e-voting. In case, Members cast their votes through both the modes, voting done by e-voting shall prevail and votes cast through physical Postal Ballot Form(s) shall be treated as invalid.
- Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paid-up value of shares registered in the names of the Members as on Friday, 10th February, 2017.
- The remote e-voting period begins on Saturday, 18th February, 2017 (9.00 am) and ends on Sunday, 19th March, 2017 (5.00 pm). The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL for voting after 5.00 p.m. on 19th March, 2017.
- The duly completed Postal Ballot Form(s) should reach the Scrutinizer by not later than 5.00 p.m. on Sunday, 19th March, 2017 to be eligible for being considered as valid, failing which, it will be strictly considered that no reply has been received from the Member.

In case a Member is desirous of obtaining a printed Postal Ballot Form or a duplicate, the same is available on the website of the Company viz. www.hic.in.

The Result of the Postal Ballot and e-voting will be declared on or before Tuesday, 21st March, 2017 by 4.00 p.m. at the Registered Office of the Company. The said results along with the Scrutinizer's report shall be displayed on the website of the Company, CDSL and the same shall be forwarded to the BSE Limited.

For detailed instructions of remote e-voting, members may refer to the Section "E-voting Process" in the said Notice. In case of queries or grievances pertaining to e-voting procedure, members may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting manual available at www.evotingindia.com under the "Help" section or write an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or contact Mr. Rakesh Dalvi – Deputy Manager, Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers, 16th Floor, Dalal Street, Fort, Mumbai – 400 001 at contact number – 18002005533. Members may also write to the Company Secretary & Compliance Officer of the Company at yhp@hic.in or at the Registered Office Address given above.

For Yuvraaj Hygiene Products Limited
Sd/-
Mustafa Badami
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place: Navi Mumbai Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Date: 17th February, 2017
ACS No. 30133

