

THE WEEKLY VOICE

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Gross Circulation: 30,000  
CCNA Verified Circulation: 29,997  
Aug 14, 2015  
(Printed at Toronto Star)



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# Landmark Triple Talaq Bill Scuttled

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was not given and that the proposed committee was not representative in character.

Citing earlier rulings, he said a parliamentary panel has to represent the character of the House and be a "microcosm of the House".

Jaitley also said the work of a Select Committee was to improve a bill and a "saboteur" cannot be a part of the panel and as such was disqualified to be a part of it.

Intervening, Sharma said even when he had moved the resolution on Wednesday he had said in writing that the names of BJP and NDA MPs could be included in the proposed panel.

Sharma demanded that under Rule 131 an unfinished business has to be finished first.

Trinamool's Roy said the matter came to the House on Wednesday because the government was not agreeable to reference of the bill to a Select Committee during a discussion in the Business Advisory Committee. "I am open to getting government members in



Opposition MPs stage protest in Rajya Sabha during a debate on the Triple Talaq Bill - IANS

the committee."

Kurien brushed aside Jaitley's objections saying the two motions have been allowed by the Chairman and he had no powers to change the decision.

The Deputy Chairman said if there were technical defects in the motion, the Secretariat should have gone into it but once admitted by the Chairman, he cannot do anything about it.

Now that the motions have been moved in the House, they have become the property of the Rajya Sabha and only members have the right to decide on their fate. On 24 hours advance notice, he read out a rule which prescribed a day's notice but also left it to the discretion of the Chairman whether to admit it earlier.

However, after giving the ruling, Kurien said on priority in

finalising the list of business, the government has the final say and cannot give precedence to triple talaq bill over a GST legislation listed before that.

This led to heated exchanges between Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress and Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani, leading to uproar that forced the adjournment of the House for the day.

## Higher Minimum Wages = Price Rise, Job Cuts

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enue in a short period of time without having to revamp a lot of things \_ either letting staff go, doing a lot of the work yourself, raising prices," Stevens said.

"We believe the minimum wage should go up and people should make a living wage, however I think (the hike) puts the onus on small businesses."

Dan Rishworth's Toronto bicycle shop, Enduro Sport, employs seven permanent, full-time staff members and hires several young people as seasonal workers each summer when business picks up. The minimum wage increase could result in the store hiring fewer summer workers from now on, Rishworth said.

"I think at this point we're not going to hire six summer people

any longer, we're going to hire only three or four," he said.

The increase in payroll will also result in upper-level staff receiving fewer or smaller raises, Rishworth added.

"And I'm anticipating that (more senior) staff who are already getting \$15 an hour are going to expect to get \$17 or \$18 or more because minimum wage is approaching \$15," he said.

The Financial Accountability Office of Ontario \_ an independent watchdog agency that reports to the provincial legislature \_ has estimated that the minimum wage hikes could result in a loss of 50,000 jobs as employers struggle to keep up with staffing costs. "Some businesses will attempt to reduce expenses by substituting minimum wage em-

ployees for higher paid, more productive workers or by increasing automation," the agency said in a report released in September.

But the higher minimum wage would also increase consumer spending, "stimulate economic activity and lead to job creation (that could) offset some of the loss in employment," it said.

Ontario Minister of Labour Kevin Flynn said last week that he doesn't believe the "doom and gloom" predictions about rising minimum wage hurting businesses or leading to unemployment.

"We've raised minimum wage 70 per cent since 2003 and we've seen increased employment right through that period," Flynn said at a news conference.

"I think we've proven we can work with small business. We

are lowering the tax rate, we're lowering the burden on small business so we're asking them to play a part here," he added, referencing the Liberal government's elimination of the capital tax for businesses, and reduced income tax rates for small businesses.

"This money is going to go right back into Main Street, it's going to go right back into the mom and pop businesses that ? are concerned," the minister added. "(But) it's going to take an adjustment...It's going to take a change."

In June, over 50 economists at universities across Canada co-wrote an open letter supporting Ontario's \$15 minimum wage plan, in part, they said, because higher wages make for a stronger economy.

## Local Gurdwaras Bar Indian Officials

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decision was taken after repeated attempts by the Indian High Commission in Canada to interfere in our functioning.

"There were many recent incidents in which our Sikh brothers and sisters were being pressurised by Indian High Commission to ensure their intervention in these gurdwaras.... So we have ended this chapter by making it official that no Indian representative can enter gurdwara to make speech or organise any function. They can only come here in personal capacity as devotees. We will keep close watch on their activities," Mann was quoted as saying.

Gurpreet Singh Bal, President of the Ontario Khalsa Darbar in Mississauga, better known as the Dixie gurdwara, has been quoted as saying: "This decision was taken unanimously. The Indian government interferes too much in the community."

However, he clarified the ban will be on those visiting gurdwaras in their official capacity, not if they come with personal purpose: "Gurdwara is open for everyone, but when they are on official basis, that's not allowed," he said.

AMRISTAR: Akali Dal Amritsar (Mann) Leader Sukhminder Singh Hansra was among the 30 people said to be present at the meeting and in a statement, he said: We applaud the decision of Gurdwara Managements to bar Indian High Commission and Indian Consulate as the officials of Indian High Commission (were) directly infiltrating the Sikh affairs within Canada."

The Sikhs for Justice group, welcomed the announcement. Its legal advisor Gurpatwant Pan-nun said: "We appreciate the decision of Ontario Gurdwaras to ban entry of Indian diplomats in the Gurdwaras....We urge the management committees across Canada to ban and boycott members of Indian consulates."

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