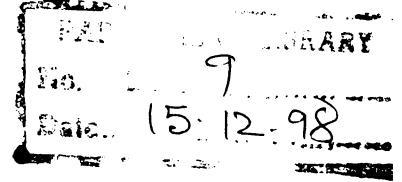


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)



**First Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 8)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

Price : Rs. 50.00

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

...

Tuesday, March 31, 1998/Chaitra 10, 1920 (Saka)

...

Col./line	For	Read
20/7	SHRI ASHOK KUMAR PRADHAN (KHURJA)	SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA)
31/2 (from below)	SHRI RUPCHAND	SHRI RUPCHAND PAL
56/24	THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)	THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)
62/12	SHRI SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN (Vidisha)	SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha)
69/12 (from below)	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK)	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK)
133/4	SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH)	SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (JUNAGARH)
141/14	SHRI SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad)	DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

11.02 hrs.

Tuesday, March 31, 1998/Chaitra 10,
1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I will come to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. I am on my legs. It is not good on your part.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagria) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Point of order will be taken up later on.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. This is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I will hear you. Please take your seats.

First, let us take up Papers to be laid on the Table, then I will come to you.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Review of the working of Bharat Leather Corporation alongwith Annual Accounts for the year 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Sikander Bakht, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of the section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 81/98]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 82/98]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited

Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 83/98]

- (e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 84/98]

- (f) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited, Durgapur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 85/98]

- (g) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 86/98]

- (h) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 87/98]

- (i) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the

Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 88/98]

- (j) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 89/98]

- (k) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 90/98]

- (l) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 91/98]

- (m) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Sambhar Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 92/98]

- (n) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Salts Limited, Jaipur, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 93/98]

- (o) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Scooter India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 94/98]

- (p) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 95/98]

- (q) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 96/98]

- (r) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 97/98]

- (s) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cycle Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 98/98]

- (2) Nineteen Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palghat, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 99/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1996-97.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 100/98]

- (7) A copy of the Oil Pressure Stoves (Quality Control) Order, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 451 (E) in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 1997, issued under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 101/98]

Annual Report and Budgeted Accounts alongwith review of working of Bihar Educational Project Council, Patna for the year 1996-97

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : Sir, on behalf of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Bihar Education Project Council, Patna, for the year 1996-97.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 102/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Prathamik Shiksha Mission, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi Prathamik Shiksha Mission, Bhopal, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reason for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 103/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme (Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad) Mumbai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme (Maharashtra Prathamik Shikshan Parishad) Mumbai, for the year 1996-97.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 104/98]

Annual Report with Audited Accounts of SEBI for the year 1996-97 alongwith Statement showing delay in laying these papers.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 15 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 105/98]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 106/98]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Madras, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 107/98]

- (c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of

the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 108/98]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Bombay, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Bombay, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 109/98]

(e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Bombay, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 110/98]

Annual Report and Audited Accounts (English and Hindi versions) alongwith review of working of Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar for the year 1996-97

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Orissa Primary Education Programme, Authority, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-97.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 111/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya

Society, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samakhya Society, Uttar Pradesh, for the year 1996-97.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 112/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam Shiksha Achari Parishad, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Assam Shiksha Achari Parishad, Guwahati, for the year 1996-97.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 113/98]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Council of Primary Education, Gujarat, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Council of Primary Education, Gujarat, for the year 1996-97.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 114/98]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme, Karnataka, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme, Karnataka, for the year 1996-97.

(10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 115/98]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samatha Society, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samatha Society, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 1996-97.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 116/98]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya Society, Gujarat, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samakhya Society, Gujarat, for the year 1996-97.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 117/98]
- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tamil Nadu State Mission of Education for All, Chennai, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Tamil Nadu State Mission of Education for All, Chennai, for the year 1996-97.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 118/98]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya Society, Karnataka, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya Society, Karnataka, for the year 1996-97.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 119/98]
- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Andhra Pradesh Pradhamika Vidya Parishad, Hyderabad, for the year 1996-97.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 120/98]
- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Haryana Prathmik Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Haryana Prathmik Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad, Chandigarh, for the year 1996-97.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 121/98]
- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paschim Banga Rajya Prathamik Siksha Unnayan Sanstha, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of the Paschim Banga Rajya Prathamik Siksha Unnayan Sanstha, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.
- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 122/98]
- Valuation Report of LIC India (Hindi and English versions) as on 31st March, 1997**
- [English]
- THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : On behalf of Shri R.K. Kumar, I beg to lay on the Table :-
- (1) A copy of the Results of the Twenty Seventh Valuation Report of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Hindi and English versions) as on the 31st March, 1997, under

section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 123/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 124/98]

- (3) A copy of the Twenty-Seventh Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as at the 31st March, 1997, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 125/98]

Annual Report, Audited Accounts and Review of the working of National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd., New Delhi etc. for the year 1996-97 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 126/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Federation of Labour Cooperatives Limited, for the year 1996-97.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 127/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishermen's Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 128/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) Annual Accounts of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (i) A copy of the review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi for the year 1996-97.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 129/98]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and credit societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1996-97.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 130/98]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, there is an announcement. The Government had recommended eight hours for the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. So far, we have discussed it for five hours and fifty-three minutes; fourteen Members have participated in the discussion. The balance time at our disposal is two hours and seven minutes. In order to enable more Members to participate in the discussion, hon. Members are requested to be very brief and to the point in their speeches. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, we would like to know as to when the Prime Minister is going to reply to this discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : Before we start this discussion, I would like to allow some hon. Members to raise their 'Zero Hour' on urgent matters. I am again appealing to the hon. Members to be kindly brief and to take two minutes each so that we can accommodate more Members.

I now call upon Shri Mohan Singh to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker Sir, in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister is going to reply to this discussion at 5 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Sir, there was one commitment from the hon. Minister. When the issue about the natural calamities was raised in the House, he promised that he would make a statement by Monday. We could not get that statement yesterday. We are expecting the statement today at least because many States — Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and a number of other States — are involved...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Would anybody from the government side say something on this?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I spoke to the Hon. Prime Minister. He may perhaps make a statement before the House rises for the day today...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : Sir, the other day the Prime Minister had given an assurance that he would make a statement in the House ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I was submitting that I spoke to him yesterday and he said that he would make a statement today. I would again discuss with him and let you know the time when he would make the statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he said that a statement would be made after discussing the matter with leaders of all political parties. Since no such discussion has taken place, how can a statement be made here?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait for a minute. I have allowed Shri Panja to speak. I will come to you later.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North-East) : Sir, due to the urgency and the state of affairs which happened in two States, Orissa and West Bengal, because of the tornado, two teams were sent under the direction of the hon. Prime Minister. The two teams came back. One team was consisting of the Members of Parliament and the other team of an hon. Minister, hon. Member Kumari Mamata Banerjee and one other hon. Member. We must have the reports of these two teams and also what has happened there. To our information, as far as the State Governments are concerned, till now the relief provided is very meagre and it has not reached the people...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is not correct...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : In West Bengal, till now no relief has been provided. The Prime Minister has promised that money would be given. We would like to know whether it has reached there or not...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What is required is more assistance from the Central Government ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No more discussion will be allowed on this because there is already an assurance.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : No one has gone there. They are sitting here...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What Shri Ajit Kumar Panja has said is far from true...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : One minute please.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : I want relief to go there directly to victims...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, please sit down because there is already an assurance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, please understand that there is already an assurance from the Government side. The hon. Prime Minister is going to make a statement on this. Later, you can take up and seek a clarification.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Is it on the same point or is it on a different point? Please tell me. Is it on the same point?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the eastern part of Bihar has been struck by tornado and hailstorm on 29.3.98. As a result there has been damage to the tune of crores of rupees. I demand that the Central Government should take note of this fact...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except Shri Mohan Singh's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

[Translation]

I have called Shri Mohan Singh.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I want to raise a matter about

deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House cannot discuss the law and order situation of a State... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Mohan Singh.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of students in Uttar Pradesh are boycotting examination in protest against the copying ordinance... (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House cannot discuss a state matter particularly when the State is not under President's Rule and there is a popular Government in the State. This matter relating to UP cannot be discussed here. This is not U.P. Assembly. This matter can be discussed in the State Assembly ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have permitted Shri Mohan Singh. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have permitted Shri Mohan. How can you talk like this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : This matter relates to atrocities being committed on women and children. It is the bound'n duty of the Central Government to protect the interests of women and Dalits. The industries in U.P. should be protected. A helicopter... (Interruptions) forcibly landed at Firozabad. Today thousands of women and children are in jail there. They were made target of tear gas shells. The Government should make a statement on this incident. The matter concerning attack on women, students and Dalits should be discussed in the House... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. Next is Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here. This is a serious matter concerning U.P. A statement should be made here and the House should take note of it. All the students who are in jail should be released, cases against them should be withdrawn and all the teachers, both male and female, should also be released from jails. I would like that Government make a detailed statement in this regard... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can only assist in this matter. No other matter may please be raised.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV (Kannauj) : Sir, during the examination days, Section 144 is imposed in U.P. When the examinations were in progress a U.P. Minister forcibly landed a helicopter at an examination centre where it kept on taking rounds of the area for nearly 15 minutes, though principal did not give permission for that. But the district Administration helped in the landing of Helicopter — In this process the examination papers and answersheets were flown and scattered. When the students protested against this, they were lathi-charged...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are speaking on a different matter. I am calling Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you. Please take your seat. This is not good. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Subbarami Reddy says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members should know the procedure and they should cooperate with the Chair. I will come to you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Subbarami Reddy says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Dr. Reddy. Madam, please take your seat. First, you please take your seat. I am on my legs. Please take your seat. I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will come to you. First, you please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the students were subjected to lathicharge there. The Government is playing with the future of the students. So I would urge that I may be allowed to speak on this for two minutes...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been repeatedly pointing out about the serious situation in U.P. There have been three incidents of rape. 42 innocent people are lodged in jails in Unnao and about 17-18 persons are in jails in Lucknow...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR PRADHAN (Khurja) : In which jail they have been lodged? This is not correct ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying repeatedly that it is not good.

[English]

Every time you are disturbing the Chair and the House. You are wasting the time of the House. This is not good. You are not permitted to speak. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I can allow you but this is not the way. Every time you are disturbing the House. If it is a serious matter, I can allow you. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Has he given any notice? How he is speaking without notice...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Just now Shri Mulayam Singhji made a point about Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not like this. The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It has been the tradition of this House that so far as State matters are concerned...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Matters relating to atrocities on women and dalits have been raised in the House earlier also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Mohan Singh. You are a senior Member. The Minister is on his legs.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This matter relates to U.P. Government and therefore it should be discussed in the U.P. Assembly...(Interruptions) If you allow such

matters to be raised here, then our Members might also make such demand...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please be seated.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. When the hon. Minister is on his legs, you are not supposed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Singh, you are a senior Member of the House. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Education and law and order are solely state matters...(Interruptions)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha) : This is not a matter relating to Uttar Pradesh. I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is Zero Hour. How can you raise a point of order? First listen what the hon. Minister is saying.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, the matters relating to atrocities on women and Dalits have been raised in this House in the past also....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing only Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. If any body else speaks, that will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would conclude within two minutes. There have been incidents of rape in Deoria district and houses of 32 Dalits have been demolished in one village in Kanpur District...(Interruptions) The shameful part of this incident is that a State Minister is involved in it. He sent his son along with some criminals and anti-social elements and they demolished all the houses in that village. The Dalits of that village which falls under Chobeypur Thana in Kanpur district had been living in those houses for the last 45 years and inspite of that their houses were demolished...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav says.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : It seems as if we are sitting in the U.P. Legislative Assembly...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, another issue is very serious. During the examination, Section 144 had been imposed in the premises of L.R. College, Jasrana and the use of loud-speaker was banned there. Despite this, a Minister of the State Government forcibly landed his helicopter there and as a result, examination papers and copies got scattered around and dust entered the college building. Some students became agitated and they raised slogans against Anti-copying Act. This is the truth. Thereafter, the Supdt of Police himself beat up the students and lodged them in the lock-up. Today, they are to sit for the examination. They are innocent. As they will not be able to write their papers, they would be declared failed. It assumes more seriousness because the Minister is himself involved in both the incidents. The hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister are present here. It is a matter concerning the students, demolition of the houses of the Dalits and rape of women. The innocents are being sent to jails. I would like to reiterate that 42 workers of the Samajwadi Party are lodged in jails in Unnao and Lucknow. Filth has been thrown into the wells in Kakori village. My colleague, Shri Azam Saheb, a Member of Rajya Sabha visited the site. It was only after his visit that two doctors were sent there. The police has thrown filth in these wells.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please conclude. Shri Mohan Singh has already raised it.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Jewellery and cash worth Rs. 37.50 lakh have been looted from their houses and even old women in their eighties have been humiliated. It is most likely that a disease will spread in this village near Kakori due to throwing in filth in the wells. I want that a committee of this House should visit that area. This area is adjacent to the constituency of the Hon. Prime Minister. He can direct the concerned agency or dispatch a team of the National Commission of Women there for an on the spot investigation. No action has, so far, been taken to take out the filth and recover the looted jewellery and cash. Whereas respected persons of the village have been sent to jail. The students of Jasrana college are lodged in Agra jail. They are to appear for their examinations today. I would like to tell the House that the youth of the State and the nation would continue to protest against this black law

despite their being lodged in jails. Sir, I would like the Hon. Prime Minister to respond as this matter relates to his State and Constituency.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : It is his State.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is the last day of this session and it is obvious that the Hon. Members raise important issues. Their issues include the matters relating to their respective States. However, I am not escaping from the responsibility by merely saying that the issue concerns a State. The facts put forth by Shri Mulayam Singh are serious and I assure him that these will be duly investigated. So far as the question of arrest of the students is concerned, during my Lucknow visit I inquired about the steps being taken by the State Government to meet the situation that has cropped up due to the issuance of Anti-Copying Ordinance. I was told that no student is now being taken to the police station...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Some students were taken into custody yesterday only...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If they have been taken to police station, it is against the decision of the State Government. This will also become a matter of probe and suitable action will be taken in this matter. However, the hon. Members in opposition should admit the fact that it is not proper to allow copying in the examination...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We agree ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : That Bill will not get through.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I welcome this assurance. We would sit together and consider the measures to be adopted for checking copying.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Reddy, are you interested in making your submission or not? You start making your submission.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister a very important issue today and that is regarding the import of sugar. We all know that after 1993-94 the sugar production in our country has gone up substantially. Despite this, I do not understand the reason behind the Government's policy

of importing sugar and that too without customs duty to compete with our domestic sugar industry.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Food that six lakh tonnes of sugar has already been registered with the A.P.E.D.A., but in spite of that, 4.5 lakh tonnes of sugar has been physically imported by private traders. When we are already having a buffer stock of sugar available within the country, with this import of sugar, the sugar industry is facing a serious crisis now and the factories are not being protected. About 40 million farmers, who are living in the interior rural areas which constitute seven per cent of the rural area of the country, will become jobless due to this import policy. It is a very serious matter. We do feel ashamed about it. On the one side, we are losing valuable foreign exchange because of this import policy and on the other side we do not understand what the idea behind this import policy is.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I am concluding.

So, I urge upon the Government to stop importing sugar and make a thorough study as to how much stock is available in the country, how much sugar is being produced in the country, how much sugarcane is being produced, what is the demand in the country etc. Therefore, I once again request the Prime Minister to stop the import of sugar immediately and save the domestic sugar industry and the sugarcane growers.

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice for calling Attention Motion on this subject today morning. I have mentioned therein that there is a new type of scam under which sugar is being imported. In 1997 too, there was an uproar in this House on import of sugar. I am the first person to give a notice for this Motion ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaiswal, do you want to add to this point?

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Yes, Sir. I want to submit that during the care-taker Government, the bureaucracy imported sugar without taking the consent of the Minister. We have surplus sugar. What action has been taken against the bureaucracy? We have got adequate stock of levy sugar and free sale sugar. Even then sugar is being imported. This import involves Rs. 750 crores in foreign exchange. This deal was finalised during the time of care-taker Government. An inquiry

should be conducted into it. I request the hon. Prime Minister to order an inquiry into it, since he is holding the additional charge of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. I urge him to give full information in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to make a submission in this regard ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Faggan Singh Kuleste. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about Mandala tribal area of Madhya Pradesh. On the 29th, there was heavy rainfall and hailstorm in Mandala district and as a result, the farmers of that area have been ruined. The rabi and kharif crops have been destroyed. The farmers are running here and there in search of work. Today, the farmers and tribals are in great distress and the situation has become serious. As a result, a starvation like situation has developed there. The State Government has not provided any assistance to the affected farmers and tribals. Sir, through you, I request the hon. Prime Minister to take some steps for extending immediate assistance to them. Relief measures should be initiated by the Government to help the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government has given relief to the farmers there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to tell the whole House that the condition of farmers in Madhya Pradesh is very serious ...*(Interruptions)* As Shri Bhuria has said...*(Interruptions)* The condition of farmers in Madhya Pradesh is very serious. The area received continuous rainfall and hailstorm throughout the year but the Government provided no assistance to the farmers...*(Interruptions)* Whereas the hon. Member says that the Madhya Pradesh Government has given assistance to the farmers there...*(Interruptions)* It is not correct. I request the hon. Prime Minister to get an inquiry conducted into the whole matter and provide assistance to the farmers there...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection...*(Interruptions)* It is a question of a tribal district and the hon. Member is saying that assistance has been provided to farmers...*(Interruptions)* I request that the problems of those farmers should be taken into account...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Except the speech of Shri Kuleste, nothing will go on record.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta-North-West) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, who is present here, to a curse of the nature. On the night of 25th March, 1998 a tornado caused the death of 200 persons in the border districts of West Bengal and Orissa. The most unfortunate part is that yesterday also a torrential shower which continued for 24 hours caused more damage in the same area.

Sir, we are grateful to the hon. Prime Minister because he sent delegations twice to the affected area. Our demand is that to gauge the total damage and the losses a Central Government officer's team should also visit the spot. We have come to know that non-governmental organisations including the Ramakrishna Mission and the Bharat Sevak Samaj Sangh are not being allowed to continue the relief work in those areas. They are being instructed to put the relief materials at the respective Panchayat Offices. They are asked to provide the relief material via the C.P.M. dominated Panchayat. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, they are politicising a human tragedy.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I want to point out that even after the death of at least 200 persons and in spite of the fact that two teams from the Central Government have already visited the area, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has not yet visited the affected area. It is desirable that the concerned Minister should make a *suo motu* statement because when Parliament is in session two delegations have already gone there. The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture has visited the area.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please understand that the Government has already given an assurance that the hon. Prime Minister is going to make a statement in this aspect.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, that is about the situation prevailing throughout the country. But I am referring to this particular incident.

Sir, we want that houses for the homeless persons should be constructed, tubewells should be dug and some financial assistance should be provided to the

deceased families. Reportedly, the Central Government is going to hand over Rs. 50,000, the State Government is giving Rs. 20,000 and the District Natural Calamity Fund is giving Rs. 10,000. All this comes to only Rs. 80,000. We request that the hon. Prime Minister should consider this matter and raise this amount to rupees one lakh for each deceased person and at least Rs. 25,000 for each injured person. About 1,500 houses have been ransacked. Considering the gravity of the situation, naturally we hope that the Central Government would make all out efforts to send more relief to the affected areas.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.R. Kyndiah.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, Shri Sudhir Giri belongs to the affected area. Therefore, he should be allowed to speak first...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri P.R. Kyndiah.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sudhir Giri has given a notice in this regard. He is from that area and he should be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow Shri Sudhir Giri also.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : He will be speaking on the same subject. So, let him speak.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, somebody from Orissa should be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sudhir Giri's name also appears in the list. So, now, I am allowing Shri Sudhir Giri. Shri Kyndiah, I will allow you later.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given a chance.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the tornado affected some parts of West Bengal and Orissa and I belong to one of those areas...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is speaking on the same subject. I will allow you later.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : I myself visited nearly 20 villages. I found that the figure of deaths which they are saying is an inflated one. Further, a group of West Bengal Ministers visited the spot and they have provided for adequate relief.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Six Ministers visited those places.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Why did the Chief Minister not visit those areas till now?

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : They are bringing politics into this natural calamity. They are making politics out of this natural calamity and this is their nature. I want to protest

against this. Sir, I have already written to the hon. Prime Minister in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude because he has already raised the matter.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to increase the quantum of relief to the State Government so that the sufferings of the people could be assuaged...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the aid should go directly to the victims and not to the State Government. I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to kindly send it directly to the victims and not through the State Government because it will direct it to panchayats. The entire money will go away...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri P.R. Kyndiah and not you.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, where there is a State Government, there are panchayats.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, it is a very precarious condition there. In Orissa also, in the tornado affected areas, people are in a terrible condition and no relief measures have yet been taken.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Kyndiah and not you. I will come to you later.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, please give me one minute. I want to speak on the same matter. We belong to Orissa. What has happened today..

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you later. Please take your seat.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : The hon. Prime Minister assured this House.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you later because I have given the chance to Shri Kyndiah.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the last seven days, there has been an unprecedented massive security combing operation in Meghalaya, one of the most insurgency affected States in the country, which is represented by the former Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma, and myself. The security operation is under the command of the Indian Army, which I learnt is about 8,000 strong. This is caused by heavy influx of insurgents owing allegiance to many outlawed insurgent outfits fled away from Bangladesh and now taking sanctuary in the central part of Meghalaya.

There have indeed been many instances of security personnel raiding the hideouts of the suspected militants, seizing of arms and ammunitions and incriminating documents. This is one part of it. But unofficial reports suggest that the security personnel have overstepped their brief.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Firstly, many civilian habitations have been garrisoned and cordoned off. People's movements have been severely curtailed and immense hardships and misery have been caused to the people. Alleged harassment of the people is numerous, and even the pressmen have not been allowed to report about what is happening in the area.

A sense of fear and panic is haunting the peace-loving citizens of Meghalaya. If this sort of insurgency situation continues, the people's rights will continue to be suspended for a long time and life and property will be destroyed.

My only request is this. Since the hon. Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes is due to go on a tour to the North East, I would request him — in fact, I want to get an appointment with him — to go to Meghalaya and see for himself what is happening there. There is lot of panic and this is going to affect the people's lives in the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia will speak now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission regarding Rajasthan.

MR. SPEAKER : If you rise again and again like this, I will not give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Then I will come to you.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Basudeb Acharia says.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Jute Corporation of India is in doldrums.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you an opportunity later.

* Not Recorded.

[English]

Madam, I will give you a chance to speak later.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The Jute Corporation of India provides a minimum support price to over two lakh jute growers of our country. But the JCI has failed to achieve the purpose for which it has been set up. It is because the Central Government is not providing the necessary assistance to the JCI to enable it to come to the market and purchase jute direct from the jute growers of West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar so that the jute growers are not required to sell their jute at a distress price. Last year also, there was a bumper production and the JCI could not provide assistance to the jute growers and it could not purchase the jute direct from the growers. As a result of that, the two lakh jute growers of our country were forced to sell their produce to private mill owners at a very low price. The situation has aggravated because the JCI has supplied jute to a public sector undertaking, the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation. An amount of Rs. 36 crore is due to JCI from NJMC. As the NJMC is not getting budgetary support from the Government, it is not in a position to clear the dues of the JCI.

As a result of this, it has given rise to a serious situation in JCI and two lakh jute growers and 1,700 employees of the JCI are suffering. The Textile Minister is here.

[Translation]

The Hon. Textile Minister is present here. The purpose for which the Jute Corporation of India was set up, has not so far been served. The Jute Corporation of India will become active in the market in the next season. I would request that necessary arrangements should be made for payment of remunerative price to the jute growers for their produce.

Secondly, I request the hon. Minister to arrange release payment of dues amounting to Rs. 63 crores of N.J.M.C. as on 7th June by the J.C.I. The hon. Minister should give an assurance in this regard in this House as this issue concerns two lakh jute growers and 1700 employees who are working in the J.C.I.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I come to the subject, I request the hon. Prime Minister also to spare one minute.

Sir, I am not talking about the thousands of crores of rupees of loss put to the farmers by virtue of the frequent cyclones in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. But I am speaking about a peculiar case where the land, which is belonging to the small farmers, is disappearing there. In a village called Chinnagollapalem

of Krittivenu Mandal of my constituency, because of sea erosion regularly, the land is getting eroded. The small farmers, who have got an acre or two, are raising a crop of coconut trees. The trees are existing. These trees are twenty to forty years old. The farmers are getting an income of Rs. 20,000 per acre. By virtue of the disappearance of their land, they are losing their livelihood.

I have brought it to the notice of the House ten years back. But no action has been taken so far. So, my humble request to the hon. Prime Minister is this. Let there be some confidence among the farmers that there is at least one organisation to which, if a complaint is made, action will be taken. The Chief Minister does not take action. The State Government does not take action. The Ministries do not take any action. If it is brought to the notice of the House, to the Prime Minister and the Speaker, if there is no action, then the role of the Members of Parliament will become null and void. So, I humbly request the hon. Prime Minister to send a delegation or Committee of officials immediately to make a survey of it and find out a solution for it. Later, he may think of implementing some preventive measures, so that the farmers can be saved of the disappearance of their land.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Dunlop India Limited is a sixty-year old tyre major. It has got two units, one in West Bengal and the other in Tamil Nadu. Since the first week or second week of February, both the units have been closed. The technical announcement that has been made is "work suspension". This tyre major is controlled by one Dubai-based NRI who controls the Shaw Wallace house. I had drawn the attention of the former Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. I had also drawn the attention of the this House repeatedly to the systematic and continuous siphoning off of the company's funds by the NRI Chairman. The Enforcement Department has already issued one arrest warrant against the NRI Chairman. But as there is no Extradition Treaty with Dubai, through the help of the Interpol, this offender can never be brought back to India. This is a lacuna which is to be looked into by the hon. Prime Minister. It has happened.

The role of the Financial Institutions is also very objectionable. As you know, In the Dunlop India, 44 per cent is controlled by Shri Manu Chabria, the Dubai-based NRI and about 33 per cent is controlled by the Financial Institutions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : This NRI is a good friend of Shri Chandan Basu, the Chief Minister's son...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND : I have not enough time to educate this new comer. Had I enough time, I would

have educated him that their own policies have resulted in all these situations...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the point.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please address the Chair.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Coming to my point, 33 per cent is controlled by the Financial Institutions. When we were all busy with the elections, on 12th of January, a meeting was held by this Company and in that meeting the nominee of the Financial Institutions was not present.

In his absence, a decision was taken to refer it to the BIFR. Although six months back, it was shown in the balance-sheet as a profitable company, yet behind the scene, they were hand in glove with the financial institution's nominee Director of the company. I am constrained to make such an observation that they made a reference to the BIFR. This loot has been going on there. I just want to tell the hon. Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Labour Minister and the Industry Minister that this involves about one lakh people who are affected and more than 10,000 workers belonging to these two units are suffering...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. There are other Members also. You must give chance to junior Members also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The State Government is trying its best. The Chief Minister has been repeatedly writing to the Prime Minister and all others about this. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to look into it and, if necessary, they should just think of having one extradition treaty with Dubai to bring back those offenders to India so that a trial can be initiated and the units can be saved.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) : Sir, the Ganga erosion in West Bengal specially from Farakka to Haldia envisages a serious threat to the people of that area. This also covers areas of my parliamentary constituency like Nabadwip, Mayapuri, Swarupganj, Charbhrangur, Niringhapore, Mothidanga, Tarapore, Nawpara, Sahebanga, Sarahati, Chorsarahati, Gangamanoharpur, Jhazira, Alipore, Shikharipore, Charmadusudanpore etc. All these areas are very much affected. Even school buildings, large pucca houses and kaccha houses, roads agricultural land are swallowed by the Ganga. This is a serious problem. The State Government cannot take effective measures as there is a paucity of funds. I urge upon the Central Government to look into the matter as people are affected very much. I request the Government to take this matter seriously.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon.

Railway Minister of the NF Railway project called Mariani bypass that has been developed in my constituency without consulting the local MP, local MLA and local leaders. As a matter of fact, Mariani is the gateway to Nagaland and being one of the largest rail heads serving both the State of Assam and Nagaland, the hon. Member from Nagaland and the Nagaland Government should have been consulted. This project will cut off a hundred year old town of Mariani which is a hub of commercial activities as also a centre for higher education.

If this project is implemented, then this town will be dying out. What we demand from the Railway Ministry is to keep this project in abeyance for the time being. The railway authorities should discuss the matter with the elected representatives and local people and revise the project. We are not demanding scrapping of the entire project. What we want is this project should be revised and amended. I hope that the Government will cooperate with us.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you are aware, the weavers engaged in handloom and weaving industry in the country are next to the largest number of persons engaged in the agricultural sector in the country. The weaving community is suffering from indebtedness all over the country. While loans of the farming community were written off up to an amount of Rs. 10,000 by the Government this benefit was not extended to the poorest handloom weavers.

I request the Government of India to consider the plight of these poor weavers throughout the country and take a decision to write off their loans on a par with the farming community in the country.

12.00 hrs.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an unprecedented economic crisis occurring in Kerala due to steep fall in the prices of rubber. Some 8,38,000 cultivators cultivate this crop in our State and this is one of the main pillars of our economy. This crop was developed in Kerala with ample assistance of the Central Government through the Rubber Board. Earlier, whenever this sort of a situation occurred, whenever the prices of rubber fell, the Central Government used to intervene. But those are all stories of the past.

Now, this steep fall has occurred due to variety of factors, and the main factor being the liberalisation of import, the import of natural and synthetic rubber, especially, polyurethane and rubber tyres. All these have collectively helped in this process.

So, Sir, my humble request to the Central Government is that they should urgently intervene in this matter to save the interests of the rubber cultivators because the Kerala economy is crumbling. This is a

very serious situation there. Some urgent steps should be taken in this regard by the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri C. Gopal.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, one minute, please.

This is affecting the entire State of Kerala. Kerala is in the doldrums because its economy is shattering. And, it is all because of the rubber. And, the Government of India is becoming a mute spectator in this matter. The cultivators, especially those, who have got only two or three acres of rubber cultivation, have been put to great difficulties and hardships.

So, I urge upon the Government of India, especially, the hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this matter because it is affecting the State economy, the poor people and the cultivators in Kerala.

Therefore, the rubber cultivators, the rubber agriculturists should be saved and appropriate steps should be taken...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order in the House, please.

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of Adjournment for the purpose of discussing the problems of thousands of labours in Tamil Nadu Steel Plant at Arakkonam.

Sir, in this regard, a joint committee was constituted with the help of all the trade union leaders including Members from the All India Anna DMK, DMK, CPI, CPI(M) and Congress, to solve the problems of the labourers of the steel plants there. They have made a number of representations to the Tamil Nadu Government and also performed agitations with the help of all party people in Arakkonam town. They have also observed *bandhs*.

But in spite of all these efforts, in spite of several representations made to the Government of Tamil Nadu, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, to the Industry Secretary and also to the Labour Minister of Tamil Nadu, I am sorry to say that nothing has been done. All these efforts have become useless. For the past seven months, due to the labour problems, thousands of labourers are starving for want of food.

So, in this regard, I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the Labour Minister to look into the matter.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in spite of all these efforts, the management of that steel plant in Tamil Nadu filed lay off petition under Application No.3 of 1997 on 25.9.97 and after that they had withdrawn that. And, second time, the management of the steel plant filed retrenchment application. They had also withdrawn that.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri C. Gopal, please conclude. You know, today we have an important business.

SHRI C. GOPAL : I am concluding within a minute, Sir.

At that time, they also filed lay off application. And, on 8.3.1997, they expelled 748 permanent labourers and 300 contract labourers without giving proper notice on illegal grounds.

Sir, I may bring it to the notice of the Government that when there arose such a problem in Bokaro Steel Plant, the Central Government intervened and helped the same steel plant by giving Rs. 2,200 crore for modernisation.

At this stage, instead of solving the problems of five thousand families which are starving the hon. Tamil Nadu Government headed by the Chief Minister Shri Karunanidhi has become helpless. They want to close down the steel plants. They do not want to help the poor people.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. You need not say all these things.

SHRI C. GOPAL : I would request for the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Minister of Labour and also the hon. Minister of Finance to help financially and also to solve the problems of the poor labourers.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. PRABHA THAKUR (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards Rajasthan where crops worth crore of rupees have been destroyed due to hailstorm. Livestock have died. Lakhs of farmers spread over a vast area have been ruined. It is regrettable that nothing has been said in this House by the Prime Minister about this calamity. What to speak of providing any relief, no sorrow has been expressed over this calamity. State BJP Government cannot be expected to provide any assistance to the farmers because of its non-cooperative approach towards the farmers. I, therefore, appeal to the Prime Minister, through you, to announce a relief package for the farmers and also ensure that the assistance proposed to be provided should positively reach the affected farmers.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Amidst the inconsolable cries of the survivors, the relief and rescue operations in Orissa are not at all satisfactory in the tornado affected villages of the State. Sir, you have rightly reminded this House that the hon. Prime Minister has assured that he would give a full statement and inform the House. But today is the last day of the Session. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to inform the House regarding the situation in the tornado affected villages of both Orissa and West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already stated this. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has already given the assurance.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Thousands of houses have collapsed. There is no Government assistance for that purpose. The Government of India should come out with a package for the reconstruction of the houses, for the reconstruction of the school buildings and public institutions that have collapsed in the tornado. Now, drinking water problem is also a very serious problem here. Potable water is not at all available. The Government should take immediate steps for the provision of drinking water. That is quite immediately required. The hon. Prime Minister is fortunately present here. We are grateful that he has taken a lot of steps and expressed his sympathy for the tornado affected people. I want the Prime Minister to give a full statement regarding the measures that the Government of India is taking in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir a dalit girl aged 14 has been burnt to death in Umarga village, Tehsil Sastur, district Usmanabad in Maharashtra. Such events are occurring even after 50 years of our independence, so I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether the lives of dalits would be protected or not in his regime. No action has been taken so far against the guilty persons. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Hon'ble Prime Minister as to what measures his Government propose to take to protect the lives of the dalits of this country. If this situation continues, the lives of dalits would be endangered in this country. We want an assurance from the Prime Minister and would like to know whether the lives of dalits would be protected or not. Burning to death a girl aged 14 is definitely a matter of great concern.

I appeal to all the Members of this House to make efforts to transform the society. Dalits should not be subjected to injustice. This is a question of national interest. I would appeal to the members of this House to take measures to protect dalits and to do justice to them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We shall now take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : I have given a notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed only Shri Baalu to speak.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Yesterday, I have given a notice of privilege...(Interruptions) When hon. Member,

Shri C. Sreenivasan was on his legs, the hon. Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Baalu, what is your point?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : He had uttered some words in Tamil which are derogatory and indecent in nature. This has already been intimated to you. I seek your protection...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shri Madhavrao Scindia, you may please begin.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice to move an amendment on the President's Address. Hence I may be allowed to speak thereon.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : How can you move your amendment now? The debate is still continuing. You cannot move your amendments now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. I have allowed only Shri Scindia.

12.10 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — *Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Gwalior) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, general elections, 1998 are now over and 12th Lok Sabha has since been constituted. This is the characteristics of our country and it is a matter of pleasure for us that again it has been proved that democracy has taken deep roots in this country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it may be recalled that not one or two, but three Governments changed within a period of two years since 1996. When I ponder over it with cool and balanced mind, I am convinced that the democratic system is deep rooted here and the common man of this country has great faith in this system which is a matter of greater pleasure for us. But at the same time, We have to think over it as to why we have been getting fractured mandate time and again during past several elections. Does this system has any lacunae or the

leaders of the political parties of this country are to be blamed for this? I think we need to ponder over it since our country has remained a symbol of tolerance for past five thousand years.

But we are constrained to note that this fractured mandate simply implies that this tolerance is gradually being replaced by narrow-mindedness. I think every political party need to think over it because sometimes the approach of political parties gets narrower with an eye on vote catching and influencing public opinion. In this situation how can the common man remain aloof?

Changes are taking place at rapid pace today all over the world and India is capable of competing with any country of world, as far as this fast process of change is concerned. However in a situation where narrow mindedness is spreading gradually in the country, the most important issues get pushed to the background and they do not find any place in our national agenda. Issues like bringing about social revolution, securing social justice to the people of weaker sections, accelerating economic development of the nation to improve the lot of Proletariat, bringing about social and economic revolution should be on our national agenda. We all talk of regionalism, languages, castes and religions and thus degenerating ourselves by encouraging parochialism instead of patronising tolerance. Shri Sangmaji presided over the convention held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of our independence where it was resolved that political parties would have to rise above the parochialism for the speed of process of change in the world, is too fast to cope up with. Now, the generation gap does not range between 15 to 20 year: even two to three year generation gap matters. We have to keep in mind how the youth of today thinks, how fast his mentality and vision have changed *vis-a-vis* that of us, when we were in school or colleges. We have to resolve like we did when we met in Parliament on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of our Independence that we have to rise above petty things and considerations. Because if we do not resolve, we might also not be able to resist the temptation of joining the race of casteism, regionalism, language conflict and communalism in order to attract voters towards us.

Today leadership has been put to test, leaders belonging to ruling as well as opposition parties have been put to test. We have to admit that no single party enjoys public mandate. BJP has got 179 seats, Congress has got 141 seats. Still we got more vote than any other party. I, however, do not want to enter into the debate because the strength matters in the Parliament. In the present context, BJP has emerged as the single largest party and we accept the mandate of the people. There is no hesitation in it.

I remember that in 1989, the Congress bagged 200 seats under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

Congress emerged as the single largest party in those elections. But Rajiv Gandhi said that since they had not got clear majority, they may not be able to provide a stable Government by manoeuvring and horsetrading and he declined to form Government when invited by the President. This time President invited BJP to form Government at Centre and they managed to prove their majority by adopting different tactics.

I do not want to go into its details. I only want to make it clear that the ruling party and the opposition party two different aspects of democracy. It is a matter of chance that a party has to be sometime on the treasury benches and sometimes in the opposition. We will have to accept the fact that both the roles are of great importance. The Congress party in all humility want to make it clear without any hesitation that we would play the role of a responsible opposition. Accepting this mandate we want to work in the Parliament and urge upon all of you to set up a new height in the Parliament by working in unison. If this is not done, the country will suffer a lot. So far as National Agenda for governance is concerned, which has been referred to in the President's Address too, I would only say the issues which have been raised therein and also raised by the Prime Minister and this government, on most of those issues no one should have any objection. I am happy to note that it contains many issues of public importance which will have impact on weaker sections, women, dalits and tribals, economic policy, foreign policy and defence policy but unfortunately it does include the minorities. Most of the things in the Agenda, I am happy to say that they have been taken from Congress manifesto after much effort and study.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the issues mentioned in the President's Address have been dealt in a very general term. Budget Session is likely to be convened. We would analyse them in detail as to how these are going to be implemented. One important thing which did not find mention in the President's Address and which is very much concerned with the people and you also know that. There is a clear mention about the Common Civil Code in the manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party. I do not understand as to why so much hue and cry is being made in this regard. Unity in diversity is the guiding principle of our country ...*(Interruptions)* There is diversity in unity and unity in diversity. It depends on how you think about it and what definition you adopt as both the expressions have the same meaning.

[English]

Unity in diversity and diversity in unity is our philosophy.

[Translation]

Today, the people who demand Uniform Civil Code or common civil code, there is already a common civil and criminal procedure, there is no disparity in it but there is a need to understand the diversity of this country and if we do not accept this fact then we are going to destroy the unity of this country. If we want to strengthen unity, we will have to recognise diversity whether it is of religion, region, caste based or linguistic and therefore, so far as personal law is concerned, only such personal aspects have found a place there which have been considered personal in the code of personal law which is reflected in Article 370. There are some important parts of this country which have their special circumstances also. Time and again you launch an attack on article 370. I do not understand as to what your intention is. Do you propose to take up Article 371 also after Article 370. Under Article 371 from (a) to (i) the special circumstances, custom and other things of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur have been accorded due recognition. The simple logic is that after Article 370 you will launch your attack on Article 371 also why are you touching upon all such issues. We want peace in the country we want that people living in every nook and corner of the country should feel that they are in the main stream of this country. In regard to Ayodhya also you have abandoned your plan but I would like to quote from your manifesto in this regard.

[English]

"The BJP is committed to facilitate the construction of a magnificent Shri Ram Mandir at Ram Janamasthan in Ayodhya where a makeshift temple already exists."

[Translation]

There is also a mention about Article 30 in it. So far as the security of some educational institutions being run by a particular religion is concerned, the views being expressed and mentioned in the manifesto, Though it is not mentioned in the President's Address, we welcome your view in this regard. But we are in a fix whether to believe or not because the leaders of your party have made different statements. Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari is a senior leader of your party.

[English]

He has tried to draw a distinction between the BJP as a party and the BJP as a leader of the coalition.

[Translation]

There is a very fine sophisticated distinction which we fail to understand.

He has said in the TV interview that the BJP would continue to demand the construction of a temple,

deletion of article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and adoption of a uniform civil code. But the Government, he has argued, will follow the National Agenda which the coalition Members have adopted.

This means, therefore, there are two points of decision making.

It is a very confusing situation. Mr. Madan Das, who is the Joint Secretary of RSS says :

"There is no question of dropping the demand for the construction of a Ram temple at Ayodha and the claims to Kashi and Mathura for the time being".

[Translation]

I do not understand whether this issue has been dropped or it still exists. If you have dropped it as part of your strategy, then it may prove very dangerous. Because I know, it is only a strategy because you have formed a coalition with 17 parties...(Interruptions). So, it may be because you have formed a coalition government by including them. But I believe the main object behind it is like this that if this Government is able to pull on for a year or so the allies will subsequently made to merge with your party gradually...(Interruptions) There are many Members sitting on your side at present, at one time belonged to Congress and now they have deserted Congress. It is an irony that you are in the Government. I think, the Bhartiya Janata Party should make it clear that they will not raise those issues any more. There are many national issues which will play important role in pushing the country ahead and so those should be our priority item. You will not raise those issues in future. We welcome this idea. Mr. Prime Minister, you give us an opportunity to welcome that. As I have said diversity in unity and unity in diversity is the guiding principle of our country and these four things Uniform Civil Code, article 370, article 371, religious issue of Ayodhya and article 30 are all about diversity. This is why it have some doubts in our minds. During confidence vote something was said about 'remote control'. We have certain doubts that you have a 'remote control' in Nagpur. I think if your intentions are good, these things will be cleared in two or three years. Mr. Prime Minister, apart from all this, our doubts sometimes get reinforced when we read your articles and interviews. An article written by you and which was published in the Organiser and later on it appeared in the Website also.

[English]

"The RSS does not change only the individuals, it changes also the collective mind".

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same expression we had heard in Germany in 1930 do not say that this is your intention

but doubts do lurk in our mind you have written there.

"It changes also the collective mind. This is the beauty of the RSS ethos. In our spiritual tradition, an individual can gain a great height. But what about the society? Nobody thinks about obligations to society. The RSS thought about it and concluded that by changing individuals we shall change the society".

[Translation]

In that article something has been said about minorities also. I would not take much time of the House by going into the details thereof. Congress has also been attacked indirectly in that article wherein you say :

[English]

"Ayodhya, in fact it was a reaction to the Muslim vote-bank. We wanted to solve this problem through negotiation and legislation but there was no 'puraskar' for 'burai'. We change 'burai' also with 'parishkar'. Now, I think the Hindu society has been regenerated which was the prime task of the RSS. Earlier Hindus used to bend before an invasion but not now. This change in Hindu society is worthy of welcome."

"The simple reason for my long association with the RSS is that I like the *Sangh*. I like its ideology and above all I like the RSS attitude towards people, towards one another which is found only in the RSS".

[Translation]

This has been written by Atalji himself

[English]

"See, how much living contact and fraternal feeling is in the RSS. Actually the *Sangh* is our family. We are all one."

[Translation]

Now it is quite natural that it creates such doubt. Now I am not prepared to accept all these things completely because in the recent past we have seen much difference in what you preach and what you practice, but we want you to explain it because we are having apprehensions and you cannot blame us as to why such apprehensions are there in our mind...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have not begun yet. Can I take some more time?

MR. SPEAKER : There are only seven minutes left for the Congress Party.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : So far as the various issues are concerned, there is utter confusion. Various ministers are speaking in different tones. They are exceeding their jurisdiction. The way Cabinet has been constituted and portfolios have been distributed after the delay of two days proves that there is utter confusion. No doubt, in the recent past when we used to see Atalji on T.V. his face used to look very serious. Earlier Atalji's face used to show happiness but in the recent past we saw his worried face. This is a matter of concern to us and as I represent Gwalior so it is but natural that I am very concerned about it and if people of Gwalior feel themselves worried, it is not unnatural. A mention has been made about health, education in the address.

[English]

Education for all, housing for all, drinking water for all, food for all and employment for all. It is absolutely free for all.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, everything has been mentioned therein, it is good, but if we see it minutely, we find that nothing has been said as to how it will be implemented. I think education is the most important sector. Education is the base for everything in our country and only 52 per cent people in our country are literate. So, we must give emphasis on education. Congress Government had announced in 1991-96 that by the year 2002, six per cent of GDP will be spent on education and as Minister of Human Resource Development I had repeated this resolution in Beijing Conference and Bali Conference. All of us must achieve this target but there are hurdles in this regard as 40 per cent budget for the purpose comes from the Centre.

[English]

Sixty per cent of the Education Budget is the responsibility of the States.

[Translation]

And controlling the States is a very difficult task. Therefore you would not be able to achieve this target. So I suggest that unless you get the cooperation of States you would not be able to accomplish this task, sometimes getting cooperation of States becomes difficult. I am saying this on the basis of my experience. So I request the Prime Minister to issue directions to the Planning Commission that when it formulates annual plan, at that time do not approve annual plan of a State unless it presents its plan in the form of six per cent

phase programme to the Commission. This was to be mandatory.

[English]

"You have to give me a phased programme over the next three or four years to move towards that six per cent GDP to be spent on education."

[Translation]

Because it is very important. There are about sixteen and half crore children in the age group of 6 to 14 years and out of them, 13 crore children go to school. So far as total literacy campaign is concerned, in the target group of 15 to 35 years, there are 11.5 crore people and only 5 crore people are educated. It is a matter of great concern. What I mean to say is that we have to move forward by taking the cooperation of States and work for achieving this target by providing for compulsory education.

Similarly, you have talked about 33 per cent reservation for women. Congress has always taken initiative in this regard. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had brought 73rd and 74th Amendment for this purpose and we want that this should be implemented in Parliament and State Legislatures also. We never opposed it. Even in the previous Parliament, Congress kept on asking for bringing such legislation at the earliest. We are going to fully support it but on certain issues some people put up vehement opposition, some senior members of Bhartiya Janata Party were also among them. You should sort out these things and get this legislation passed at the earliest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, population is also a very important issue which they have raised. The declaration made about rural development, Congress Government had also earmarked 40 thousand crore rupees for this purpose. If you too want to follow the policies of Congress for the rural development, it is a matter of happiness. A brief mention has been made about the SCs/STs. We would like to know in detail as to what policy the Government would follow about the Scheduled Castes. Several people belonging to SCs were killed in firing in Bombay recently, it is difficult to overlook it. I was taken by surprise when I came to know yesterday that the Delhi Government has issued an order stating that -

[English]

"Reservation for tribals in Delhi should be finished."...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I would like to submit that tribals are the most primitive natives of this country. Today tribals are the poorest people in the country. It is a matter of shame for

all of us. We would like that channels for trade and industrial activities...*(Interruptions)*. You do not want to listen about the plight of tribals. You are merely interested in making noise. I have made an appeal to you...*(Interruptions)* Let us try to create a new atmosphere...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to submit that the tribals should be the direct beneficiaries of the trade and industrial activities in tribal areas. The fruits of development should directly reach them. This angle should be borne in mind while formulating any plan. Besides we will have to protect their rights so far as land use and forest wealth is concerned. Sir, through you I would like to point out to the hon. Prime Minister that there is only one commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes whereas the needs and aspirations of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are different. Therefore there should be two separate commissions one for Scheduled Castes and other for scheduled tribes. They should be given due importance and the focus should be on the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes separately.

I am surprised that no mention has been made about North-Eastern region either in the President's Address or in the National Agenda of Governance. This is most unfortunate. These are remote areas of our country. Just now Shri Kindia was saying that there was massive army operation in Meghalaya. Had it happened somewhere nearby lot of hue and cry would have been made in the Parliament, but as the area is thousands of kms. away no such thing happened. They are our brethren. They should feel that -

[English]

'We are a part of the national mainstream.'

[Translation]

If they are ignored in this way and they find no mention in the National Agenda for Governance or the President's Address, they would feel disappointed. Their morale will also go down.

I would not say much about Swadeshi, because some of my other friends would dwell on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI (Kalahandi) : Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 376.

Shri Madhavrao Scindia has made a mention that the North East has been completely neglected in the Presidential Address, but Sir, I would like to mention that a couple of days back, there was a newspaper report which the hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : What is your point of order?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI : Let me complete, please...*(Interruptions)* The Deputy-Chairman of the

Planning Commission has been appointed...*(Interruptions)* The North Eastern Commission has been formed...*(Interruptions)* The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been nominated to look after the North Eastern Region...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order, Shri Scindia. Please wind up.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I will just take your permission to take less than two minutes. I want to talk on only Defence because it is an important issue which I have omitted.

[Translation]

As regards national security and military power, we would have to act, keeping in view the activities going on in our neighbouring countries that is in our sub-continent. We cannot act in vacuum. We will have to see things in this perspective. It is a matter of serious concern that Shri Nawaz Sharief who became the Prime Minister a few months back had given a statement soon after assuming office that -

[English]

'Pakistan has the bomb, it has nuclear capability.'

[Translation]

It is a matter of great concern and of prime significance. Through you, Sir I would request the hon. Prime Minister to get the minutest details in this regard. We do not have the sources to get information. Congress has a stand in this regard. Keeping these things in view, I feel that there should be a review of our nuclear capability. I think whatever has been stated in the BJP's manifesto and the National Agenda is being done in haste. This is a serious matter and needs serious deliberations. It has been said —

[English]

We will exercise the nuclear option.

[Translation]

I would like to submit that it should certainly receive serious attention it should be reconsidered and reviewed. This can be done either by Prime Minister himself or by the Defence Minister because we do not know the real facts in this regard. A decision should be taken only after due consideration avoiding any hasty step.

So far as missiles are concerned Pakistan has installed M-9 and M-11 missiles of Chinese make. They are developing HTF-3 and the experimentation stage is over. Besides, the Chinese 55 group missiles are installed over our north-east area. This is an alarming situation and it has to be borne in mind. We would like to congratulate Dr. Abul Kalam and his team of scientists who successfully launched the 'Prithvi' and 'Agni' and

{Shri Madhavrao Scindia}

thereby increased our nuclear capability. We would have to discuss at length about 'Agni' also.

We will have to take steps keeping in view our border security. For that it is very essential to boost the morale of the Army. So, any shortcomings in this regard are to be removed. It is possible only when the morale is boosted. If we look at the promotional avenues in Army, we will find that only 0.1 per cent officers reach the rank of Lt. General. Whereas in Police 0.6 per cent officers reach upto the equivalent rank in Police i.e. six times more. In IAS 7 per cent officers reach upto this level. The hon. Prime Minister and the Defence Minister should consider this issue. Regarding Fifth Pay Commission also I want to say that separate Pay Commission should be set up for Defence Services because their requirements working problems and working conditions are different.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me some time. Finally I want to say this much only that we should remove the state of confusion which many a time arises because of dual decision making in the country. I have already said, several persons in the Cabinet are speaking in different tones. Several of our colleagues are all rounders of one day matches. Sushmaji feels that she is to speak on enemy issue as she has been the spokesperson of BJP. But she is not the spokesperson in Parliament. George Fernandes is a good friend of mine but he will always speak on LTTE and Tibet, he cannot restrain himself. One respected Pandit Josphiji also cannot restrain himself. Perhaps, he wanted to become the Minister of Finance, but sometimes he forgets that he is the Human Resource Development Minister. Recently, I saw him making announcements on Swadeshi on Doordarshan. Yashwant Sinha ji must have been now in a state of utter confusion. Similarly, my hon. friend Subramanyam Swami, who is though not in this team, yet he is an all rounder even if he is out of the team. He also keeps on making announcements on every thing. So, this state of confusion should be removed.

Atalji, presently Australia's Cricket Team is touring India. We have completed test match series with them and one day series is about to start. Steve Waugh is the Captain of one day team and Mark Taylor was Captain for five day matches. Thus Captains are different for different teams. Although, here you are captain for one day series yet in future persons sitting with you may try to become captains of five day matches if there be an opportunity, though we rule out this possibility. I am also from Gwalior, so I am concerned about you.

Finally, I would like to quote a portion from the speech made by Shri Atal Bihari in this House on 28th May, 1996, while submitting his resignation, he had said :

"we want to assure you that we won't form a Government or continue our Government by

adopting unethical means, corrupt practices and compromising with our honesty. We will never commit such a sin."

But thereafter the developments in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and then election of Speaker run contrary to his assurance, we all know that we would not go into the propriety of that. Therefore, I heartily appeal to him that he should implement what he commits in his speech. Because these things have created confusion. So, I strongly oppose this Motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri L.K. Advani, would you like to intervene? It will be continued after the lunch also. You can start now and continue after the lunch.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a mention about Vidarbha in BJP's Agenda ...*(Interruptions)* the people of Vidarbha...*(Interruptions)*. But there is no mention of Vidarbha in President's Address, Advani ji should say something on this issue...*(Interruptions)* whatever was there in Para 28, we do not want to discuss that...*(Interruptions)*. When mention has been made about Uttarakhand, Vanachal and Chhatisgarh, there should be a mention of Vidarbha also...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is on his legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. Please take your seat. Hon. Member, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You are a senior Member. Please understand the position. Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have a chance to rebut all these things. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion

* Not Recorded.

of Thanks on the President's Address. The Constitution of this Lok Sabha after the recently concluded elections is in a way a milestone in the political history of free India. I have been active in politics since the establishment of Bhartiya Jansangh in 1951. I have had the privilege of participating in all general elections, held since 1952, sometimes as a political worker and sometimes, as a candidate also. I think that the recently concluded elections have given a decisive turn to the politics of India. I recall that till 1966, no party could challenge the dominance of the Congress party at the Centre and in the States as well. It was in 1966 that the Congress party was defeated in some States for the first time and coalition Governments were formed there. However, the Congress Party continued to dominate at the Centre till 1977. The Congress party was defeated at the Centre for the first time in 1977 and the Janta Party came to power. After 1977, election were held in 1980, 1984, 1989, 1991, 1996 and recently in 1998. We have seen change of power several times in these elections. The Congress party returned to power in 1980 and 1991. During remaining period, some non-Congress Government were formed. In my view, the actual transfer of power took place in 1977.

13.00 hrs.

Thereafter, transfer of power took place in 1980, 1989, 1991 and 1996. In these years, the decisive change was due to negative vote. The Congress party lost election in 1977 due to emergency. This change of power did not take place because of the liking of the people for the Janta Party but due to their displeasure over emergency. Similarly, the people did not like the bickerings within Janta Party and voted the Congress party back to power in 1980. I am not of the view that in 1991, the Janata Dal Government came to power on the basis of positive support. It was the Bofors scam which awakened the people that there should not be corruption at higher levels and the change was on the basis of negative vote. Although there are both negative and positive issues in every election. I am of the opinion that in the election of 1998, the negative element was very less and this Government has been formed essentially on the basis of positive vote.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Advaniji, you can continue after lunch.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Two Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri L.K. Advani to continue his speech.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I started my speech by supporting the Motion and made a mention of elections held in past years. Though there is a gap of 21 years between 1977 and 1998, there have been six general elections to Lok Sabha in these years. As I have said, there have been one or the other crucial issues including negative issues which formed the basis for change of power. However, if one analyses the results of the recently held elections, he will find that the people were not happy with the prevailing state of affairs. The people were unhappy with the way the Governments were changed twice during the last 18 months and the elections were thrust on the nation unnecessarily. Last time, when Vajpayee Government was formed, all those parties who had fought elections against the Congress party unite with the Congress party and dislodged the 13 days old Government of BJP. It was not proper. Now this Government of the BJP should be given an opportunity. It may perhaps give a stable Government. I feel that there was mainly a positive vote this time and it was for a good Government as the stable Government is itself not a very important factor. It is immaterial that a Government should last for five years.

If there is anything that is good in it, is good governance, service and welfare of the people through stable Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Tell us about Maharashtra and Rajasthan also. Is there good governance? Your party is ruling in these states.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This time there was positive voting for good governance and after many years this time in 1998 the alliance parties of BJP including Trin Mool Congress which had seat adjustment with us contested elections by projecting the fact that they are going to form a Government under the leadership of

[Shri L.K. Advani]

Bharatiya Janata Party and under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Such a thing was also seen in 1977 elections also but not to this extent. It is a big step in the direction of coalition. Coalition Government is a culture and this was an important step in this direction. I would have been happier had our national agenda been drawn up before the elections. The only thing that we did was that we contested the election on our respective manifestoes but before the oath we brought national agenda. The National Front Government could not do this. The National Front Government was a sudden outcome wherein the parties had contested against each other and against the Congress and the National Front Government took support of that Congress in forming the Government. Their manifesto which they called common minimum programme was published after 8 or 10 or 12 days after the Government was formed. I accept that all the parties should understand the importance of this coalition culture and if we accept its limitations then the discussion held on the confidence motion and on this motion during the last two or three days will become redundant and there will be no use asking such and such issue was included in the manifesto or a certain issue does not figure in the national agenda that is only because all the coalition partners did not agree on that particular issue. Only such issue can be included in the national agenda over which we all agreed upon. I also can say that there were something in the manifestoes of Samata Party or AIADMK over which we did agree. In the same way they also have the right to disagree on some issues of Bhartiya Janata Party. But while running the Government we shall have to concentrate ourselves only on the national agenda for governance. I would like to say that the draft of the agenda was prepared by some people of Bhartiya Janata Party and while preparing the said agenda we ourselves took particular care of the issues over which others may have disagreement and the issues where there was loveliness disagreement did not even figure in the draft. I remember, when the first meeting was held to consider the national agenda, I, myself, had said that each and every party should acknowledge that a thing which is not acceptable to all the parties, however important that may be for oneself, that may have increased ones popularity in the public life, that cannot be fulfilled through the Government. We were sitting with the people of Haryana and Punjab. We are alliance partners in the coalition Governments of both the states. If the Governments of these states think that the problem of water and Chandigarh will be sorted out and implemented through this Government then I am sorry to say that this is not possible. However, it will be something different, if they themselves consider these problems and bring out a solution over which

they may reach at a consensus. It will be very good. But, it is necessary to understand the features of a coalition Government and its limitations. We realised those limitations and that is why we did not take any problem.

Mr. Madhavrao Scindia was saying that we have adopted the Congress manifesto. It is good if we have adopted the Congress manifesto then it will be convenient for us to function on the basis of consensus which this Government intends to do. It is a matter of great pleasure. I accept the fact in theory reaching consensus is not difficult but to reach to consensus in practice is difficult. It has different aspects. We shall have to think over that as I have stated it is a decisive turning point it is because in 1950 when we adopted the Constitution and in 1952 when the first general elections were held in the country, since then a particular word as being used by the political experts of the world regarding the political situation of the country.

[English]

This is a single dominant party polity.

[Translation]

There is two party system in Britain. One has to choose between the two alternatives. In America, there is Presidential system and not the Parliamentary system. There are two parties and the struggle for power is confined to them. The power changes hands between them. Even in the discussions of the constituent assembly, members had expressed the hope that in future a two party polity would develop in the country. Even today, I find there are many shortcomings in the electoral system. This system is called 'first past the post system' or 'majority system of elections'. While accepting this we had hoped that in due course of time, a two party system would be evolved, but this did not happen. The foundation of this was laid in 1996 and the results of 1998 elections have proved that though the two party system did not develop yet the muscle of politics has crystallized.

[English]

Two nuclei of national politics have crystallized.

[Translation]

Earlier Congress was the single dominant party. There was a continuous erosion in this single dominant party structure since 1977 and particularly, during the 1990s a vacuum was created. The Bhartiya Janata Party marched ahead and filled that vacuum. Perhaps no other party in the history of democracy must have emerged so strong within such a short span of time as the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged during this decade...(Interruptions) I am coming to that. I admit —

[English]

Though the growth of the Bharatiya Janata Party has been phenomenal, our growth rate has not been able to match the decline rate of the Congress.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha) : It is a temporary phase.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : May be. Whatever it may be I have to say. I am talking today.

[Translation]

I am trying to analyse today's situation. I believe that the rise of BJP has been phenomenal but it has not been able to match the decline rate of Congress. That is why Shri Sangma said that whereas there were several parties in the last Lok Sabha their number has swelled to forty in this Lok Sabha because —

[English]

Like nature politics also abhors the vacuum.

[Translation]

That vacuum is always filled. If it is not filled by national party, a regional party will fill it. In my opinion, though we do not have two party system, we do have two nuclei—Congress and the BJP. Never in the past has the mandate of the people been so fractured as to divide in half. The division has been almost equal. Shri Chidambaram and Shri Sangma rightly said that the division has been

[English]

right down the middle.

[Translation]

There was always a swing either to this side or to that side. Even today the swing in Tamil Nadu is same. It is either on one side or on the other side. I was thinking that even there, the division would be equal but the swing was on the other side. Keeping these things in view, a responsibility is thrust on us. Whenever we speak of the politics of consensus, members of political parties take it otherwise. They say that the complexion of Lok Sabha is such that we are constrained to say these things. They say that as we have not got the majority we speak in terms of consensus. I think what Shri Vajpayee ji said during the motion of confidence is important here. If any Government wants to give good governance to the country — by good governance we mean to provide security to our common masses and the borders, provide clean and efficient administration, bring social harmony, make the country economically self reliant and inculcate the spirit of 'Swadeshi' it cannot do, even if it has two-thirds majority unless national consensus is evolved on these significant issues. He

rightly said that even if a party has two-thirds majority, under the prevailing circumstances, good governance is not possible unless the country moves in the direction of national consensus. I am emphasizing on this because when the manifestoes of the parties are drafted, everyone hopes that it would get clear majority. Even we expected to get clear majority and cross the 300 seat mark. We had hoped to get 350 or even 400 seats. If we had not suffered a setback in some states we would certainly have reached the 300 set mark. Despite the existing scenario of the country, we kept a separate chapter in our manifesto wherein we specifically said that

[English]

"Consensus building is an essential part of nation building."

[Translation]

It is a complete chapter.

[English]

"Towards a new culture of national consensus. Since building is an essential part of nation building, cooperation for the larger good of the nation has been a cornerstone of our civilisation"

[Translation]

It is not of one party only.

[English]

"Yet one of the many baneful developments of India's post-independence polity has been the politics of confrontation and negativism. The B.J.P. believes that in a multiparty democracy like ours, constructive dialogue, consultation and cooperation between the ruling and opposition parties is not only desirable but essential. It has become all the more necessary since several major national issues confronting India today cannot be effectively addressed without evolving a broad platform of national consensus."

[Translation]

We request you and particularly to Marxists that the type of politics you tried to promote in 1996 and for some time even Congress party also got involved in it, such politics of untouchability will never be good for the country. Politics of negative untouchability will never do any good for the country.

Today, however, Bhartiya Janata Party has emerged as a very big party but we remember those days when Bhartiya Jan Sangh was a very small party, yet it became part of a coalition Government in Bihar in 1967. I remember after that Bhartiya Jansangh's convention was

[Shri L.K. Advani]

held at Calicut. At that time, our national President was Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya about whom I would like to say that the functioning and ideology of Bhartiya Janata Party gets inspiration from his values. A convention was held under his Chairmanship, wherein some representatives criticised as to what has happened to Jansangh. They have joined Government of Bihar and that too with Communist party? What is this that you have done? You have committed a blunder. How can you join a Government by aligning with Communist party? We are not able to understand it. Several representatives had raised this objection and I remember what Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya replied to the whole debate. He said that I accept that it is great irony that in society untouchability is treated as an undesirable thing. In society, if anybody practices untouchability, he is told that he is doing wrong thing he is indulging in misconduct, but in politics it is assumed that if you are not practicing such untouchability, then, you are doing a wrong thing. He said that I would like to say to my colleagues to Jansangh that whatever situation may arise, whatever differences you may have with any party, you should never practice untouchability against any party. This is my advice to you and that is why we have talked about

[English]

'Towards a new culture of national consensus' in the manifesto of Bhartiya Janata party.

[Translation]

We have specifically provided three things in it.

[English]

"Specifically our party and Government shall do the following :

- (1) We shall not practice political untouchability vis-a-vis any party."

[Translation]

Today, I am mentioning this issue because when we talk of running the Government on the basis of consensus, it is not a part of our present strategy. It is a matter of faith for us that if some party wants to run the country on the basis of untouchability and run the Government and solve problems of the country, it cannot solve problems. I am not talking about Hindu-Muslims at present. I will come to that later. However I am raising this point particularly with a view to address communists because I know that communists have a compulsion and whatever progress they have made in the fifty years is based on this assumption that they presented some element as a sort of demon. They said that capitalism is a demon.

On the basis of this demonology they develop their whole thinking. Suddenly when all these demons disappeared and they did not find any other demon, they took Sangh Pariwar, BJP, Hindutva and presented them as demon and they want to progress using it as ladder. I want to say that it is just coincidence that on the day when Vajpayee ji took oath, we also took oath.

SHRI ANIL BASU : This is also a wrong view.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will feel happy that the experiences I have had, I won't mention them because ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : So many.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mamata ji knows them more, I won't mention them. But I would certainly say this that when in the morning of 19th Vajpayee ji took oath and we joined the Cabinet as his colleagues, in the evening on that day, we got the sad news of death of Shri E.M.S. Namboodripad, he died at the age of 89 years ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : The issue relates to death, at least, sit down now.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In the night, Shri Vajpayee ji told me that somebody should go there and pay tributes on behalf of Government. Next day when I went to Tiruvananthapuram, some people might have been surprised, but I thought that I am doing my duty. Even if I had not been in the Government, I would have certainly gone there, if possible. I recall here the words spoken by me when Shri Bhupesh Gupt died. I felt that a chapter of Rajya Sabha had been closed. Because nobody was there in the Rajya Sabha of the stature of Bhupesh Gupt, that is why I expressed those views. I believe that ideology is very important in public life, so, whatever anybody says to me regarding ideology, I accept it.

So far as Ayodhya, Article 370 and Common Civil Code are concerned, my submission to all of them is that Common Civil Code is not the Bhartiya Janata Party's manifesto, it is written in the Constitution of India, never forget it. As it is written in the Constitution of India, so whichever Government comes, it is reminded by the Supreme Court asking the steps taken by it to implement this code.

No member of the Bhartiya Janata Party ever feel apologetic about all those issues which originate from our ideology. However, when we form a coalition Government, we do it with honest intentions. Whatever we say in public is put into practice by us. We believe in openness. We practice what we profess. That is why, when a reference of the book of Guruji was made yesterday, I had said whatever I wanted to say. When Vajpayeeji asked all these question, I replied to them categorically. A reference of remote control has been made time and again there. In this connection, I want to say one thing which I had said in Kerala also. When the Marxists had questioned the visit of Vajpayeeji and Advani to a particular camp of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh in Nagpur and criticised that visit, I had then reminded them that during Pandit Nehru's Government, Panditji and Sardar Patel, who was the then Home Minister, used to visit Mahatma Gandhi, whenever necessary, to seek his advice. They never hesitated to meet Mahatma Gandhi though he was not a part of the Government. He was not our remote control...*(Interruptions)* please listen to me.

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Topdar and Shri Baalu, he is not yielding.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) : He is equating Mahatma Gandhi with his assassins ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have had an opportunity to serve in the Government. Now, this is the second opportunity. I was in the Union Government when Morarji Bhai was the Prime Minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh was the Home Minister and Vajpayeeji was the External Affairs Minister. I recall that we used to go to Patna to seek the advice of Jai Prakashji on certain important issues. It does not mean that Jai Prakashji was remote controlling us. He never did so. Mahatma Gandhi...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am not yielding. I will complete my statement ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please sit down.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahboobnagar) : I will take a minute, if you could yield...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please sit down.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not equating anyone to anyone. I am merely stating the facts. I am not yielding ...*(Interruptions)* I have heard all the comments. I can understand them. Are the various comments that have been made fair? You talk of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Is this the way in which you are going to have a debate?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Whenever somebody talks of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, I feel

[English]

that is the end of our argument.

[Translation]

I have observed that in the whole discussion, your biggest weapon is assassination of Mahatma Gandhi ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am making a point. My point is that this Government is not going to be controlled by any other agency...*(Interruptions)*

I will yield and you will have your turn, you will have your point but not now...*(Interruptions)* It is only to support my argument...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, assassination of Mahatma Gandhi was not a small incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : He is comparing the two things. He is creating doubts in the minds of the people by making two statements. He has reversed the whole thing of what the hon. Prime Minister said day before yesterday. This is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Now, I proceed further. I remember that in 1977, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh used to be criticised sometimes on dual membership. It used to be said that Vajpayeeji was a very good person, Advani was also a very good person or a particular person was very good. But, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : His relations with the RSS are not good. I had said it then and I repeat it in this House today. I do admit that I entered in public life after him. I plunged into politics quite late. I became the Swayamsewak of the RSS at the age of 14. I have learnt the lessons of nationalism and selfless service from Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh only. As far as politics and analysis of political subjects is concerned, I have learnt the lesson of democracy from Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. After learning the lessons of nationalism and democracy from him we first marched ahead as Bhartiya Jansangh and today, we have marched further as Bhartiya Janata Party. I feel that it was due to our loyalty towards nationalism and democracy and our own ideology that the influence of the Bhartiya Janata Party has increased all over the country during the past years. However, I would also like to add that besides the importance of ideology, idealism is also significant...(Interruptions) Yes, there is importance of casteism also. Those who have made contribution should introspect about their contribution. Idealism and ideology have their own importance.

Our Government has just been formed but in a interview three months back I had stated —

[English]

A large segment of governance has nothing to do with ideology.

[Translation]

At the time of drafting this national agenda, we held the view that our allies may not believe in our ideology, hence the draft should be non-ideological so that all our allies may agree to it and all parties find it feasible to implement the agenda.

Sir, people might have voted in our favour in the temple issue in 1996, they might have voted in the name of lord Rama or on the issue of Bofors in 1991 but people this time voted and supported Bhartiya Janata Party alongwith its allies Samta Party, Akali Dal, PMK, AIADMK, Haryana Vikas Party, Shiv Sena and all

others in order to have good governance and an able Prime Minister in the country. For a long time, no party could project an individual as inspiring as our Atal Bihari Vajpayee to lead this country. Now we have found such a person in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who commands support of every section of the society in the country. Thus sinking all their differences people have voted for us. They should not be perturbed over it...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : I think he is under wrong impression that the people of the country voted them to power to rule the country. They got only 27 per cent votes and 73 percent people rejected them...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting time and again?

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The remaining parties failed to arrive at such a decision and if the Bhartiya Janata Party arrived at a decision and as party President if I got an opportunity to make announcement in this regard why do people take exception to it? Since the day I announced it at Bombay convention, a number of people are perturbed over it and they have been working at creating differences between us. And people over here uttered all sorts of things...(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : We want to see you together...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I was not willing to come to Delhi but Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya asked me to go to Delhi and assist Vajpayee ji who had been elected to Lok Sabha for the first time. Thenceforth, whatever I learnt in politics, I got it from him...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, be seated.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I can well understand their problem but I cannot sort it out.

Sir, people may say that there are no specific programmes in the Address but I think it has given a definite direction. What course the Government have to follow, I would briefly touch some the points because Vajpayee ji would elaborate it while replying to the debate. I was listening to Shri Madhavrao Scindia's speech wherein he stated that we have 179 Members. It created some confusion. He said that though the Congress party bagged 141 seats only, yet it got more votes. I tried to find out the source of his point to substantiate it. His point is right but if all facts are gone through then only the truth would emerge. I found that the Bhartiya Janata Party got 25.46 per cent votes whereas the Congress party got 25.68 per cent of total votes cast. But he should have pointed out that

they got this percentage of votes against 477 candidates while we got 25.46 per cent votes against 388 candidates.

[English]

I am putting the record straight. Nothing else. But I regard it as most significant that the BJP and its allies should have secured 37 per cent votes and the Congress party and its allies should have secured 29 per cent votes...(Interruptions) This is just to put the record straight.

[Translation]

I think it necessary to make a reference to some points because when we talk of consensus, it is in respect of certain issues which has been clearly mentioned.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : You please say about the States you are going to create.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I would also touch that point, but we would like to evolve a consensus in that regard too...(Interruptions)

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal) : First of all they should try to convince Shri Shiv Shankar ji...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It has been stated at Para 40 of President's Address that the Government would try to evolve a system to run the Government by consensus as far as possible. Some of the issues which require urgent national consensus are electoral reforms, Centre-State Relations, population policy, legislation to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women in all elected bodies, settlement of inter-state water disputes and providing effective institutional guarantees for the welfare of the weaker sections of society while implementing schemes relating to environmental conservation and economic reforms.

I remember that there have been wide discussions over some of these subjects for decades. I used to sit in the press Gallery listening to Vajpayee ji in this Chamber. He raised the issue of electoral reforms for the first time in Lok Sabha. Though his party did not have the majority, he not only raised this issue but motivated this House to constitute a Joint Parliamentary Committee in this regard. Though the Committee was constituted but it was dissolved. Second time, when another such Committee was constituted, I had been elected to Rajya Sabha by that time. I was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1977. The Parliamentary Committee submitted its report in two volumes. That report still remains to be implemented. We have a number of complaints against the Congress Party. A large number of good reports were prepared by them but they took no steps to implement them and they were

thrown in the dustbin. If anything was achieved on Centre-State relations, the credit goes to the United Front Government. The Sarkaria Commission was constituted in 1983 and the Commission presented its report in 1988. Nothing was done until their Government took charge.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : What happened to Sri Krishna Commission?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have also tolerated for 40 years. They should also bear with us...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Sri Krishna Commission has nothing to do with the Motion of Thanks...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this was discussed in the Inter-State Council and there are many such recommendations which were accepted through the Inter-State Council, but they could not be implemented. In all the present position is that the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission was received ten years ago and there are 247 recommendations out of which not a single recommendation has been implemented so far. In the last meeting of Inter-State Council, when the United Front was in the Government, they had given positive approval to 89 recommendations.

[English]

Till today not a single one has been implemented. This is the state of affairs in so far as the Committees and Commissions set up by the Congress Party is concerned. It is a matter of regret.

[Translation]

But our efforts will be to arrive at consensus regarding electoral reforms, Centre-State relations and even do something over and above what is stated in the Sarkaria Commission report regarding Centre-State relations. Bhartiya Janata Party and its allies like Shiv Sena have formed a standing council comprising the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana which has prepared a very appropriate report in this regard. Keeping in view that report, we have incorporated our views in our National Agenda. We believe that —

[English]

There is a clear case for devolution of much greater powers and functions in favour of the States.

[Translation]

We shall strive to provide maximum rights, responsibilities and powers to the States. We shall march in this direction and shall certainly implement the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission. There is also a specific mention about the Lok Pal Bill and to bring

[Shri L.K. Advani]

transparency in the Government functioning. A law on right to information shall be enacted. One thing, which has been criticised by some of our colleagues but I do not know the reason why that has been criticised. fifty years have passed since the Constitution of India came into being and the problems with which we are faced with today is that we have not been able to remove poverty and unemployment, corruption is on the rise, there is tension in the society. I do not consider that our Constitution is responsible for all such lapses. But, if someone is of the view that there is no need to amend the Constitution then

[English]

this Constitution framed in 1950 is the last word in so far as the Constitution is concerned....

[Translation]

This is not the correct attitude. Sometime back when we expressed our view to set up a 'Commission on the Constitution' some people started making a propaganda that we are going to change the Constitution which was framed by Dr. Ambedkar. I was happy to know a quotation of Dr. Ambedkar of which our friend Mr. Vaiko made a mention in this House. Dr. Ambedkar had said -

[English]

"Every generation should be willing to change the Constitution."

[Translation]

The present generation should think of the future generation, that is next generation. Such promptness should be there and he has used the word that Constitution should not be considered 'infallible' and 'sacrosanct'. At the same time I also believe that the Constitution should not be changed on a flimsy grounds. This is not a good tendency...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : The hon. Minister is misquoting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. I have got the highest regard for Advaniji. As a matter of fact, I am raising a point after a long time because I did not want to interrupt his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you raising a point of order? If so, under what rule?

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : I want to clarify the position. I am on a point of clarification...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not raised a point of order. He wants to make a clarification and the hon. Minister has yielded.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : You get it corrected. But when I listened it yesterday...(Interruptions)

[English]

I am willing to be corrected.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : I have got a lot of respect for Shri Lal Krishna Advani but he should not misquote Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Shri Advani has misquoted Dr. Ambedkar...(Interruptions) All right, an hon. Member of the House has quoted wrongly...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete. You take your seat.

SHRI VAIKO : But I should be given an opportunity after he completes.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I mean no disrespect to anybody. But the wrong quotation should not go on record. This is what I want. That is why, I am raising a point of clarification.

The hon. Member yesterday quoted a reference from the concluding speech of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. He did say : 'Every generation itself is a nation. They have the right to amend the Constitution. The Constitution is not a static body. I have provided. Article 368 in the Constitution for this purpose'. So, whatever amendments are to be adopted must be towards fulfilling the aims of the Directive Principles incorporated in the Indian Constitution. This is my clarification...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : We are going in that very direction...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vaiko wants to clarify further. Let him speak.

SHRI VAIKO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was putting forth my point of view that this Government has decided to set up a Commission to review the Constitution, I said that the basic structure of the Constitution is not to be altered. I said it in very clear terms. Then, I quoted Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. I did not quote him wrongly. I only quoted what he spoke on the 25th November, 1949 in the concluding stages of the Constituent Assembly debates.

He quoted Mr. Thomas Jefferson. There is another quotation also. It is this : 'It is not meant for the dead people; it is for the living people'. Therefore, the point I wanted to make is that we are not here to alter the basic structure of the Constitution when Dr. Ambedkar himself has provided a facile procedure for amending the Constitution. It is pertinent to note that we are here to review the Constitution according to the changing times. I hope, I have not quoted wrongly.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I will take only one minute. It is correct that we respect Dr. Ambedkar and we regard that the Constitution should not be changed. But is it not a fact that there are some Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights? Do you not think that the right to employment must be a Fundamental Right? Do you not think that the right to education should be a Fundamental Right? What is the harm if these are included in the constitution?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : What are the matters that you are asking the Commission to look into?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of my friends to para 35 of President's Address wherein it has been said :

[English]

"Fifty years after Independence, the time has come to rejuvenate our institutions so that they are strong enough to meet the challenges of the future. The Government proposes to do so, as well as appoint a Commission to review the Constitution and make recommendations so that anomalous experiences of the past are not repeated in the future."

[Translation]

In these fifty years also from time to time many leading personalities of this side and the other side like Shri V.P. Sathe, Shri Venkatraman, Shri Nani Palkhiwala and Shri Madhu Dandvate have said that perhaps instead of Parliamentary Democracy if we bring in the Presidential system...*(Interruptions)* I am not of this view...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar) : Shri Madhu Dandavate never said that...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Madhu Dandvateji did not say this. He had said to change the Constitution ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : No. He supported Parliamentary democracy. He totally opposed the Presidential form of Government.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This issue has been raised periodically. Apprehension has been expressed by

eminent people in this regard. I respect their sentiments. It is worth appreciating if the Government has taken an initiative and stated in the National Agenda that a Commission comprising of Constitutional experts, legal luminaries, parliamentarians and eminent persons from public life would be set up to look into the basic changes required in the Constitution, review the Centre-State relations in order to make them more dynamic (to bring about revolutionary changes) and review the electoral system. Here I would like to reiterate that even if we did not have a Constitution, there are certain elements like our culture and tradition which would never allow India to be a theocratic State.

[English]

Secularism has been part of the culture and tradition of this country irrespective of who frames the constitution. The constitution would never be theocratic. Theocracy is unacceptable to us.

[Translation]

We may have accepted monarchy during some period but in Independent India, nothing except democracy is acceptable.

[English]

Republicanism, secularism and equality of all citizens irrespective of their faith would be the integral part of the Constitution...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. He is not yielding. What can I do? Unless he yields I cannot do anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, sometimes, it is mentioned that the National Agenda is utopian. I think that what seems a utopia today should have been realised during the last 50 years. Even after 50 years, every village in the country does not have potable water, electricity, the common masses do not have two square meals a day, proper health care and education. We have to pay attention in this direction as it is our responsibility. We should resolve today that we would achieve all these goals at the earliest like most of the other countries of the world. Providing drinking water to every village, education to children and two square meals for the common masses is not a utopia. We have stated in the BJP manifesto that we would achieve them in the next 10 years. But for some of these goals we

[Shri L.K. Advani]

have sought five years time in the National Agenda. We stand corrected in so far as primary education is concerned, it should have been elementary education instead of that. I feel that we would make all endeavours so that we could build an India which is free from the curse of fear, hunger and corruption. This has been stated in the sixth para of the National Agenda.

AN HON. MEMBER : Fear!

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes fear!

15.00 hrs.

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to conclude by citing a personal experience. Twenty years back during the Morarji Desai Government I was the Information and Broadcasting Minister. I had received an invitation from Pakistan Government and I went there. My birth place is Karachi. I have been educated in Karachi which is in Sindh, Pakistan. I had an urge to go to my home and see it. I wanted to go to my school. I was there for two days. There was Zia regime in Pakistan. Everywhere there was army. The people were surprised to see that a Union Minister of India was visiting the place without any security personnel along.

I went to my school and also visited the shops near my school which I used to visit during my childhood. It was a strange experience. The people expressed their surprise to know that leaders of India are moving freely without any security guards. During these twenty years the overall internal security scenario has deteriorated. Today I am Minister but when I was not a Minister and worked as a political worker, people used to accompany me and today black commandos accompany me. I also feel very embarrassed when I see that many MPs are writing to me asking as to why their security has been withdrawn and urging for restoration of their security. I have told my Ministry to undertake extensive review. Whatever is actually necessary should be provided. The common citizen must not feel inconvenience because of VIP security. I do not understand the logic behind suspending flights upto two hours because of VIP movement. It is not good. This practice should be changed. So I am stressing for creating India free from fear and we consider it very essential.

Yesterday a lot was discussed about Tamil Nadu. Whenever I get the opportunity, I will speak about it. But I would certainly say that terrorism, which was rampant in Jammu-Kashmir or Punjab has reached South and Tamil Nadu *via* North-East. In the recent past terrorist incidents have happened there quite often and it concerns us. I hope the Government there will take proper action in this regard. On behalf of Central Government, we would not leave any stone unturned in

extending our assistance even if it is in regard to intelligence. We will extend all sorts of assistance. But we expect from the Government not to show slackness in the matter because the incidents occurring in the last few days are causing deep concern. Members have also expressed this concern and I am also worried about it. Today there is no need to say anything more on this point. I expect from the State Government that it would take strict action that is required and we will extend our full cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you and I once again stress this point that we want to build such India where every citizen irrespective of his caste, creed, religion, should feel proud of being Indian.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Advani ji has just finished his speech. I want to express my apprehensions in this House as it has become essential for me to do so. Day before yesterday, when the hon. Prime Minister delivered his speech, one point was clarified. He had said that we have abandoned controversial issues in the national agenda. When members from our side rose to challenge this statement, Atalji said "if we raise these issue then we face difficulties and if we leave them, even then we face difficulties". He avoided this issue in a subtle manner. We were convinced that they have abandoned controversial issue whether it is Article 370 or Ram Janam Bhoomi issue. Today Advaniji has said that he is not apologetic on these issues and thus avoided it diplomatically. It will send a wrong message. Advaniji, you are President of BJP. Even today when you were speaking, you had raised certain issues from the agenda.

[English]

Sir, I just want to submit something.

[Translation]

Please clarify this issue otherwise it will create apprehensions in the minds of the people in the country. This is in the interest of the nation and national agenda. You should categorically say that issues like Article 370, Ram Janam Bhoomi are not on your agenda. This point should be clarified...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri E. Ahamed.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, before he starts speaking, I would like to say that I have received a very sad news from Tripura. Shri Bimal Sinha, Minister of Health and Urban Development in Tripura was attacked by the extremists at village Abanga of Kamalpur Sub-Division in Dhalai District at 11.30. He was killed. His younger brother, Shri Rocket Sinha, an English teacher, who was accompanying him, had also been killed by the extremists. The situation is grave.

The State Government had been asking for adequate security force time and again. But the para-military force is not being provided to the State of Tripura. The Minister of Home Affairs is here. The Prime Minister is also here. So, I would urge upon the Minister of Home that the para-military force should be sent to Tripura immediately to tackle the insurgent situation there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basudeb Acharia, you have to send a letter to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I feel shocked to get the sad news. I can only say that our Government will ensure that whatever assistance is necessary from Delhi, we shall certainly provide that. It is a very sad development that has taken place. I want to emphasise that the internal security environment is deteriorating in various parts. It needs an earnest effort on the part of all of us to see that it is checked...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : You please give reply to the apprehensions expressed by him...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri E. Ahamed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except Shri E. Ahamed's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It is not a court of law...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pilot, he has noted. If he intends to reply, he will reply.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Naik wants to raise a point of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is a democracy...(Interruptions) He has just walked out...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was present in the House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is very clear that it is a reversal of the Prime Minister's speech...(Interruptions) Sir, if the Home Minister does not reply to this, then, I am sorry to say that it would be difficult for us to continue...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is democracy...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

There is no point of cooperation in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has heard it. The Prime Minister is yet to reply. If all speak together, nothing will be audible. He is sitting here. He is yet to reply. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is not correct...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You just think, why we expressed this apprehension. It was also on 3rd December, 1992 that we had expressed our apprehension in this very House. Advaniji and Atalji were sitting here. Non of them spoke that day and the incident took place later. We say even today that their intentions are not clear. Why he is not clarifying his position?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your point. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is present here.

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur) : Sir, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is raising a point of order...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What are you talking about...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am permitting only Shri E. Ahamed to speak

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Sir, we are also raising...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is very bad...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like the hon'ble Prime Minister to make a statement regarding creation of new states.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has clarified all the points. Advaniji has spoken very clearly. They can draw any view, right or wrong. The Prime Minister has himself said that there is opposition both on retention and abrogation of Article 370...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister will not speak after consulting him. He should have no business with it.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He has never said that. Let the Prime Minister say that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the name of Shri E. Ahamed. Nothing other than what Shri E. Ahamed is speaking would not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, they are not answering our questions...(Interruptions) It is democracy? ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate. I am requesting you again and again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, we are walking out.

15.14 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Pilot and some other hon. Members left the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I have a point of order...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, you can allow him after my speech.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address...(Interruptions) Sir, he should speak after my speech is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is on a point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Chairman, Sir, My point of order is that there is a tradition that the hon'ble

* Not Recorded.

Members should observe decorum while speaking. When Advaniji was leaving the House, they said that he has running away from here. I feel that the use of such a word is not good. If it is a parliamentary word, then they have themselves run away from here ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : I am on a point of order ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : I am raising a point of order under Rule 376. Rule 376(3) says :

"Subject to conditions referred to in sub-rules (1) and (2), a Member may formulate a point of order and the Speaker shall decide whether the point raised is a point of order and if so give his decision thereon, which shall be final."

My point of order is, while speaking Advaniji has used the word 'untouchability', six times ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Please sit down.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Kindly hear me first. Advaniji has repeatedly used the word 'untouchability' ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have referred to Rule 376. There is no point of order under Rule 376.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : 'Untouchability' is an unconstitutional word. The Constitution abominates the word, 'untouchability'. It cannot be expressed or exhibited directly or indirectly. It is an offence ... (Interruptions) I am on the question of propriety. I would like to know whether the Government wishes to continue the untouchability for years together.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I rule out your point of order.

SHRI E. AHAMED : While participating in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I would like to remind the Chair that I have already given some amendments on certain issues which have not been addressed to by the President.

I feel that the President should have mentioned about the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities. Also, no mention has been made regarding the schemes to be taken up for advancing education facilities to the minorities and such other problems. Due to paucity of time I would like to confine my speech to certain points to which a reference has been made by the hon. Home Minister in his speech a short while ago.

Immediately after assuming office, the Prime Minister has been issuing statements saying that during his regime there shall be no apprehension to any section of our society. It is quite justified. He should tell the citizens of this country that there shall be no apprehension because the new Government has taken over under his leadership. I know the hon. Prime Minister very well. I know his perception, his policies and all. I would like to ask him, how a member of a minority community will not be apprehensive so long as there are certain measures or policies enunciated in the manifesto of his own party.

Though he said that for governance there is a national agenda, the National Agenda for Governance, we have an apprehension that the minimum programme of the National Agenda might give way to the maximum programme of the BJP manifesto.

It is said on page 4 of the BJP agenda that *Hindutva* respects the sites of all forms of religious worship. However, the next para says that *Shri Ram Mandir* will be constructed at Ram Janmasthan in Ayodhya where a makeshift temple already exists. If *Hindutva* accepts all sorts of faiths and forms of worship, why is it that *Babri Masjid* was demolished by those people who advocate *Hindutva*? How can the country believe that the party whose leaders participated in the demolition of a mosque does not have any *mala fide* intention?

Hon. Advaniji was present in the National Integration Council meeting held in connection with the Ayodhya issue. He gave an assurance then that the *Babri Masjid* would not be touched. But on 5th December, 1992, in the very presence of Advaniji, that structure had been razed to the ground. Under such circumstances, how are we to believe in the hon. Prime Minister's assurance that it will be the National Agenda for Governance which will be implemented? Of course, he may be having a *bona fide* belief in it. But how can we believe that this Government will not go back to the BJP agenda?

I would like to refer to five points mentioned in the BJP agenda and they are (1) *Hindutva*, (2) construction of *Ram Mandir* on the site where the mosque was standing, (3) amendment of Article 30 of the Constitution, (4) scrapping of the Minorities Commission, and (5) the Uniform Civil Code. I say, these are the things which warrant the sense of scare in the minority communities in this country. As long as these are kept in abeyance and not disowned totally, the minorities would not feel secure under the BJP Government, even if it is a coalition Government.

Hon. Prime Minister says, consensus is the need of the hour. I do agree with it, Mr. Prime Minister, we do appreciate it. Then, why not the BJP, the majority Party, embark upon a programme of consensus by withdrawing

these five things — *Hindutva*, *Ram Mandir* construction, amendment of Article 30, scrapping of the Minorities Commission and introduction of a Uniform Civil Code — for the sake of coexistence of the different communities in the country? There are different communities in the country and we must have a harmonious coexistence here. If Shri Vajpayee could evolve a consensus for coexistence of different political parties in his Government, why not the BJP also give up these policies for the same kind of harmonious coexistence among the different communities in this country?

Sir, I am of the view that this country will never accept bringing in of a common civil code. Advaniji was saying that it is mentioned in the Constitution. I do agree with him. It is mentioned in Article 44 of the Constitution in the Chapter 'Directives Principles of State Policy' and not in the Chapter 'Fundamental Rights'. It is only an enabling provision. In this country there is a common civil code. What are the exceptions?

The only exception is of personal law of the minority community. Take the Marriages Act of the Christians. Their percentage is only two to three of the total enactment of this country. Would the BJP, which is the major partner in the Government, tolerate to have a minority personal law in this country? In that case, would you call it a civil society or would you call it a plural society?

In this context, I doubt the wordings of the National Agenda of Governance as there is a mention about genuine secularism and that we are committed to establishing a civilised, humane and just social order. Where is this 'just social order'? It is nothing but a backdoor method of introducing a Uniform Civil Code. This is my doubt. I shall be very much grateful to the hon. Prime Minister if he is able to remove that apprehension also which is in the minds of the minorities of this country.

I would like to say that this country belongs to everybody. We are part of this country. We also have certain Constitutional rights. We should be allowed to have those Constitutional rights. So far as we are concerned, our personal law *Shariat* is a part of our faith. So, we should also be allowed to enjoy that right in this country. Therefore, it is imperative on the part of the Government and the leader of the government, Shri Vajpayee to remove the apprehension that this will never be introduced in this country.

I would also say on my part that we will persuade, we will compel and we will use the Constitutional methods to prevent such an eventuality. In case, under any circumstances, it comes into existence, we will oppose it tooth and nail. Therefore, I urge upon this Government to remove this apprehension. Only then, the hon. Prime Minister can very well say, "All right, you need not have any apprehension so far as my Government is concerned."

[Siri E. Ahamed]

As long as this death warrant is there and is kept in abeyance though it is not executed — as long as this death warrant of the construction of the *Ram Mandir* in that site where the mosque was standing is there, we say that we will have our apprehension. I would like to take only two minutes.

I am very glad to see certain provisions regarding the educational advancement of the minorities. The President's Address has mentioned about it. No specific scheme has been mentioned. What is the difficulty about the minorities in this country? They do not have sufficient educational facilities. We have faith in the present educational service, we must have the support and assistance of the Government. Until and unless we are given that facility to have more colleges, more institutions, more technical institutions and also more policies to the minority community, especially in the dominant areas of the community, we will not be benefited by it. I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to mention about this in his speech.

More than 12 per cent of the population belongs to a particular community, that is, the Muslim community. I am sorry to say that. Sir, I would say with a heavy heart as to what is their representation in the Government and as to what is their representation in the public undertakings. It is abysmally low. Whichever party was in power did not do justice to the backward minority community. Therefore, this position is really a *bona fide* revelation that the minority should be given their due right. You must also take measures to provide representation of the minority community in Government service and there shall be no discrimination.

The hon. Prime Minister is very well known in all the countries especially in respect of foreign affairs. I am sorry to find that in the President's Address, there was no mention about India's relationship with the Arab and the Gulf countries. We are having a lot of interaction with them and the hon. Prime Minister had himself contributed valuable services as the Minister of External Affairs and also as the Leader of the Opposition in these matters. But the President's Address finds no place to mention about the India's traditional bond of bilateral relationship with the Gulf countries, Pacific countries, our neighbouring countries and also the Islamic countries.

I will be very much obliged if the hon. Prime Minister also mentions in his reply that India's traditional relationship with the Arab and Islamic countries will be strengthened.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH (Srinagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I feel an immense amount of pride and I feel greatly privileged to be able to stand in this august

House and speak from where great leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Rajagopalachari and others had made some of the history's greatest speeches. The fact that I am speaking here at such a young age is a tribute to the democratic traditions of this great country of ours, traditions of which we as citizens of India have a right to be proud of.

I would like to begin by placing on record my appreciation for many things in the President's Address. It is unfortunate, however, that the President's Address finds no place to make an address about the issues facing us in Kashmir, primarily the issue of rebuilding of the infrastructure which was damaged in the last eight years of militancy.

The President has very rightly mentioned that his Government should be and is committed to building a new India, an India free from insecurity, an India free from hunger and an India free from corruption. Having said that I for one feel sorry that even after 50 years of Independence we are forced, due to circumstances, to have to keep repeating the same things over and over again. It is a blot on this great nation of ours that even after 50 years of Independence, there are still citizens of this country who go to bed hungry and who go to bed at night without a roof over their heads. One can only hope that we, as the Members of this august House, will do more than pay a mere lip service to these issues that plague our nation today.

It is time for us to realise that the people of our constituencies have voted us and sent us here for a purpose; a much more important purpose than to just shout here, make a noise and score petty small victories over individuals. We have been sent here with a much larger agenda. Our agenda is to do something, to take decisions and to get some work done so that we can improve the standard of living of the people of the constituencies wherefrom we have been elected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that I would be failing in my duty to the people of my constituency and my State if I fail to point out what to my mind is a glaring omission from the President's Address and that is the twin problems of the destruction of the infrastructure and resulting high levels of unemployment among the youth of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

My State is only just recovering from eight years of absolute hell. During these eight years, the rest of the country was moving ahead in leaps and bounds. Foreign investment for vital infrastructure projects was pouring in for roads, for power, for railways; whereas in my State, the little foreign exchange that we were earning in the form of tourism also dried up.

While other States were enjoying the benefits of a revitalised economy encouraging large Indian companies to invest in their States, we, unfortunately,

Mr. Chairman, Sir, were forced to see that industries which were running in our State and running profitably had to shut down because of fears of militant reprisals.

In all this, the biggest sufferers in my State have been my young brothers and sisters who have struggled against enormous odds to attain a decent education and who now find themselves without the hope of any sustainable employment outside the government sector.

Sir, I, like most of the people in this country, believe what I read in the Press. Over the last few years I have been reading with alarming regularity that the youth of Kashmir are an alienated community and they have absolutely no interest in joining the mainstream politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot express fully in words the pride and joy that I felt, as a young individual, seeing these reports that I have read over the years were absolutely and completely untrue.

The youths of Jammu and Kashmir, in my constituency and in Kashmir, were out and out in large numbers. They were participating in my rallies. They were shouting. They were screaming. They had absolutely no interest in resorting to guns to get their objectives. They had one simple request and what was that? They want jobs. Jobs which this Government has promised in its National Agenda. 'Job' is a very plain, a very simple word but a word that holds the entire future of Jammu and Kashmir State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, jobs are meaningful employment. Employment shows that the people of my State can hold their head high. The youth can say, 'yes, I earn my own living'.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I realise that I am probably one of the youngest Members of this House and so my memory is probably a little fresher than of some - I am sure though we all remember that first pay cheque, that first salary cheque. That shows that we have learnt to take responsibility on ourselves; that we can shoulder a bit of load that our parents have suffered all through our childhood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I, for one, was extremely proud of my first pay cheque. Receiving it did wonders for my self-esteem and pride. This, Sir, is what my young brothers and sisters not only in Jammu and Kashmir, but all over India are pleading for, the right to some self-respect.

In this lies the future of my State. The same boys who earlier held guns frequently because they saw a future in it now realize the futility of their action and those fortunate enough to live to see another day, now wish to safeguard their future by working for a living and we, Sir, cannot afford to let them down. We must

be able to offer them an alternative to violence. Otherwise, there are a sufficient number of agencies, both foreign and homegrown which will use this discontent to their advantage and we will have nobody to blame but ourselves.

Jobs, Sir, are the need of the hour and I cannot stress this point enough. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir is doing all it can to create more jobs, even at the cost of adding to an already overburdened exchequer. 13,000 young people have been selected till the end of February, 1998. This includes the police.

We are making provisions for special jobs in the Khadi and Village Industries sector, which hopefully will employ more than 10,000 young people but the jobs must come from the private sector and from self-employment. For the private sector, we need infrastructure; infrastructure which, in my State, has been badly damaged.

This brings me to the main point of my speech — the reconstruction of the vital infrastructure in my State. Mr. Chairman, Sir, while in other States bridges were being built, in my State bridges were being demolished. While in other States, schools were being constructed to safeguard the future generations, in my State, schools were being burnt. No part of our infrastructure was spared. Roads, schools, bridges, seed stores, power transmission and hospitals were not spared. They destroyed absolutely everything. The loss is staggering.

I would like to place some figures before the House to give you an idea of how much we have suffered in these last eight years. Initially in 1995, the damage was estimated to be of the tune of Rs. 249 crore. This was updated in July 1996 to Rs. 300 crore. In December 1996, after the popular Government had been elected to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, this figure was revised and as of December, 1996, it stands at Rs. 444.94 crore. It is a monumental sum for any Government and an almost impossible task for a Government that has to rely only on the Centre for the bulk of its funds.

The most important task was to identify the critical services for the reconstruction and restoration. But unfortunately, because of limited funds, reprioritisation of the plan activities has to take place deferring some of the essential projects. By March, 1997, we were able to spend Rs. 84.64 crore...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my maiden speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I noted that. I am not objecting to that. But please conclude.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : This includes Rs. 35.15 crore for construction of school buildings...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I seek the indulgence of the House.

We spent Rs. 33.41 crore on the reconstruction of bridges. In the agricultural sector, the damage has been

[Shri Omar Abdullah]

estimated at Rs. 1586 lakh including Rs. 400 lakh to Indo-Dutch Mushroom Project that we have set up.

In the horticulture sector, we have suffered losses worth Rs. 155.82 lakh. In the food and civil supplies areas, buildings and vehicles worth Rs. 644 lakh have been destroyed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is in the Education Department that I feel we have suffered our greatest loss. In the period of militancy, our education was sent back decades. We have lost 26 colleges, polytechnics, ITIs and Stadia.

But far worse, we have lost an astounding 718 schools. Yes, Mr. Chairman, Sir, 718 schools that we had constructed for our future generation, were destroyed. This loss in financial terms has been put at Rs. 138 crore. But the loss in financial terms is a small one, compared to the loss in human terms, the loss that our future generations have suffered in the quality of their education. It is a loss that we are going to suffer for generations to come.

As many as 406 bridges and culverts were damaged during the period of the militancy, costing Rs. 18,662 lakh. The list is endless. Health, power, industry, everything suffered. And what was promised to the people of my State was a better life.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : Yes, Sir, I am concluding.

Did these militants really believe that destruction of this vital infrastructure would give my people a better life and lead to a higher standard of living? If they did, they are even bigger fools than we gave them the credit for. But also, their foolishness and shortsightedness has left us with a problem of monumental dimensions. While fighting, we must also divert resources to rebuild what we have lost.

We are fighting a battle in Jammu and Kashmir, a battle not just for us as a State, a battle for a much larger us, a battle for us as a nation, a battle for us as Indians, and it is not much to expect that in this battle for the rest of the nation, the Centre as a whole supports this battle fully.

To put it bluntly, we need help to rebuild what we have lost. We must rebuild our damaged infrastructure and our efforts have been seriously hampered because of the lack of funds. In support of this, I would like to quote Mohammad Shafi, Minister of Finance for Jammu and Kashmir who, during his Budget Address in March, 1998, said, and I quote :

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Abdullah, now conclude. I am calling another Member.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH : I am concluding, Sir. I just like to quote a paragraph. Look, Sir, we are suffering

a major problem in Kashmir. I beg your indulgence for a while. It is my maiden speech. Make it a little easier for me, please. Sir, I quote :

"I should like to mention here that the increase in the fiscal deficit of the State has taken place mostly due to reasons beyond the control of the State Government. One of the main reasons for this is non-reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure in full by the Central Government. There is a backlog of Rs. 561 crore on this account ending March, 1997, which has still not been reimbursed. During the current year also, this figure will go up further in case the reimbursement claims of the State Government for the current year are not fully met. The State Government hopes that in accordance with the public commitment made by the then Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral, that Security related Expenditure has to be looked upon as a national responsibility, the entire amount will be reimbursed."

I do not wish to take too much more of the precious time of this House. Fortunately, I have not yet been able to develop the habit of making long width speech, short on content. All I wish to say is that the State of Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford to create too many more jobs in the private sector. The reasons for this or the facts are that our infrastructure has suffered, as I have mentioned. The problems in Kashmir are complex and many.

In fact, at the heart of this problem is the fact that not one but two countries have occupied areas of my State and one is now trying to lay claim to the rest of my State as if they own the right to that land.

Kashmir has always been a part of India, Kashmir is a part of India and Kashmir will always remain a part of India. No power on earth can change that. As many freedom conferences can arise out of the barrel of a gun but the heart of the people of Kashmir is fairly with India and it will remain so as long as the Centre plays fair with the people of the State. All I am trying to say is that this Government must make some firm commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and then unlike some previous Governments, speak to them because we are going to find it otherwise even more difficult to continue to win this battle against militancy. It is a battle we are winning and winning well, except for the influx of, foreign militants which has been controlled to a great extent. The Homegrown militants are virtually a thing of the past. We must ensure that it stays that way. And to do this, we must make it impossible for foreign agencies to recruit our young boys and girls. If we can only ensure this, we can guarantee them a

better life and self-respect, and for that we must be able to offer them jobs. Jobs require investment, investment requires infrastructure, and infrastructure is, unfortunately, what the President missed out. I hope and pray that this Government at the Centre takes notice of the problem that we are facing in Jammu and Kashmir and does something to solve them.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of thanks on the President's Address, moved by Shri Shanta Kumar.

I think the President's Address clearly outlines the programme and fiscal policy of the Government. I understand that this seems to come upto the hopes and aspirations of the people who gave verdict to this Government in the recently held general elections. Advaniji rightly pointed out that in response to the slogan of an able leadership and a stable Government—people have put responsibility on this Government. Their verdict is that if there is any able leader, he is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

I thank all the allies that they put in their best efforts to install this Government under the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and fulfilled the wishes of the people of the country.

A debate is going on for the last two days on the President's Address. But I regret that instead of putting forth some concrete suggestions, my friends from opposition kept on finding fault with the past, They did not analyse critically this Address and programme of this Government. Some said how the unemployment would be removed, how the people would be provided drinking water. The others said how they would take this country forward. Someone said there is a hidden agenda behind their national agenda. Hidden agenda was referred to. I am reminded of an instance. That issue relates to Punjab. The Shiromani Akali Dal leaders called on the then Prime Minister. They raised the issue and read out Anandpur Sahib Resolution. The Prime Minister said there was nothing wrong in that Resolution. He revealed that his aids had told him that the Akali leaders had kept the original resolution in the clush of his safe and they had presented a fake copy of Anandpur Sahib Resolution. Then our Akali Dal leader Shri Tohra said that let whatever resolution they had presented be fulfilled. Even if there is a hidden agenda, leave that aside and take the declared agenda as authentic one.

The second point which they repeatedly mentioned was about the existence of a remote control. The people having knowledge of electronics know it. Our colleague Sh. Madhavrao Scindia pointed it out in the morning that BJP's remote control is in Nagpur. All of us know that the remote control at a distant place does not work

as effectively as does the one which is nearby. They are surrounded by a number of such remote controls. They have one remote control, but our friends in the opposition keep on their remote control changing. Last time they had an old model remote control which went off on its own. The second one went off in this House and the House had to be dissolved. We cried hoarse to have mercy on the country. People are starving and they are playing with the country. Then they changed their remote control*...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will see the record whether there is anything objectionable.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Those remarks should not go on record. They should be expunged from the records...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything wrong, I will examine it

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they should not go on record...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything wrong, it would be expunged from the record.

[English]

I will examine it

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You should expunge those remarks.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prem Singh ji, are you withdrawing whatever you said?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is withdrawing it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : He cannot ridicule our leader like that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is withdrawing it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has withdrawn his words.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is withdrawing his words.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : He must apologize for those remarks...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is withdrawing his words.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Let him say that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is withdrawing his words.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please withdraw your words.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : He must apologise to the whole House and to the country as well...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will expunge that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : He must apologize for those remarks...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already expunged those words.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Datta Megheji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Yesterday, when the leader of the Opposition was giving the figures...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

[English]

I am on my legs.

[Translation]

Whatever you have said, has hurt him. You will have to withdraw your words.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Sir, he has not made any derogatory remarks...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA (Etawah) : Who has coined the word "remote control"?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting anybody.

[Translation]

This subject is over now...(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday when Shri Sharad Pawar was giving the figures, I thought, he might have learnt a lesson from the plight of the Congress Party in the recently held elections...(Interruptions) But the figures furnished by him has astonished me. He said that his party got 55 per cent votes in this elections. At this, I am reminded of a story narrated in the villages. Two women returned after attending a marriage ceremony. One of them gave hundred rupees as 'Shagun' while the other gave only eleven rupees. A third woman inquired them as to how much they gave as 'Shagun'.? The woman who had given hundred rupees was silent, while the other woman who had given only eleven rupees said that they gave one hundred eleven rupees as 'Shagun'. The same situation is here. The party which has got thirty per cent votes is sitting silent and the party which got only twenty five per cent votes is saying that it got 55 per cent vote.

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY : Their complaint is genuine. They have lost all the thirteen seats in Punjab...(Interruptions)

15.59 hrs.

[PROF. RITA VERMA in the Chair]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Did they ever think that once their strength used to be four hundred. Then it came down to three hundred. Further, it came down to two hundred and now their strength is only 140.

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA : While they did not get even a single seat in U.P.(Interruptions)

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if there is dirt in the house, it can be removed by sweeping the floor. One more way to clean the house is to mop the floor after sweeping. Our friend Kamal Chaudhry ji has rightly said that Punjab has almost mopped this party. The same thing has happened in Uttar Pradesh also. They will have to think as to why such a situation occurred. I have said all this so that hon'ble Jakhar ji could listen but he is not present here.

16.00 hrs.

In his speech, he asked as to how this work was going to be done. He said that the programmes were good but he also raised the doubt as to how they would be implemented. I am reminded of a proverb of Punjab. It is known in the whole country. It goes like - Every thing look pale to a jaundiced eye. It applies to them here. Chidambaramji is a good friend of mine. He is a learned person, but I am unable to understand as to how he said that the Government did not have any programme. Due to time constraints, I do not want to say anything about him. I would like to say that there are three basic things in the President's Address i.e. to create a society free from fear, hunger and corruption...(Interruptions) Hon'ble Prime Minister has said that we shall have to take steps. The most important thing for this country is good conduct and honesty. Our country is known for its honesty in the world. But, we shall have to retrospect the last fifty years in this perspective. We feel ashamed as to how you wish to think about. During the past fifty years, our country has been ridiculed in the foreign countries. So, we ought to think as to how such things have taken place. Corruption has stigmatized our country to a great extent and we shall have to think on this point. One method to do away with this evil was adopted by the Congress party. On one hand they used to accept bribe and on the other, they used to enact laws and then the CBI...(Interruptions) If you interrupt like this, we will also not allow you to speak...(Interruptions) There was corruption even in registration of cases. They took the money and got the cases registered. We will have to pay serious attention in this direction. This situation was created by Shri Sukh Ram. The main reason is that when there is monopoly, there is bound to be corruption. There was corruption during the Congress regime because in almost every field there was monopoly. During the Deve Gowda and Gujral Governments, there was no corruption. I believe that monopoly breeds corruption. Our Government is committed to wipe out corruption.

The other reason for corruption is the discretionary quotas like allotments of petrol pumps and houses etc. Our Government has decided to do away with it as well. Delay in getting the work done is also a reason for

corruption. Besides, acquiring more facilities even if one has them, also breeds corruption. For example, if a person has one telephone, he likes to have another; if he has two houses, he wants to have four. If he has one car, he wants to have second also. There is a limit to everything. If we exercise some control, I think corruption can be wiped out. The hon. Prime Minister has rightly pointed out in his speech that there should be transparency in the working of administration. I feel that by doing so we can root out corruption. I am glad that our Government is moving in the right direction.

It has been mentioned in the President's Address that the Government would strive for a new India - an India free from hunger. There are starvation deaths in the country. It is asked as to why Vajpayee ji is so concerned about it? I would like to ask as to why he should not be concerned? It is unfortunate that even today starvation deaths are reported in the country. The value of rupee has tremendously gone down. This is a matter of serious concern. He is not like you. Whereas we have found that there are instances when some leaders expressed their happiness at mass killings and they celebrated and danced on those occasions. Shri Vajpayee is not like you. Farmers are committing suicides as they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. This is most unfortunate that a person who is producing, is himself starving. The agriculture production has declined by two percent. Our Government has decided in the National Agenda to allocate 60 per cent of the plan expenditure to agriculture sector. This is an indication that we know our priorities and have gone to the root cause. There is also a need to spend more on the Research and Development. We cannot increase our land but can certainly increase our production. Why are the people starving today? It is mainly because agricultural land cannot be increased and there has been no new research in the field of agricultural production. No funds have been spent on the development of agriculture. Shri Jakhar was saying that a lot has been done in the field of agriculture. Only 0.69 per cent funds were spent on the Research and Development in agriculture during this tenure whereas our Government propose to spend more than 2 per cent in this field. I think this would increase our production. Earlier we used to take the average production figures for comparison. I would say that we should take the maximum production figures for comparison. This would help in increasing the production. Similarly, there are many projects in the country which are on-going projects. there are over 200 power projects in the country which have been going on for last several years. The work on Thein Dam project in Punjab has been going on for several years from now. Lot of funds have been spent on the project but nothing fruitful has come out. Water continue to flow to Pakistan. I feel all these ongoing projects should be completed.

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

I am glad that the Government has announced to implement the Crop Insurance Scheme, which the earlier Governments chose to confine them to papers only and as a result, the scheme was not implemented. The need of the hour is to make strides in the agriculture field.

I would now like to say a few words about the water policy. Half of the water resources are wasted as a result of mismanagement and misutilisation and due to which the water level is receding. The crop is perishing. Adequate potable water is not available. There are water disputes among the States and there is no solution in sight. Shri Sangma has expressed doubts as to how we would be able to provide adequate water for irrigation purposes during the next five years. I feel that with proper water management it would be possible.

Similarly, there is the issue of unemployment. They ask as to how unemployment will be removed. Unemployment can be removed. Our Hon. Prime Minister has announced that we will give more stress to agro industries and cottage industries. This will also create more employment opportunities. Multinational companies are coming here. These companies use our water, electricity and land but they do not provide employment to our people. They are capital oriented whereas they should be labour oriented. Similarly, there is the issue of subsidy. There are many fertilizer plants which claim to have produced ten lakh tonne fertilizer and manage to get subsidy on the entire 10 lakh tonne by forging necessary papers, whereas their actual production is just one lakh tonne. Thus by making such claims they got subsidy on another additional nine lakh tonne fertilizer whereas farmers got fertilizer in black. There are several such plants. Benefit does not reach the actual targetted beneficiaries. Similarly middlemen usurp the money under Public Distribution System. I want to tell my Government that persons eligible of getting subsidy, should be given subsidy directly. Farmers as well as consumers should get it directly. After 50 years, with the formation of the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, regional parties felt that they also have a share in the country.

We are also citizens of this country and it is satisfying to note that Government is thinking in terms of review of Centre-State relations with a view to amend the constitution accordingly. Under VDIS scheme full share was given to States supports this intention. This Government is going to do many things. In the last House, we said, do not let Parliament be dissolved because once again, results will be same and the same result has come. We should have a clear thinking on this issue. We do not wish to have a *pucca* certificate in writing, but we certainly want that we need a clear thinking to see that the country does not go to polls

again and again. I have a suggestion for the Government and I understand that all will agree to it. I want that if anybody intends to bring a motion against the Government then a candidate for the new Prime Minister should also be there. If a motion comes opposing a particular person then a motion in support of another person should also be there. If it is done, I believe, Government can last for five years. Similarly, the post of Governor should be abolished. Madam, when elections were held in our State in 1991, General Malhotra was Governor. In his message on Radio at night he told the people to cast their vote without any fear. I was also a candidate for the Assembly. When, a day ago, I went to villages seeking votes, people there told me that there is a Radio news that elections have been cancelled. I rushed to SDM. He told that a telegram has been received. When a Governor is not aware of even this development, what is the need to have him as Governor? Madam, they are being misused. That is why our Government have assured that the office of Governor won't be misused politically, it is right thinking ...*(Interruptions)*

I also want to mention that Members of Parliament should monitor the Housing Schemes, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Rural Development Scheme, Literacy Mission, Youth Welfare Scheme, Drinking Water Scheme or other Central schemes and they should have power to make recommendations about them at the same time people should be informed about these schemes. People will get full benefit of these schemes as a result thereof and misuse of funds will also be checked.

The essence of it — a society free from fear. Persons who ruled this country for the last 45 years out of 50 years, created an atmosphere of fear here. Sometimes they created fear among majority telling them that minority people are dangerous, cruel and used to get their votes and sometimes used to get the votes of minority by showing them the fear of majority. I am happy that my Government has resolved that we will build our society and the country free from fear and we will keep in high esteem the sacrifice made by Guru Teg Bahadur Sahib at Chandni Chowk, Delhi for the dignity and honour of the country. He had said : "Bhaya kahu ko bhed nahi, Na bhaya manka" I am happy that following this policy Government is working to serve the people of this country having welfare and benefit of all sections in mind and I hope the aspirations of the people behind making Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji the Prime Minister will be fulfilled as his speech suggests.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, only 45 minutes are left. Many other hon. Members want to take part in this discussion. I would request all the Members to be brief and speak to the point so as to enable more and more members to participate in this discussion. If they are able to put forth their views within five minutes, the whole House will appreciate the brevity and clarity of their speech.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Madam Chairperson, I would not like to speak much. Speaking on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address is like sipping tea after gulping rasgulla. After the confidence vote, a discussion on this Motion has been going on for the last two days. I do not want to make a speech but I want to seek some clarifications. Unfortunately, the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister are not present here. Only, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here.

Madam, they have prepared a National Agenda. It is a good thing. Mahatma Buddha had given sermons to the people that they should speak the truth, not commit theft, obey their elders and so on. Similarly, it has been said in this Agenda that drinking water, food, the facilities of roads and electricity and employment opportunities would be provided to all. Nobody has any objection to this. There are other issues like amendment to the Constitution on which the response of the Government has not been received so far. There have been amendments in the Constitution earlier. However, the hon. Prime Minister has said that a new commission would be set up for carrying out a review of the Constitution and the Government would consider the report of the commission. I am unable to understand as to what points of the Constitution will be reviewed by the Government. Whether the whole Constitution would be reviewed or some issues like hung Parliament, functioning of coalition Government, running the Government for full five years, checking horse-trading which could be decided by the Parliament itself would be reviewed. I can understand the review of above points but how could the Constitution be reviewed in a general way.

As some Members have made a mention of the hidden Agenda, I am unable to understand it. It is a different matter if it is implemented. However, they should make it clear as to what they meant by review of Constitution. My colleague Shri Rajesh Pilot has rightly said that there is contradiction in the views of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Home Minister regarding National Agenda. Their allies like Akali Dal, Samta Party, Trinmul Congress, AIADMK, PMK and Lok Shakti have nothing to do with the manifesto of the BJP. The BJP has got majority with the support of these parties. Their manifesto contained issues like Kashi and Mathura temples, Article 370, Common Civil Code and Ram Janam Bhoomi. I want to know whether the points mentioned in the National Agenda are temporary or permanent...*(Interruptions)* I would like the Prime Minister to clarify this. He should categorically declare that they have dispensed with the above issues. He should also clarify whether they would dispense with these issues till the coalition Government only or start implementing them as soon as they muster the majority. The hon. Members have termed it as a hidden agenda. Whenever any incident takes place, the Bhartiya Janta Party, in

order to ward off criticism, levels charges on others. When Babri Masjid was demolished, they denied their involvement in it and instead, levelled charge on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. For any incident, they pass the buck either to RSS or the Bajrang Dal. They have got different groups. When there is an incident of lathi-charge or a matter involving Hindu-Muslims, they take the name of the Bajrang Dal...*(Interruptions)* I am not raising any controversial issue...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum) : When their Government was at the Centre, why did not they arrest the guilty?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : He has also raised Dalit Sena and other Senas...*(Interruptions)*

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY : There is the Green Brigade also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If they say that the RSS, the Bajrang Dal and the VHP support the National Agenda, we do not have anything to say about it but if they say something and the RSS says something else, then it is not good. Today when Advani ji was speaking it seemed as if he was speaking under pressure ...*(Interruptions)*. He said that he has never hidden the fact that since the age of 14 years he has been in RSS and continues to be even today. I therefore, would like to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR : He is saying that Shri Advani and Shri Vajpayee are different from each other. This is wrong...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Perhaps one is poison and the other is sugar coated poison. That is the only difference. Madam Chairperson I would like to say that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want that more and more persons should participate in the discussion and that is why I say that it would be better if interruptions are minimum.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Madam Chairperson, I would like to submit that last time also I had said that 'Ram' belongs to all of us and we are descendants of Lord Ram. There is a saying that -

"Raghukul reet sada chali aye, Pran jaye par vachan na jaye"

The hon. Prime Minister had made a promise. He had made a promise to Shri Sangma but what happened. The promise was not fulfilled. The second promise he made...*(Interruptions)* A promise has been made to the people of the country in the National Agenda that they would stick to the national agenda. The hon. Prime Minister should give a categorical assurance in this regard to the Nation.

Madam Chairperson, secondly who is honest and who is not honest is a different matter. A person who

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

works honestly is honest. They have said that we speak of secularism and you have made a distinction about genuine secularism. We have also moved a step further in this direction. In spite of all these things why are the minorities in the country, particularly, the Muslim minority is apprehensive about them. I would like to say one thing more...*(Interruptions)* Madam Chairperson, Members of ruling party spoke for one hour. I have not spoken on the Confidence Motion also. I did not want to speak even today. I want to speak on one point only...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Vilas ji I am not doing injustice to you. Please conclude within the time allotted.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Madam Chairperson, I am concluding soon. You know my nature. I want to make a mention about Hindutva about which the BJP is crying hoarse. I would not have had any objection if they say something about the Indian culture. I know that many people in this country do not take pride in many things of the Indian culture. I also oppose the western culture. But at the same time there are many good things in the western culture. It is good that we are in an era of railways and aeroplanes. Today everybody can travel in them without any discrimination. Had it been the era of bullock cart this would not have been possible. Even today in villages of Rajasthan and other places people can be identified by the way they wear the 'Pagris'. The 'Pagri' of Thakur Sahib is different from the 'Pagri' of the Dalit. But now when everybody is wearing full pant and shirt nobody knows the caste of the person. In spite of this they speak of culture and that too of Hindutva. Shri Patil is sitting here. Till today I have not come to know what is the genesis of this word 'Hindutva'. I do not know whether it has come from the word 'Hindu'. I have gone through all the scriptures, viz. Ramayan, Gita, Mahabharat, Veda, Puran and Upanishads. Nowhere the word Hindu has been written...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : From where has the word 'Hindustan' come?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The genesis word of Hindustan is from Hindu. Earlier it was Aryavata...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sare jahan se acha Hindustan hamara...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Vilas ji, please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Wind up soon please.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I was trying to say that the word 'Hindu' has come from a Parsi word...*(Interruptions)*

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHOUDHRY : Do you want to delete the word 'Hindustan'?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I would like to say that do not link 'Hindutva' with Indian culture. The word 'Hindu' has been derived from 'Sindhu'. The people who came from Iran, they used to pronounce the sound 'sa' as 'ha' and this is how the word 'Hindu' came into being. We had read this in our childhood and I think they might also have read it. So, Hindutva cannot be linked with Indian culture and when they talk of Indian culture and Hindu nation one thing only I would like to say that fire and water do not have any religion. They cannot be either Hindu or Muslim. In the same way the nation is neither Hindu nor Muslim. The moment we link the nation with Hindutva, then we cannot deny the word 'Khalistan' or 'Islamic'. This is why I would like to say that this issue of Hindu nation and Hindutva is very sensitive.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Ram Vilasji, you have won this election with the support of BJP...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Madam, Chairperson, we have been talking about secularism and communalism time and again. Previously, we used to say that the Bharatiya Janata Party believes in status quo, it is a party of richmen, an enemy of farmers and labourers. Now leaving aside all this, we started saying that Bharatiya Janata Party is a communal party and we are secular. Gradually, people came to understand that communal means that we are supporter of minorities and Muslims while they are supporter of Hindus. This idea came into the minds of the common people with whom they do not have anything to do.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to say one thing clearly that the National Agenda of this Government is simply an illusion. This is good that they have obtained the confidence of this House and after this whatever time they may get whether three months, six months or ten months, they will remain in power. Thereafter they will not have the opportunity to say the thing which they have always been saying that these people do not let them come into power. The non-BJP people sitting alongwith them should know that their intention is to give permanence to this party and to implement the programme to which we call hidden agenda...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Vilasji, you please conclude.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Madam Chairperson, I am going to conclude. I would like to point out one thing about India and Pakistan. Our friend George Saheb, who at one time was with us and was our leader, always used to advocate for a better Indo-Pak relations. I am unable to understand as to how he is carrying on with a party which talks of making atom bomb. George Saheb has always been stressing on improving relations with Pakistan, then whether making

of Atom bomb will not hamper our relations? With the formation of the Government they have started saying that they would go ahead with the making of atom bomb if need be and on the other hand they say that they would improve relations with Pakistan—how can these two different view points work together? Today, the utmost need of our country is potable water, food and clothing. Please see the defence budget of our country. It was Rs. 25,000 crores last year. Former Defence Minister sitting here will confirm it. The defence budget of Pakistan for the previous year was also Rs. 25,000 crore. In this way both the countries together are spending Rs. 50,000 crore on this account. The interesting point here is that the supplier of weapons to both the countries is one and the same. That country at one time supplies F-16 to Pakistan and F-17 to India and again that country offers Pakistan to provide F-18. In this way, that third country is taking away the money of both the countries...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Vilasji, you please conclude now.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Madam, Chairperson, I am to conclude now but before that I would like to say that the amount being spent on production of a Patton Tank, with that much of amount, about 100 primary schools or 100 primary health centres can be set up. Therefore, the need of the hour is to improve our relations with our neighbouring countries instead of spending on defence and for this we shall have to take initiative with patience and move ahead in the direction of improving our relations with them.

Madam, just now the young Farooq Abdullah said that lot of work has to be done for the development of Kashmir. I fully agree with him and I feel that more and more funds should be allocated for the development of Kashmir.

Madam, in the end I would like to raise an important point about the Scheduled Castes. It has been stated that TADA cases would be reviewed. It is a good thing. When the Mandal Commission Report was implemented, unfortunately it was stated therein that the reservation in promotion for SCs would be scrapped. When we put pressure in this regard, an amendment to this effect was made in the Constitution but later in October, 1997 it was again scrapped. Later when we raised this matter in the Cabinet, a Committee was constituted under my Chairmanship, but unfortunately, when in November, 1997, the Committee submitted its report, our Government was not allowed to take a decision in this matter because the Lok Sabha elections were announced and our Government had become a caretaker Government. In this manner the reservation in promotion for SCs, which was done through a Constitutional Amendment has been stopped. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is sitting here and I would request him to draw the attention of the Government in

this regard. The reservation in promotion for SCs should be implemented as early as possible. As regard the creation of smaller States, I would submit that the creation of Vidharba should also be taken up. All of us are in its favour. Similarly, the creation of Bodoland should also be taken up. When I was the Welfare Minister I had taken up this issue. Now that this Government is committed to create smaller States, these two smaller States - Vidharba and Bodoland - should also be created.

The Government's decision to review the TADA cases has sent a right signal throughout the country. Earlier a Committee was constituted to review these cases and it had submitted its report wherein it was said that the hearing of cases of the persons who are in jails under TADA should be conducted as per the prevailing laws of the land. The special law of TADA should not be invoked in any case. We support some of the points mentioned in the Presidential Address but at the same time I would like to emphasise that the intention of this Government is not clear. The National Agenda of this Government is something different than what it looks like. The political parties which are allies of BJP will face difficulties when the real agenda would unfold in due course of time. At this moment even I do not know what would happen. With these words, I oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

[English]

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, I have been elected from the Nizamabad constituency of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would try to accommodate all.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This depends on you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : After fifty years of Independence Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government has come into power.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want optimum utilisation of time, please avoid making noise and interruptions.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : The National Agenda for Governance is very appreciable and moderate. It shows the present culture of the modern society, particularly

[Shri G. Ganga Reddy]

the younger generation. So, this Government is energetic and will function with young spirit. I congratulate this Government. The Presidential Address at page nos. 6 and 7 says,

"... an India where every citizen, irrespective of his caste, creed or faith, feels proud to be an Indian.

Secularism is integral to India's traditions. My Government is unequivocally committed to upholding our secular values".

Very often we are talking of secularism. In the school days I read a poetry of a great poet Iqbal which I would like to quote here :

[Translation]

Sare Jahan se Acha Hindustan Hamara,
Hum bulbulen Hain Iski Ye Gulsitan Hamara,
Majhab Nahi Sikhata Apas Main Bair
Rakhna,
Hindi Hain Hum Vatan Hai Hindustan
Hamara.

This is what Iqbal had said about India 100 years back.

[English]

On the one side we are talking of secularism and on the other side we are encouraging casteism. In the past fifty years, this has become a device to catch the votes of the people.

This Government promises security of food for everyone through the public distribution system. They have also promised health facilities and supply of potable drinking water. Control of population and unemployment are also promised by this Government. In the past also, every Government made promises but nobody had taken up these two issues with an iron hand. So, I request the present Government and all political parties to think of practical solutions to these problems. We are giving only speeches which will not help us to make a modern India. The Government is also committed to provide free education to women up to graduation and upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minorities.

In paragraph 29, it is said that a National Water Policy would be provided for an effective and prompt settlement of disputes and that their time-bound implementation would be evolved. I do not agree with this because everywhere, particularly in the South, there are regional issues. How can we settle regional issues about water supply?

So, I suggest that there is a need for a National Irrigation Policy. We have to go in for some national projects. In the South, there is water scarcity. Hence, I request this Government to take up some national

projects so that at the time of a crisis, we can help the States. In my view, there were many proposals in this regard earlier also.

There is a need for the linkage of the water of rivers, particularly of the Mahanadi, the Godavari, the Penna, the Krishna and the Cauvery. So, I request the present Government to start some national projects in the interests of future generation and future India. The previous Governments and also the present Government have said that allocation to the agriculture sector would be increased to 60 per cent. All these should not remain only on paper. I request that this commitment should be implemented *in toto*.

As a *sarpanch*, I have seen in the villages that the farmers with half an acre or one hectare of land are depending particularly on money lenders for want of fertilisers, seeds, marketing of their products and for other troubles that they are facing. The officials of the department of Agriculture are visiting only districts; they do not visit the villages. So, there is a need for a lot of changes in our way of working. We go to the people only for begging for votes using wrong methods. I hope that the present Government will sincerely work keeping in view the interests of the agriculturists as 70 per cent of our population are of agriculturists.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please bear in mind that only 5 minutes time has been allotted to each member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUKHDIA MISRA : We should get 33 per cent extra time and otherwise also, we should get more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All members get time according to the time allotted to each party.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, what is the time given? Now, you have got only 15 minutes. Are you going to allow all the parties or just leave it as it is? You please tell me...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The list has been prepared according to the time allotted to each party. I am giving much more than time than what has been allotted to you. I am trying to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you continue making noise, the rest of the time would also be over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. If you do like this even two three members who want to speak would not be able to do so.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : First, I want to know about the rationale behind it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You just come and see the time allotted to your party and then raise this question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Please see the time allotted to your parties and then argue. Please take your seat. Do not waste the time of the House, only then members would be able to speak. Sukhdaji, please start.

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA (Etawah) : Madam, first of all, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on President's Address.

In President's Address, at para No. 42, we have said about Mahatma Gandhi :

[English]

"... one of the greatest son of this Century. We are the inheritors of the fruits of the sacrifices made by the Mahatma and other freedom fighters. We have the responsibility to live up to their dreams and ideals."

[Translation]

I have started my speech from this point because 50 years have passed since the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. India celebrated Golden Jubilee on the completion of 50 years of Independence so I thought it necessary to start my speech with Mahatma Gandhi. Jawaharlal Nehru in his broadcast to the nation on 14 February, 1948, had said :

[English]

"Any narrowness in outlook and attempt to confine the bounds of this nation will be a betrayal of this final lesson to us and will surely lead to the disaster, to the loss of the freedom for which - Mahatma Gandhi - laboured and which he gained for us in large measure."

[Translation]

Therefore, we will have to ponder over it and I request that we should call a session on the views of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru also and have discussion thereon.

During the debate, quite often I found that Members of Opposition were speaking less on President's Address

but they were expressing their concern over the National Agenda of Governance. They repeatedly showed the Agenda saying you have said this thing and that thing. I come on para No. 11 of President's Address. Therein we have talked about population. Population is the biggest problem of the country. Just now, Jagmohanji presented several figures in his speech. Our friends on the other side spoke many things on water, electricity, agriculture and housing. Much concern was expressed on each of these issues saying our demands on these issues are not being fulfilled. The point we have to ponder over is this that when country got Independence, at that time our population was 34 crores and today it is about 100 crore. It is a question of demand and supply and the demand is ever increasing and we are not able to meet it. If we say that you ruled over this country for 40-45 years, then you say that we always point out this thing. But when you have been ruling for 40-45 years, who will be responsible for not resolving this issue.

So far as population is concerned, it was said that Congress Government was overthrown in 1977 on the issue of Emergency, but in this connection, I would also like to add that Congress was uprooted from whole of North India because it had tried to check population forcibly. The result of this development was after that no leader of any Government dared to check population because already a Government had gone on this issue. So they did not even bring this idea in their mind. Moreover, this is also an issue of votes. Because of this, no special attention was paid to population. Now we will have to ponder over it. I also attribute another reason to this problem i.e. the social transformation has not taken place in our country. Even after five girls' parents wish to have a male child irrespective of their educational status. They believe that a girl cannot come to serve her parents. Because of such thinking, we did not have social transformation. So, on this issue, I demand that we will have to pay special attention.

I thank Sangmaji, at that time, I was not present in this House, but I was listening and viewing the debates. A resolution was passed on 1st September, 1997 in this august House, wherein India-Agenda for India was discussed. Discussions were held continuously for four days on Agenda for India in that special session. Therein, it was said -

[English]

"... that a vigorous national campaign, the biggest national campaign is to be launched by all political parties to combat economic problems and sustainable growth of population recognise that such a growth lies at the root of most of our human, social and economic problems."

[Shrimati Sukhda Misra]

[Translation]

It was passed by the entire House unanimously and all the leaders affixed their signatures over it. Then what is wrong therein?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you please conclude and let other Members also speak.

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA : I would conclude after speaking on two-three points.

Secondly, I want to say something about women. There has been a talk of providing them 33 per cent reservation. Just now, Shri Madhavrao Scindia told that their party had conveyed its acceptance. I fail to understand as to why they dislodged the United Front Government on a trivial issue. If the Congress had pulled down the Government on the issue of 33 per cent reservation, it could have been justified and it would have enhanced their image.

I would like to quote a portion of the Second Resolution passed by them on September 1, 1997. It is written therein.

[English]

"... that gender justice be established in the spirit of the Declaration and the Platform for Action on the UN Fourth World Women's Conference, 1995 be practised as way of life with particular emphasis on education of girl child..."

[Translation]

That is why they have been repeatedly mentioning the Agenda for India, as the National Agenda for Governance. They have also said that the points mentioned in the President's Address find mention in the National Agenda too and therefore it is not correct. I would like to say that when our colleagues talk of cooperation you say that it is based on the wrong notion. If the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh or Shri Farooq Abdullah ally with them, they are good for them and if they take our side, they are not good. It means that those who support them are not corrupt in their view and in case they decide to support us, then they become corrupt.

The point of stable Government has been mentioned here. Our friends in the opposition have questioned our claim of providing a stable Government. We made this claim because there are three-four factors which count much in this regard. We are the largest single party and the Prime Minister belongs to this party. The allied parties also consider him the Prime Minister of the coalition. Moreover, most of the allies have participated in this Government and those which are supporting the Government from outside, are being requested to join it. These factors will give stability to

the Government. It seems that you are not feeling comfortable with our National Agenda for Governance.

They criticised us for giving a package to Smt. Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal. She is an MP and the leader of a large party. We all demand development of our constituencies. If she has asked for a package, then what is wrong in it? So, this Government will be a stable Government.

Shri Madhavrao Scindia and Shri Balram Jakhar are not feeling comfortable because we have called for a consensus in our Agenda for India...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA : Sangmaji was greatly worried. I want to say that we called for consensus because today, the nation needs consensus. I feel surprised when I hear the Members sitting on that side saying that the time of coalition Governments has come. We have also accepted this fact. In their view, it is bad when we have formed a Government on the basis of consensus but it was good, when they had formed Government on similar ground...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA : I conclude with the following couplet :

"Jalate chalo chirag aur raaste mein,
Chahe dost ya dushman mile,"

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The debate has been going on since yesterday but no Member from my party has spoken so far...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The names of the Members from your party have also been added. All the Members shall be accommodated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please listen.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : We have discussed with the opposition. The Prime Minister, who was to make his reply at 5.00 P.M., will now give his reply at 6.00 P.M. Thus, we have one hour more within which Members of smaller parties may be given a chance...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please accept my one proposal. You are wasting time. If you all discuss the things peacefully and if all the Members follow their time schedule, then all other Members will get an opportunity to speak. But the problem is that no Member wants to conclude his debate within time schedule.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is not the question of small parties. All Members should get an opportunity...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please cooperate with me. I am trying to accommodate each and every Member.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampur, W.B.): Why cannot you control the time at the beginning of the discussion? Every time you come with the time constraint at the fag end of the discussion...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You must discuss it with the Speaker.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to control the time at the beginning itself...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may please talk to the Speaker. Let us proceed with the discussion.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : So long as you are in the Chair, you have to hear us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am trying to accommodate each and every Member. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There should not be a running commentary.

[Translation]

See, in such a way no one will get an opportunity. You try to understand my problem also. Please be seated silently.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanji) : Madam, whether Samata Party is there in your list or not?

17.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Palanimanickam.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Madam, you please listen me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will not allow any other Member to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I would like to say that the Hon'ble Minister should not address his allies (coalition partners) as smaller parties because this Government is being run with their help. He should not insult them by calling them as smaller parties. He has inflicted insult to them by calling them smaller parties.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: By "smaller parties" I meant that the smaller parties have not been given time while the bigger parties have taken...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the hon. Members command respect, no party is a small party. Please do not waste time. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Member, you please continue speaking. If we do not control the House, how shall it function.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. I am assuring you that all the Members shall get an opportunity but no one will get any chance if you keep on creating such a noisy scene.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. When I am on my legs, you have to sit down.

*SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Madam, Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to Parliament. I also take this opportunity to thank our Leader and the electorates of my constituency Thanjavur who have enabled me to represent them again. It has been stated in the Address that Parliamentary arithmetic alone cannot provide the key to good governance. It also states that the key lies in the willingness of all to rise above notions of Parliamentary majority and minority and work in a spirit of cooperation, conciliation and consensus. That is the reason why even those who do not have faith in 'your party' have voted for 'you'. Ideologically we may differ from you. Though we do not believe in your party, we believe you.

You have also spelt out that you would devolve more powers to the States. The Address also reads as, "On Centre-State relations, my Government will immediately act on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations as well as seek ways and means for greater devolution of powers upto the Panchayat level. When you consider Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, you may also consider Rajamannar Committee Report. At a time when you say that States would get more powers, we also find those from the treasury benches seek to tarnish the image of certain State Governments and mock at certain Chief Ministers. So we cannot rely on what you say. No one can be more happy than us to find the States getting more powers. You have stated that Raj Bhawans will not be used for securing political objectives. You may either

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri S.S. Palanimanickam]

abolish the posts of Governor or you may avoid appointing political persons and offer them only to impartial persons. This way you can build confidence.

The Address also mentions of evolving a National Water Policy. In a country where there are many races and languages, the river water disputes should not be approached emotionally but with a cool frame of mind. Your effort at making it a meeting of the minds make us feel happy. I urge upon this Government to take steps to implement the Award given by the Cauvery Tribunal which was set up at our ceaseless effort for more than 14 years. You have also stated that the Government would strive to combat the menace of terrorism, subversion and insurgency that has come to haunt the common man. As you have stated the priority will be to protect the country and to give protection to the people. It is true that the activities of terrorists and extremists affect the normal life of our people living in several parts of the country. All the hon. Members of this House are really concerned. In the last one year alone there were 23 bomb blasts in Delhi. Hundreds of people were seriously injured. It has become a routine here to find the rise in terrorism and extremism that result in the killings of innocent people. But it would not be fair to ask the BJP Government in Delhi to step down. I am only expected to suggest the ways and means to curb terrorism.

From 1991 to 1996 during the tenure of the previous regime in Tamil Nadu there were 336 bomb blast incidents. It is true that we cannot hold the former Chief Minister responsible for this. The same way some bomb blasts that continued shall not make the present Chief Minister responsible. It is wrong to point an accusing finger. Presently the Tamil Nadu Government is taking effective measures to curb the menace of terrorism and hunt down the culprits with firm hands. Hundreds of extremists have been arrested so far. Explosives and bomb devices have been unearthed. Some of my friends spoke here mentioned that the law and order in Tamil Nadu is not under control. Who are these people? These are the very same persons who were responsible for making Tamil Nadu a haven for terrorists and violence, without informing the party leadership without the knowledge of the Government of the country they crossed the sea borders illegally. Our leader "Kalaignar" who has never bowed before anyone had to express his regret to late lamented Rajiv Gandhi. Only these people are saying now "law and order situation has become worse."

You have expressed your commitment to uproot corruption. But you have joined hands with corrupt politicians from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Then how is it possible? How can we believe it? My friends who spoke here said that the cases filed against the former

Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Miss Jayalalitha were false. But *prima facie* evidence is there to point Jayalalitha of her collusion with corruption. But those who took out "Padayatra" from Kanyakumari to Chennai demanding the impounding of corrupt Jayalalitha's property are now contradicting themselves. Hon. Minister Vazhalapadi Ramamurthy and Hon. Member Subramanyam Swamy's party colleague Chandralekha gave a petition to the then Governor of Tamil Nadu. It reads thus :

"The AIADMK Government headed by Miss Jayalalitha is corrupt. The Chief Minister herself is misusing her office and is amassing wealth. It is a case of planned subversion of law by the Chief Minister and other Ministers. A corrupt political structure has been evolved in the State."

"The Chief Minister and other Ministers are looting the State. There is large scale corruption. The Government machinery is paralysed. The bureaucracy is silenced. The police force is made helpless. The crime rate is alarmingly increasing. People with criminal records are ruling the State and manning various corporations. There is complete break down of the Constitutional machinery."

This is as contained in the petition handed over to His Excellency Governor of Tamil Nadu on 18.3.94. These people now say that these are false cases. Shri Vazhapadi Ramamurthy is reported to have told the press, "In Tamil Nadu, if the law takes its own course in the cases against Miss Jayalalitha, in Delhi politics will take care of them". I would like to ask the Hon'ble Prime Minister whether he also holds the same view.

Our colleague Subramanyam Swamy resorted to several agitations against Jayalalitha's corruption. He had to face several strange counter-attacks for AIADMK men. They even faced acid attacks. But he also says now that the cases are false.

I would like to know what has transpired between these people in so short a time span. I find a collage of views expressed by several non-Congress parties during the past 21 years in this President's Address. Even then we find that you have not presented them sincerely. Hence we are unable to support this motion...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Enough is enough. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No more shouting, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not waste the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : I will conclude within a few minutes...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

If there is any objectionable portion, it would be seen and the same would be taken out of the records. Now I shall call the next hon. speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Enough is enough. Please conclude now, otherwise, I will call the next hon. Member to make his speech.

Shri Prabhat Kumar Samantaray.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I have got another hon. speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : Madam, I will conclude. Please give one more minute...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM : ...(Interruptions).. "let the law take its course in Tamil Nadu in the cases relating to Ms. Jayalalitha, the politics of Delhi will take care of it."...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I call upon Shri Prabhat Kumar Samantaray to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude now. Nothing is going into the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhat Kumar Samantaray, you please start your speech now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going into the record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY (Kendrapara) : Madam, Chairperson I am forced to

behave in such a way to draw the attention of the Chair and only then the Chair has called me to speak. This is not fair. This should not happen. This type of negative attitude should not be encouraged from the Chair. I am sorry for making such a comment.

On behalf of the Biju Janata Dal, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by my esteemed colleague, Shri Shanta Kumar.

Madam, I was hearing with rapt attention to the Members from both the sides hoping that they would give their suggestions based on their rich experiences of governing this country for the last fifty years. Some Members who have switched over from the other side to this side are also here. I was hoping that they would be guiding us from their rich experiences and tell us what had gone wrong in this country and also give their suggestions to build the future of the country, to which the hon. President has delivered his Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 25th March, 1998. But I am totally confused that instead of guiding, an impression had been given as if there was no governance for the last fifty years in this country; all of a sudden we had risen from the slumber. They have expressed some apprehensions with the present Government, which just took oath and which is committed to the nation that these are the priorities before them. These apprehensions have been raised not only by those who had governed this country for the last fifty years but also by those who are parties to this Government. At the same time, we must admit that in the fifty years of our Independence we have failed to achieve the objectives for which the country had elected governments one after another.

The President reminded us through his Address that the largest population of this country is the greatest problem before this country. We have got literacy of 48 per cent in this country. Poverty, hunger and so many other acute problems are there, to which the hon. President has reminded us in his Address. The President has said as to how to fight them out; how to bring about something so that a new India can be built up. That is what precisely the President has said to the nation through his Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

The President has promised, in his Address, to get rid of insecurity from the minds of the people. Today the law and order situation from Delhi to any part of the country is a problem, not for any government but for each and everybody; as if the law and order is somebody's property and not of the Government. The President has promised that security can be given to each and every individual; law and order can be tackled with able hand. The President has pointed out the problems such as hunger, corruption and other things, which should be tackled.

It will be my duty to draw the attention of this House, through you Madam and through my colleagues that

[Shri Prabhat Kumar Samantaray]

Orissa is a glaring example of neglect. This neglect has been shown by the Central Government for the last 50 years in each and every sector. Orissa is full of natural resources. If I remind, iron ore deposit in Orissa alone is more than 26 per cent of the total reserve of the country. Coal reserve in Orissa is more than 23.6 per cent of the total reserve of the country. Bauxite reserve is 29 per cent. Chromite reserve is 98.2 per cent. Still there is no industrial activity in Orissa. There is no industrial activity related to all those minerals except Bauxite. Orissa has been neglected for the last 50 years.

We, the Biju Janata Dal, mean business. We are brought here not only to remind everybody in Delhi but also to serve the people of Orissa. We will not just remain silent. Negligence has been done to this State for the last 50 years. We are here to demand, serve and to pursue the genuine aspirations of the people of our State. This is what I wanted to say.

Madam, I want to draw your attention to the plight of railway lines in my State. Probably, Orissa did not have any new railway line after Independence. During the Second World War, there was an effort to link Bengal and Chennai for the movement of regiments. There was the BNR which is now re-named as the South-Eastern Railway. Orissa hardly had any new railway line after Independence. There are so many projects.

Talcher, Sambalpur, Khurda-Bolanghir, Haridaspur-Paradeep and all these are there. But the budgetary provisions are so limited. For the last 20 years, nothing moved.

Madam, to conclude my speech, I will draw the attention of the whole House to another fact. Not only has Orissa been neglected but the legendary son of Orissa, Shri Biju Patnaik also has been neglected. He was the man who had been honoured by two foreign countries with the highest honours. Indonesia had honoured him. Russia had honoured him. But this country has not honoured the man who could fly the first Indian aeroplane to drop the Indian military at Jammu and Kashmir after Pakistan's aggression. Many people have told about him many things in this august House after his death. But nothing has been done precisely to honour that great son of this country.

Madam, I draw the attention of all the Members not only to strive out Orissa from the negligence but also to honour Shri Biju Patnaik.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please cooperate with the Chair. I am trying to give everybody a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad) : Madam, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under which rule?

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Our party Samajwadi Party has 20 Members. They have not been given a chance to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order in it.

[English]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Excuse me, Madam, as a protest I am withdrawing my name.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not do that. Please cooperate.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR (Howrah) : Madam, Chairperson, I am extremely grateful to you for having given me this opportunity of participating in the discussion on the President's Address and thus opening up my account by making this maiden speech in this august House of the people.

At the very outset, I would submit that on behalf of West Bengal Trinamul Congress, I support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

I have had the benefit of listening to some of the very good speeches by respected senior Members and thus initiating my process of learning as a parliamentarian. I am also learning what not to do and not to say.

One of the hon. senior Members from my State West Bengal passed certain derogatory remarks against women. That has pained all of us. That is why, I say that I am also learning what not to do.

Madam, I represent Howrah — predominantly an industrial area by the side of the river Hooghly. It is also the railway gateway to Eastern and North-Eastern India which have been neglected so far by the Central Government during the last 50 years. That is why, from our party, we have come forward with the Bengal package and that includes a large number of items which need resources and also other things. I am talking about Howrah. It was once an area humming with industrial activities, attracting workers from all over Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and many other adjoining States. It is in a way a mini-India.

The down hill trend in industry started in a very big way in 1977. Due to mishandling of opportunities by the Left Front Government of West Bengal, the current economic, industrial and infrastructural scenario in Bengal is not at all encouraging. This I say with a personal experience of working as a civil servant for three and a half decades and having worked as Secretary, Commerce and Industry in the West Bengal Government.

I know for certain that in spite of much fanfare, the State's share of new investment proposals of I.E.M. (Industrial Entrepreneur's Memorandum) compares very unfavorably with that of the other States. I have the

figures, but I do not have the time to tell to this august House.

At the micro level, a large number of small scale units, iron and steel processing units in the medium scale in Howrah have been closed and are in a non-viable position. The death of so many units has been a major factor in the existing depression of West Bengal's economy. Same is the scenario in the jute industry.

Among the Central Public Sector Undertakings, I would like to mention CIWTC and HDPE and also the Calcutta Port, all of which need considerable Central investment in the interest of industrial resurgence and employment generation. All these maladies are to be taken care of as soon as possible.

While speaking about industrial infrastructure in West Bengal, the status of Calcutta Port automatically comes. I had the opportunity of working as the Chairman, Calcutta Port from 1993 to 1997. I would refer to the agreement of December, 1996, on sharing of Bhagirathi-Hooghly water down Farakka Barrage between India and our friend and neighbour, Bangladesh. It has adversely affected the condition of Calcutta Port. The issue can be a subject matter of detailed discussion on a later date.

At present I mention a limited point, namely, the drought of the river has gone down precariously; salinity in the river water has increased threatening the industries particularly using boilers, drinking water schemes which draw water from the river in the districts of Howrah, Hooghly and Nadia. It has also affected a vast number of villages in a large number of districts on both the sides of the river. The implementation of the agreement — the water sharing agreement - so far has helped neither West Bengal nor Bangladesh.

Therefore, the agreement needs an urgent review.

With regard to infrastructure in Howrah, we have already mentioned a number of them, but I would mention specifically the Mourigram Flyover, Liluah Railway Stock Yard where the work has started but is continuing Plan after Plan, and extension of Metro Railway to connect Sealdah and Howrah via Salt Lake.

While supporting this Motion of Thanks, I say that the President's Address has correctly drawn our attention to the different issues for building a better India, a thriving India, a prosperous India, and to make every citizen feel proud to be an Indian. The Government attaches top priority to reach out the under-privileged and the unempowered.

I had the opportunity of working in the Government of India as a Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home and the Ministry of Welfare from 1982 to 1987, dealing exclusively with the matter of development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and I can say with all humility at my command that what has been done so far

is nothing but a lip service on the issue of development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minorities of all sorts — religious, economic, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Madam, he has taken only three minutes. Please allow him atleast 5-6 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already spoken for seven minutes. Please conclude now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : All right, stop it. Let the other Members speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to conclude, please conclude.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We need a stable Government, Madam. Let him speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am allowing him to speak.

DR. BIKRAM SARKAR : Madam, so far as Eastern India is concerned, Calcutta is a very important place and is the headquarters of a large number of institutions, such as the Patents Office, the Foreign Exchange Branch of the State Bank of India, Coal India, Eastern Railway and South-Eastern Railway. I understand that in the last few years there has been a tendency of removing the headquarters of these institutions outside West Bengal in the name of instability or whatever it is. It is in the interest of the State of West Bengal, and not only West Bengal but all of the Eastern and the North-Eastern States, to retain them in West Bengal. This is absolutely essential. Therefore, through you, Madam, we request the hon. Prime Minister that action should be taken so that all the headquarters of these institutions be retained in Calcutta.

Before concluding, I would just draw your attention to the fact that there were a lot of financial irregularities in the name of Public Ledger Account. Mind you, Madam, these funds are flowing from the Central Government through the State Government for specific purposes but these are not being used, I am afraid, for those specific purposes. Therefore, it is the duty of the Central Government to see that these funds are spent for the purposes for which these are meant.

I would conclude by quoting Swami Vivekananda, if you allow, who says :

"Move on, O Lord, in thy resistless path!
Till thy noon overspreads the world,
Till every land reflects thy light,
Till men and women with uplifted head,
Behold their shackles broken, and know, in
springing joy,
Their life renewed."
Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Madam, first of all, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)* Whatever Lalu Prasadji says I am thankful to him also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Speak about your points.

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE : Madam, President's Address is not meant for criticism.

Madam, President's Address has been made before the Joint Session of both Houses so it is essential to discuss it and conduct debate over it and I should limit myself to the points mentioned in the Address. I will discuss those points which are seldom discussed in this House. After going through this Address, it seems as if pre-independence era has arrived. This speech is like the speeches given in those times. It says that we will do this thing, that thing etc. so as to completely change the face of the country. I want to tell the Hon. Prime Minister that no clear stand has been taken on any point in this Address as to which path we will follow and how we will fulfill the commitments made in it and how we will achieve our goal. It clearly shows that this Address is simply a bundle of announcements only and not only we but the people of the country as well have apprehensions as to how these goals would be achieved and it is not unnatural to have such apprehensions. Madam, the Address talks about public Distribution System...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mukherjee, please take your seat for a minute. In the evening 5.30 P.M. is time for Matters Under Rule 377. If the Members desirous of raising the matters under rule 377 allow, these speeches should be considered as laid on the Table of the House so that discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address continues.

[English]

If all the Members agree, they may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

17.32 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

- (i) **Need to review existing policy for providing electricity and water connections to the people of Union Territory of Chandigarh and provide them these facilities early**

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Thousands of people live in the villages and colonies of Union Territory

* Texts were treated as laid on the Table.

of Chandigarh. Many people who have their houses outside the boundary of their villages do not have water and electricity connection due to which they are facing a lot of problems. The demand for providing these connections is being made for a long time.

These people struggled and have drawn the attention of the Government towards this matter and almost all the political parties have given memoranda to the Government in this regard. Today, it is quite impossible to live without water and electricity. These are the basic amenities which a citizen should be provided as a right. But, unfortunately, for the last 50 years, even in the area like Chandigarh which is known as the most beautiful city of the world, these basic facilities are not being provided by the Governments.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to amend its present policy and provide water and electricity connections to each and every house and hut of Union Territory of Chandigarh. These connections may be given before 14th August, 1998 so that all the citizens could get these basic amenities before the end of the 50th year of our Independence.

- (ii) **Need to expedite setting up of Ordnance Factory at Bariyadh Mod in Kodarma district of Bihar**

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma) : The Ministry of Defence had got a survey conducted in 1984 for selecting the most suitable location for setting up an Ordnance Factory at Bariyadh Mod in District Kodarma, Markachon situated in the most neglected, exploited and backward area of Vananchal region of State of Bihar. Out of a number of sites, the Bariyadh Mod site at Markachon was found to be most suitable from all angles. 7500 acre of land was considered best location from the security point of view. Only 125 families will be displaced from this place of land which is negligible. Grand Card Rail Line between Calcutta and Delhi is at a distance of a mere 8 km. G.T. Road and N.H. 31 is also nearby. The experts have already examined the aspects as water, weather condition, land suitability and forest cover.

Raw material required for manufacturing arms is available in abundance within the area of 100 km. Unemployed youth have many a time staged dharmas, demonstrations and road blocks in order to press their demand for setting up of this factory. The Government of Bihar has also conveyed its approval to the Ministry of Defence. Most of the land belongs to the Forests Department and it is available free of cost.

The voluminous file regarding setting up this ordnance factory has been lying pending in the Ministry of Defence for the last 12-14 years. I have raised this issue again and again in the 7th, 9th and 11th Lok Sabha. This factory will prove to be a boon for the backward population of Kodarma, Giridih and Hazaribagh districts. It will help in preventing the

migration of thousands of unemployed youth from this area and lakhs of people affected by trading in mica which is almost non-existent will be able to get loans directly or indirectly. This work should be taken up under the national agenda.

The Ministry of Defence is requested to take immediate action on the long pending file pertaining to the Ordnance factory. Effective steps should be taken for setting up the Ordnance factory in this most backward area of North Vananchal region and the work may be taken up under the next budget itself.

(iii) Need to open Junior High Schools and Girls Junior High Schools in Amethi Parliamentary Constituency in U.P. under Uniform Education Programme funded by World Bank

DR. SANJAY SINH (Amethi) : In Amethi Parliamentary Constituency of U.P., the percentage of literacy is very low. There are no Primary Schools, Junior High Schools and Girls Junior High Schools in villages. The distance of schools from villages which have population of 500 to 3000 people varies from 3 kms. to 10 kms. Therefore, Amethi Parliamentary Constituency should be included in 'Uniform Education Programme For All' of the World Bank so that Primary Schools, Junior High Schools and Girls High Schools could be opened in various villages of the district.

(iv) Need to set up Sugar Mill in Aonla, U.P.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Aonla Lok Sabha Constituency is very backward from economic and social point of view. No means of employment are available here and there is also no sugar mill for sugarcane farmers. Under such circumstances, atleast two sugar mills are needed in my Constituency so that Sugarcane farmers are benefitted from them. It will create employment for unemployed youth and alongwith this, the region will also develop.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that permission may be given for setting up of sugar mills in my Constituency, Aonla (U.P.)

(v) Need to improve the functioning of the T.V. Tower at Samatra in Kutch District of Gujarat to enable people to view T.V. Programmes clearly telecast by Doordarshan

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : As per the news appeared recently in local newspaper 'Sambhan' 26.03.98, the effect of Pakistan T.V. programme is very much disastrous, adverse, and dangerous in the minds of people residing just near the Border with Pakistan i.e. in my constituency, Kutch district (Gujarat). Because

these people cannot have and see the Doordarshan programmes in their T.V. inspite of the fact that Doordarshan has erected T.V. Tower near village Samatra, in Bhuj-Taluka Distt. Kutch, Gujarat, which is totally ineffective in satisfying the need of people residing there.

I request the Union Govt. to improve the functioning of the T.V. Tower of Samatra in Kutch District of Gujarat.

(vi) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh to mitigate the hardship caused to People of districts Vidisha, Raisen and Shehor affected by hailstorm

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : The Soyabean crop of farmers had been destroyed due to hailstorm in Vidisha, Raisen and Shehor districts of Madhya Pradesh. The farmers were yet to recover from that loss. The hailstorm again rocked the area and destroyed the crops of wheat, gram and 'masoor'. The intensity of the hailstorm was so strong and terrifying that one person died and several injured as a result thereof. Hundreds of cattle and bird died and houses were damaged. The State Government has completely failed in providing adequate relief to the farmers. The Central Government is requested to send a Central Study team to assess the loss suffered by the State and effective steps be taken for providing relief.

(vii) Need to complete the Bimlagarh and Talcher Railway Project in Orissa

[English]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundargarh) : Rourkela Steel city has no direct railway connection to Bhubaneswar after 50 years of independence. This project was preliminarily surveyed in the year 1977 during Janta Govt. But I am very sorry to bring to the notice of the Govt. that inspite of lot of public agitation this project could not be taken up.

This Railway link namely Bimlagarh to Talcher Railway Project will connect important districts, like Sundargarh, Deogarh, Angul, Dhenkanal and Cuttack directly. Also this Railway link will facilitate an easy transportation of coals, iron ores, meganese and Dolomite.

(viii) Need for reconstruction of damaged railway bridge at Dhinauj between Patan and Mehsana in Gujarat and also provide better railway services in the area

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA (Patan) : Several railway tracks were damaged in Patan area of northern

Gujarat due to flood water. The bridge adjacent to Dhinauj between Patan and Mehsana also gave way seven months ago but so far no railway official has come to see it. The local people are facing great difficulties due to this. People living in this area, are facing great difficulties in attending to their offices, because they have to pay much more money as fare every day.

I request the Government to get this bridge constructed at the earliest so that local people could be benefitted. Patan is an important city. The Government has also withdrawn the Mehsana Taranga hill train. It should be started again. The train earlier plying between Rijapur and Ambli or San has also been withdrawn and it is causing great inconvenience to local people. It should be restarted and Patan Kansa and Bhilandi should also be connected to facilitate travelling to Delhi.

I also request you to restart all the trains of northern Gujarat which have been withdrawn by the Government. Ahmedabad-Delhi Rajdhani which runs once in a week at present should be made to run five days in a week.

- (ix) **Need to introduce Crop Insurance, taking village as a Unit, in Andhra Pradesh to mitigate sufferings of farmers of the State**

[English]

DR. B.N. REDDY (Miryalaguda) : I would like to bring to the knowledge of this August House, the painful State of affair of scores of A.P. farmers. For the last six months, more than 200 farmers have lost their crops, they could not return the crop loan borrowed from banks and other money lenders, and finally committed suicide at the rate of 4 to 5 each day. Even now, one or two farmers are ending their life out of financial crisis due to failure of rains and lack of irrigation facility, more in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh.

I would request the Central Govt., through you Sir, to help ease out this community of farmers from their suffering, stopping the banks from pressing the recovery of loans and asking the State Government to stop collection of land revenue, etc. and arrange further loans to the farmers, to stop farmers from committing suicide.

Sir, Crop Insurance, taking village as a unit, is the only saving factor to be taken up, on top priority to take care of this Farmer's Community, in this great country.

- (x) **Need to render financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government for providing relief to hailstorm victims particularly of Raipur, Bilaspur and Rewa Regions**

[Translation]

SHRI MOTILAL VORA (Rajnandgaon) : Kharif and Rabi crops of all the 45 districts of Madhya Pradesh have been destroyed due to heavy rainfall and hailstorm that hit the State in January and February, 1998. About

5.62 lakh tonnes of production has been destroyed whose estimated cost comes to Rs. 538.84 crore. An area of 2 lakh 50 thousand hectare could not be cultivated due to heavy rains and estimated loss occurred due to it is to the tune of Rs. 283 crore 50 lakh. The Rabi crop in an area of 25 lakh hectare has been destroyed. Its cost has been estimated to be Rs. 1047 crore as the state had heavy rainfall during October and November, 1997.

The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a demand letter for Rs. 940 crore to provide employment (as Relief Work) for 90 lakh people of affected districts during March, April, May and June 1998. A Memorandum for Rs. 2103 crore 65 lakh was sent to meet the requirements of 'taqavi', seeds and fodder for cattle. But so far an amount of only Rs. 100 crore has been provided. A large number of agricultural labourers are leaving the State. All the districts of Raipur, Bilaspur, Reewa and Jabalpur regions have been adversely affected. The situation has become quite grave and as such the attention of the Central Government has been drawn towards it once again.

- (xi) **Need for doubling of railway line from Daund to Manmad of Central Railway**

[English]

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE (Kopergaon): I want to draw the attention of Railway Ministry regarding the above mention subject. The traffic of Daund-Mannad route has increased manifold due to existence of several Coop. Sugar Factories and Rahuri Agri. University apart from overflowing pilgrims at Shirdi and Shingnapur. There are 5 main railway stations namely Kopergaon, Belapur, Rahuri, Wamboli & Ahmednagar. About 5 express trains and many goods trains run on this route. Sugar bags are loaded on these stations and Kopergaon attracts a lot of pilgrims for Shirdi. The single line track is too insufficient to cope up with increased traffic. If the route is made double line track, it will not only save time of public & Govt. and ease the Coop. Sugar Factories, but will also help the railway in earning additional revenue.

- (xii) **Need to renovate Karad and Satara Railway Stations of the South Central Railway**

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad) : The renovation of Karad and Satara railway stations on the South Central Railway was announced by the Railway Minister in April, 1996. So far no steps have been taken to take up the work. I request the Minister of Railways to take up the renovation and upgrading work of the two Stations at the earliest.

- (xiii) **Need to appoint a High Power Committee for around development of Nagpur**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Now time has come to pay urgent attention to a fact of very recent

history when our city of Nagpur was suddenly stripped of its status of a State Capital in 1956. Then Prime Minister Late Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had given a solemn assurance to the people of Vidarbha and particularly of Nagpur that the importance of the city would be maintained in all other respects. The Fazal Ali Commission had originally recommended a separate State status for Vidarbha and on sound ground of historical economic and other relevant consideration.

Apart from these considerations stated above, regular and adequate air services from and to Nagpur are certainly the need of the day for the entire region of Vidarbha. Now, Nagpur Aerodrome has been developed faster to accommodate all kinds of air cargo and very little expenses will be required to convert it International Passenger Airport which will generate scope for the entire region of Vidarbha in numerous dimensions of industrial and commercial spheres such as tourism and trade.

No additional trains to New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras from Nagpur directly are in sight in spite of a three year old commitment from Railway Ministry nor Nagpur, Nagbhir narrow gauge line converted into a broad gauge one.

The thousands of weavers from Nagpur have no jobs. The Halbas among the tribals are deprived of their tribal status and of all facilities that they enjoyed earlier.

The population of Nagpur has already crossed the figure of three millions. Majority of them have no proper shelter, no drinking water, no roads, no electricity, no basic facilities, day by day their living condition is deteriorating.

I, therefore, appeal to the New Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Nagpur to appoint a high Power Committee for formulating special provisions to ensure an around development of Nagpur without delay.

- (xiv) **Need to send a Central team to assess the damage caused to crops due to hailstorm in Rajasthan and provide adequate funds to State Govt. for providing relief to the people affected by it**

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister of India towards Rajasthan. My Parliamentary constituency in Rajasthan generally remains famine stricken due to drought. However, this time inseasonal heavy rains and hailstorm lashed not only my constituency but the entire Rajasthan due to which entire crops have been destroyed in the State. The farmers are ruined and they are facing shortage of food. Rajasthan, not being an irrigated area, the farmers there are already

in a pitiable state and this hailstorm has added to their woes and they are unable to cope-up with the situation.

Therefore, through you, I request the Government to send a Central Team to assess the damage caused due to hailstorm in Rajasthan and before the report of the study team is being submitted, adequate funds should be provided to the farmers as immediate help. After the submission of the report, compensation may be given according to the damage.

- (xv) **Need to keep in abeyance the 'Mariani Bypass' project of North Eastern Railway in Assam and have dialogue with local elected representatives to take up the project afresh**

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat) : While we in Assam hail gauge conversion as a fulfilment of a long standing public demand, the N.E. Railway authorities in the process put Mariani junction in my Lok Sabha constituency in an awful mess by injudicious and unimaginative planning. Mariani which is about hundred year old built by the British is not only a growing commercial town but a Centre of higher education for rural people living in the neighbourhood, particularly tea tribes population. As a matter of fact, a town with a Municipality, having about 2000 small and medium business establishments, mostly inhabited by Railway employees and by retired employees and by neighbouring rural people, thrives entirely on Railways and its related activities.

The N.E. Railway authorities "Mariani Bypass" project will soon cut the town off.

Whatever might be the reason, it is imperative that the N.E. Railway Authorities even at this belated stage consult and take into confidence the local, elected representatives like Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly, not only from Assam but from Nagaland, too, since Mariani is the gateway of Nagaland.

There is massive resentment and anxiety among local people. In order to avert a situation arising out of protest agitation which is building up, it is imperative that this project is immediately kept in abeyance and fresh discussion with local leaders, elected representatives and officials of Assam and Nagaland Govt.'s are initiated to make it acceptable to all.

- (xvi) **Need to tap natural gas resources and provide deep boring rigs for oil exploration in Tripura and other N.E. States**

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : I am drawing the attention of the House that plenty of natural gas is available in Tripura but due to lack of initiative on the part of Central Government, this huge natural

resource remains untapped. It is requested that the Government should pass necessary orders to the ONGC to tap this resource. As Tripura is an industrially backward State, Government should take steps to tap this natural gas and use the same for industrial development of the State. Natural gas should be made available at Rs. 600 per 1000 cubic metre to encourage the entrepreneurs.

I would also request the Government to take initiative for development of Tripura alongwith other North East States by tapping Natural Oil and provide deep boring rig drive for oil exploration from the oil resources below the gas reserves.

(xvii) Need to amend Tenth Schedule of the Constitution containing the "Anti-Defection Law"

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : I want to draw the attention of the House to the Anti-Defection Act, 1985 as well as to the Anti-defection Rules which had been framed on 18 March, 1986. The rules cast a responsibility on the leaders of legislative parties in the House to furnish to the Speaker within 30 days after formation of such legislative party as the case may be.

So, I urge upon the Union Govt. to amend Anti-Defection Law so that any sitting MLA/M.P. who wishes to join another political party, has to resign from MLA/MP and can join.

(xviii) Need to send a Central Team to assess imminent danger to the Pilibhit-Basti Highway due to erosion caused by Sakha river near Aera Khamaria town in Lakhimpur district, U.P. and for construction of a dam to check it

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Sakha river near the Aera Khamaria town on Pilibhit Basti highway at a distance of 30 km. from my Constituency, Lakhimpur Kheri has deviated from its original course and is causing land erosion. At present, the river is flowing at a distance of mere 11 feet from the Pilibhit Basti highway thus posing a threat to the highway. In case, the highway is cut off. Aera Khamaria town having a population of ten thousand and Govind Sugar mill located at Aera Khamaria will fall in front of the main course of the river, which will result in heavy loss of life and property. The State Government is treating the matter with indifference and utter neglect. If dams are not constructed before the advent of rains, the flood due to heavy rains will cause heavy loss of life and property and it will not be possible to provide relief in even one third area of this district.

Hence, the Union Government is requested to take necessary measures by getting inspection of the area carried out by a high level committee immediately.

(xix) Need to cancel recruitments made in the State of Orissa after General Election for 12th Lok Sabha were announced

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak) : After the declaration of the election schedules for the 12th Lok Sabha election by the Election Commission of India; it made mandatory on the Govts. both at the Centre and the States that no developmental works and the processes of recruitments against the Govt. jobs be undertaken since model code of conduct made effective at once. But in the State of Orissa the processes of recruitments were undertaken even after such model code of conduct were made effective, the 21st, 22nd and 23rd of January, 1998 in the ICDS Blocks of Balasore district of the State. Hence, it violated the directions of the Election Commission mainly to influence the voters in favour of the party in power in the State.

I, therefore, request, the Union Govt. that the matter may be taken up with Election Commission to ensure that such recruitments made by the State administration in Orissa be annulled immediately so as to start a fresh recruitment processes against the posts advertised for in a free and fair manner to provide justice to all.

(xx) Need to take urgent steps for immediate maintenance of the Tamil Nadu part of Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari N.H. 47

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : The Tamilnadu part of the Thiruvananthapuram - Kanyakumari National Highway N.H. 47 is kept for long in a very bad condition causing difficulties and inconveniences to the passengers and general public. On my repeated representations on the floor of Parliament and to authorities, the Govt. have allocated funds for the proper maintenance of the above referred part of the road about eighteen months back. But the work is yet to be executed. Only some patch up works are done here and there is a casual way instead of carrying out the work in a full-fledged manner as per the allotment. There are lot of pits, cracks and holes in the road and deep trenches are formed on both the sides of the road. Thus frequent accidents are caused. This bad condition of the road is posing grave danger to the passengers and the vehicular traffic. It is one of the busiest roads in the country. Once it was hailed as the longest cement road in India. Now it is blamed as the worst maintained road. Further abandonment would aggravate the situation.

So, I urge the Govt. to take urgent steps for the immediate maintenance of the road at the earliest.

(xxi) Need to ensure that rain water collected during rainy season is removed while converting the metre gauge into broad gauge at Haveri in Karnataka

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharwad South) : While converting the metre gauge into broad gauge on

Bangalore Miraj Railway at the District place Haveri in Karnataka under-ground bridge is constructed.

Rain water collected on this bridge is not removed by pump installed due to defect in this equipment. This is a State highway and vehicles cannot pass through this bridge causing considerable hardship to the public. Regular letters of complaint are written to the Railway Department but no action has been taken.

I request the Minister of Railways to take urgent action before the commencement of this rainy-Season from April this year.

(xxii) Need to start construction work for FM Radio Station at Manjeri (Kerala)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : FM Radio Station has been sanctioned for Manjeri (Kerala) and necessary equipment has also been acquired. In spite of repeated requests, the I & B Department has not started its construction work. Manjeri is a backward area and the Government have not fulfilled the assurances even when there is sufficient funds. I urge the Government to start the work of FM Radio Station at Manjeri.

(xxiii) Need to provide better telecom facilities in the Districts of Karbi, Anglong and North Cachar Hills of Assam

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District Assam) : The telecommunication facilities in the Districts of Karbi, Anglong and North Cachar Hills of Assam is probably the worst in the entire country. The telephone exchanges at the district H.Q. of Diphu and Haflong which are capitals of Autonomous Hill Councils are of outdated model and mostly remain out of order. The sub-divisional headquarters namely Bokajan, Hamren, Maibang do not have proper exchanges. The block H.Qs. and rural townships like Howraghat, Dokmoka, Phulani, Bokulia, Silonijan, Rongmongve, Dolamara, Khironi and Harangajao are also yet to have proper telephone facility. The neglect of this hilly and tribal region by the department has generated serious resentment among the people.

I therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Communications to take following steps immediately :

- (i) To upgrade and expand the existing telephone exchanges of Diphu and Haflong and also to restore trunk booking facilities to those exchanges which were shifted to Nagaon and Silchar in recent time.
- (ii) To establish electronic exchanges in all the sub-divisional H.Qs., block H. Qrs. and rural townships mentioned above.
- (iii) To reconstitute the telecom district of Assam circle and carve out separate telecom districts for the Hill districts with H.Qrs. either at Diphu or Haflong.

(xxiv) Need to create a separate State of Bodoland

SHRI SANSJUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : The initiation of the process for bringing about a peaceful, honorable and lasting political solution to the long-standing, burning and many decade old 'Bodoland Question' has been long overdue. Under the present most crucial and volatile ethno-political, socio-economic and cultural situation and overall turmoiling circumstances mounting in Assam, the question of the aboriginal Bodo people's and other oppressed Tribal groups' survival and existence, their safety and security, their alround growth and development and also preservation of their district ethnic self-identity within Assam has really been quite impossible, and an absurd idea. Therefore, immediate creation of the much long awaited separate state of a Bodoland has been a must, and it is the only and lasting political solution to the Bodoland tangle for the greater interest of the nation as a whole.

(xxv) Need to rescue the Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank from taking over by Essar Group

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : The Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank Ltd. which was earlier called the 'Nadar Bank Ltd.' was promoted by the backward Nadar community of Tamil Nadu in 1921. In October 1994, the Essar Group acquired about 70% of the shares of the bank by offering all kinds of inducements and submitted the shares of the bank for registration for the transfer. The promoter community raised its protest. The Company Law Board gave a verdict in favour of the Essar Group. The Reserve Bank of India considering all the factors rejected the share transfer. As per the settlement reached, the Nadar community is to raise 100 crores in exchange for the disputed shares before 31st December, 1997. While the funds mobilisation drive was on, Sterling Computers reported that it had acquired the shares of the seven companies of Essar Group which had originally acquired the disputed shares of Tamil Nadu Mercantile Bank for a consideration of Rs. 135 crores and that it had paid Rs. 51 crore under VDIS for the unaccounted money of Rs. 135 crores with which it had acquired the above shares and that the Forum should pay Rs. 186 crores for the repurchase of the shares.

I request the Central Government to look into the matter.

17.32 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — Contd.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : There was an announcement that the Minister of State in the Ministry

[Shri Anil Basu]

of Agriculture would make a statement at 5.30 p.m. What about that?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will also come.

Shri Subrata Mukherjee, please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Raiganj) : Madam, so far as mention of the Public Distribution System in President's Address is concerned, I want to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the fact that the previous Government had given red card to the poor families living below poverty line and a scheme was started to provide foodgrains to them at cheaper rates. I would like to ask him whether he would continue it and if so, what will be its form and whether he would make any improvement in this scheme? The Address is silent in this regard. I will be grateful to him and would like that when the Prime Minister gives his reply, he must also reply to this question.

Madam, Child labour practice has been criticised in this Address and its talks about abolishing this practice. It talks about making arrangements so that no child in the country remains hungry. On this point, I want to say that if the Government really wants to abolish the practice of child labour, the provision in our Constitution stating that all children will be imparted education free of cost up to eighth standard should be implemented. If the Government implements this provision, then automatically and gradually child labour practice will be abolished in the country and no child in this country will remain hungry. Basically, economic factors are involved in child labour. If these economic factors are taken care of and economic condition of poor is improved, then child labour can be abolished in our country for ever and this problem can be solved, for ever. How it will be done, this Address has not given any direction in this regard. So, I request Prime Minister to explain this point in his reply.

Madam, I welcome the recognition accorded to the girls in this Address on page 14 and 15.

I would like to add that the girls in our country are looked down upon. The Haryana Government has launched a scheme viz. "Meri Beti Mera Dhan" with a view to change this attitude. I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to ensure that similar schemes are implemented all over the country.

Madam Chairperson, in Para 16 of the President's Address, it is stated that prosperity and economic well-being cannot be the privilege of a few and it must percolate to the last person in the last row. Though this assurance has been made therein, yet no suggestion has been given as to how this object is to be achieved. A suggestion should have been given therein. Besides,

there is a mention about the investment in the agriculture sector. I do not know how our Prime Minister or this Government view the problems of farmers. Yesterday, when my colleague Shri Balram Jakhar, former Minister of Agriculture was speaking, he claimed himself to be a farmer. I feel that Shri Balram Jakhar is not a farmer as he is not engaged in farming. The people engaged in farming are called farmers. In a true sense, a farmer is a person who is associated with the means and measures required for the production of crops. There are rich, medium and small farmers in our country. Earlier, the farmers were cultivators but now they are considered landless farmers due to non-availability of land with them. The persons who do not work in the fields but own land are called landlords or Jamindars and not farmers. If these farmers are not divided in these four categories, then for whom this money will be spent?

During the United Front Government, a meeting of Agriculture Ministers of all States was called and their views were sought. Most of them had stressed on land reforms. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether he would avoid the implementation part of the Land Reforms Act saying that the subject relates to States only or he would make arrangements to provide land to farmers by implementing this Act strictly. Further, there is devaluation of cultivable land today. Feeling satisfied by merely appointing a commission for the purpose of making barren land fertile without really making any efforts to make it fertile would not serve any purpose.

We spend crores of rupees on setting up a Commission but even then, the barren land is not made fertile. I would like to know the view of the Government in this regard. I would suggest that the barren land should be distributed among landless farmers and the expenditure required for making it fertile should be got assessed by a Commission. The farmers should be provided with the means and other inputs required for this purpose. Since the farmer will become the land owner, he would toil hard on his own land and succeed in making the barren land fertile. I would request the Government to consider this suggestion.

There has never been criticism about the daily wages for the farmers who have now become agriculture labourers, at caste level. The Prime Minister has emphasised on building a new India. I would like to tell him that a vast majority of population of new India include small and landless farmers. Will he make a promise to strictly implement the minimum obliged if he gives a categorical statement in this regard.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

AN HON. MEMBER : Madam Chairperson, when the Matters under Rule 377 will be taken up?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tabling the matters on the Table of the House means these have become a part of the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have written the names. If you all cooperate with me, everybody will get a chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH (Shillong) : Madam Chairman, I stand to oppose the motion. In doing so, I feel it is my bounden duty to say why I feel so. At the same time, I must say that now that the Government is in the saddle by virtue of a precarious majority, let me, nevertheless, with them well.

17.42 hrs.

[SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

Sir, I was enormously happy when the Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee spoke of his commitment to secular ideals. But today I must confess that when we discussed the Ayodhya issue in this House, the hon. Home Minister was here and he was hesitant to make a commitment the way the hon. Prime Minister did. I felt confused and I believe it confused all of us.

I wish and pray that the Government led by Shri Vajpayee — a man whom I respect very well and whom I know well — will not suffer from a split personality. What I have seen today in this House makes me feel that sometimes the Treasury Benches suffer from a dual personality. However, I would not dwell on it. I would only prefer to see that teeth speak louder than words and believe that in the months to come the hon. Prime Minister will prove true to his words.

I always believed, right from my young days when I was involved in the freedom struggle that India is a vast country. India has a heart which does not look only to the majority community but also to the minorities or the small communities like mine.

You know, I come from the State of Meghalaya and I belong to the Khasi community, a very small community. At one point of time when Panditji came to Shillong in 1946, he described my community as a microscopic minority. But he said that one day our people would come up to the national stage.

He further said that 'perhaps, a man from the tribal community will become a very important person in Delhi'. That inspired me a great deal. I was involved with Mahatma Gandhi in the movement for the freedom of India.

I feel sad today to see that we have come to a stage where we do not know how to go about it. What is your direction? I know that the National Agenda has

been brought out by the Treasury Benches. But more important, I think, is that we have to have a strong commitment to an ideal that India can only be strong when every part of the country is strong. It is like a human body. The human body cannot be healthy and strong unless every limb of it, even the tiniest limb, is strong. Therefore, I was not happy when I read through the President's Address.

A mention has been made about the need to combat the menace of terrorism, subversion and insurgency that have come to harm the common man. Nothing is mentioned about the most important area like Jammu and Kashmir or the North-East. The North-East is a conglomerate of seven States — Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura — and is bounded by a huge international boundary. It has one-third of the entire international boundary of the country. The entire area is linked up to India, to the mainland of India, only by a narrow chicken-neck along a ridge of about 20 miles width. In regard to this area, as the Prime Minister has mentioned herein, the geographical distance is always at the back of our mind. I feel that we have to appreciate the region in a better way.

Four States in the North-East are beset with insurgency. The States of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura are afflicted by militancy and insurgency. Only three States are outside the fear of insurgency. But I am not happy with the way that we in Delhi, even the media, tend to brand the entire region as insurgency affected area. I have very strong views. In fact, I have discussed with two or three Prime Ministers in the past that we cannot look upon the North-East as an insurgency plagued area. We have to appreciate the fact that despite being in a very hard set up — we are suffering from a vicious cycle of terrorism which discouraged investment and economic development leading to growing unemployment which, in turn, breeds militancy — I believe, we have to crack upon this vicious cycle. My own view is this. While it is necessary to combat insurgency with a firm hand, it is important that we attend to the problem of the educated unemployed in the area.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : I will just take a minute or two.

I feel that it is very important that we define the peace areas, whether it is in Assam or in any part of the North-East, where bombardment of economic investment can take place, where we can have industries and where we can open employment opportunities to the youth.

We must remember that unless we can solve the problem of unemployment, it will continue to remain there. We have a long border with Myanmar,

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

Bangladesh and China. It is important that there must be a conceptual approach to the problem of insurgency by the entire House if we are to develop the North East. We cannot allow insurgency.

I mentioned even this morning during Zero Hour that in Meghalaya which is a peaceful State, there has been for the last seven days a security operation against the militants. What I am saying is that insurgency is contagious. Unless we strengthen the forces of peace, we cannot just fight terrorism.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI (Kurukshehra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Sir, only one member of the Samta Party was allowed to speak and he too spoke for four minutes only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It does not matter if he spoke for four minutes only. Please take your seat. You may speak later on. Please listen, I have called Smt. Kailasho Devi to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If we are not allowed to speak then we walk out. Please give your decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Other members are speaking. Please listen to them too.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Have we come only to listen to them?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to speak as well as listen to others also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : RPI has four members and none has been given an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Even RJD has not been given an opportunity to speak. The Members should be allowed to speak according to their party's strength in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Member from your party has spoken. Please be seated and let her speak.

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : I express my deep gratitude to you for having been allowed to speak on behalf of my party in this august body of India which is the largest democracy of the world. It is the 12th Lok Sabha since the independence of India. Fortunately, the session of the Lok Sabha commences on the solemn day — the 23rd of the March which coincides within date when Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev sacrificed their lives, with a smile on their faces, for the sake of the independence of India. Mr. Chairman, Sir,

you must have heard the cassette containing the speech of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose on the occasion of the golden jubilee of our independence in which he had said that he wanted freedom so as to save India from the oppression and exploitation of Britishers. The same desire and goal was expressed in the last letter of Martyr Bhagat Singh to the Britishers. When the sacrifices of martyrs like Bhagat Singh made it possible for India to usher in the independence, the then British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill said that independence for India meant handing over the reins of destiny of crores of dalits, oppressed and exploited people in the hands of a few corrupts and looters and dictators and India would be in the mire of destabilization. It would take thousands of years for the Indians to make out the meaning of Dependence and Independence and Clement Atlee, the protagonist of India's independence would be held responsible for the destruction of the crores of Indians. Churchill's prophecy came true as the reins of Hindustan has so far been in the hands of the corrupt and dictator type persons who have subjected the people of India to the economic, social and political exploitation and India is inflicted with the menace of inflation, poverty, unemployment and corruption. Today India is celebrating 50th anniversary of its Independence, but even after 50 years of independence, it reels under the bizarre economic, social and political slavery. Today India is the poorest and extremely debt burdened nation. Each Indian owes thirty thousand rupees as foreign debt. A baby is born in India with a debt of ten thousand rupees over his head.

Today 85 thousand youngmen and women commit suicide annually out of despair due to unemployment and debt liability. India is the largest supplier of human organs in the world. Poor and unemployed girls of India are sold in the Arab countries. Could we feel pride in being Indian amidst such a scenario? Does our duty end with the commemoration of golden jubilee of our Independence?

Why this country of Babu is in such a pitiable condition? He used to wear a 'dhoti' and a 'langoti' only. Once an English asked him why did he wear 'dhoti' and 'langoti' only, he had said that crores of people of his country did not have even minimum cloth to cover their bodies and then why should he wear so much of cloth. After all why such a situation did occur? The reason is that the freedom of the country remained mortgaged in the hands of those under whose period of governance there were innumerable scams. The Bank Security Exchange Scam involving Harshad Mehta has created a world record. Had all the money involved in the scams been invested in mobilising employment resources, a number of dams, canals, thermal power plants and refineries might have come up. With this money, price rise could have been checked and poverty

and unemployment would have been removed. It is not that India has dearth of money, the Government does not have any financial crunch but the policy of the then Governments were anti-people and their policies and intentions were not clear.

Today, Bhartiya Janata Party coalition has decided that it would be able to achieve the goals with which we got independence. Our Haryana Lok Dal (Rashtriya) has also extended its support to the BJP led coalition Government because the BJP alliance have left out the contentious issues in their National Agenda over which we had differences, for example Article 370, Common Civil Code and Temple-Mosque dispute etc. That is why I fully believe that Bhartiya Janata Party led coalition Government will give a secular, clean and corruption free administration to the country...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Alright, now please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Many more things have found place in the President's Address wherein public welfare schemes for all the sections of the society have been covered e.g. thirty three per cent reservation to women, transparency in administration and devolution of power.

18.00 hrs.

There is also a mention about giving autonomy to States. The States should be given autonomy. The issues of States which are lying pending for years together, the public welfare schemes which have not been implemented, the Central Government should give powers to the States to get those schemes implemented. In my State, Sutlej Canal Scheme has been lying pending for many years and steps should be taken by the Central Government to get it completed.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a particular point. A controversial news item about Haryana Lokdal has appeared in today's 'Hindustan Times'. I want to draw the attention of this House towards that news-item. It says :

[English]

"The Congress and the United Front leaders had reportedly got in touch with Shri Om Prakash Chautala whose party got four MPs in the new Lok Sabha and obtained his consent. They also got in touch with some MPs."

[Translation]

This news is baseless and it is a false propaganda. These people have gone berserk seeing the popularity of Haryana Lok Dal and that is why, they are indulging in such activities. I have strong reservations on this

issue and I would like that an enquiry be conducted in this matter.

One more thing I would like to point out. The Bansilal Government came into power on the plea of prohibition. When prohibition could not prove successful in the State, it is now being withdrawn from first April. Therefore, I would like to say...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever you are saying is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not being recorded. What is the use of speaking?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I hope that you would accommodate me. My party represents those sections of society which are facing maximum difficulties. Therefore, we should get maximum time...(Interruptions) you have rightly said that the population is also more.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister as his constituency is just 120 Kms. away from my constituency in U.P. The entire Lucknow was decorated during the elections and everywhere it was written-Rajtilak ki karo tayari, aa rahe hain Atal Bihari...(Interruptions). I am congratulating him, why are you objecting. Shri Vajpayee's coronation has been done and his ambition has been fulfilled...(Interruptions). Alright, I agree your ambitions have been fulfilled...(Interruptions). Please accept our congratulations. Now about the Agenda. On the one hand they have this slogan 'Rajtilak ki karo Tayari, and on the other they have the National Agenda for governance.'

Sir, this country became independent in 1947. When the Constitution was adopted 50 years back—wherein the sovereignty of the nation is enshrined—Dr. Ambedkar had said that from now onwards there would be no Rajtilak (coronation) but only Sevatilak (service of the people) would be there. It was said that no person would be a king by birth but such a person

* Not Recorded.

[Shri Arif Mohammad Khan]

who would be elected by the people of this country through the ballot...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, let him continue.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I will not speak till they keep quiet...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is unfortunate that through the democratic process such a Government has come to power whose ambition is not to do *Sevatilak* (service of the people) but *Rajtilak*. Why is it so? It is primarily because the intentions of the Government is to rule the country and not serve the people. This is important because from thousands of years our social system is such that a person is known by his birth. On birth itself, it is decided whether a person belongs to a high caste or a low caste...*(Interruptions)* You are saying I am a low caste, yes I am from low caste, a *malech* ...*(Interruptions)* I do not feel bad, because I belong to low caste...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to emphasize on the discussions that took place in the Constituent Assembly. It was stated there that the Constitution does not only provide a Constitutional set up but it would also provide a new social set up for the country as our country had been weakened by the feudal system and we were under the yoke of slavery for thousands of years. It is unfortunate that for most part of the time, those people were in power who were hardly interested in implementing the Constitutional provisions and wanted to maintain *status quo* so far as the social set up was concerned...*(Interruptions)*. Even I am also one among them...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Yesterday the Home Minister had given an assurance that if we do not make interruptions, there will be no interruptions by the treasury benches also, but today all the noises are being made by the treasury benches.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Please bear with me. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if earlier those in power were nourishing the feudal system, today this party is having ambition of '*Rajtilak*'. This is because this party also believes in the feudalistic system of society. It believes in high caste, low caste and untouchability ...*(Interruptions)* I have congratulated the hon. Prime Minister on his *Rajtilak* but at the same time we would like to say a few words about our resolution also. *Rajtilak* means that after the coronation, one does not have to go to the people again. That is why, they want a review of the Constitution. We have objection to review of the Constitution because their ambition is to establish monarchy instead of democracy in the country ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : You are saying baseless things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH (Mujaffarnagar) : Since when persons worshipping feet of Kanshi Ram have become democratic?...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : How a person calling Kanshi Ram as 'Saheb', can talk about democracy?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Why are you interrupting him again and again?

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, please protect my rights...*(Interruptions)* Bhartiya Janata Party intends to bring monarchy and in monarchy, exactly such things happen.

This is a fascist tendency. Some Members sitting on backbenches want to conduct the proceedings of the House. When you talk about monarchy, obviously, this will happen...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairman, Sir, if Bhartiya Janata Party has expressed its wish or ambition to establish monarchy by way of putting '*Rajtilak*', then we also want to repeat our commitment that we would not allow them to use this Constitution to suit their designs of establishing monarchy as this Constitution has given equal rights to poor, weak and downtrodden people of this country and this has established democracy. If you do not want to go to the people then we tell you that we will take you before the people and democracy will function in this country, monarchy won't...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am alone and all are causing interruptions. If they won't allow me to speak, then how would I use my right?...*(Interruptions)* In so much noise how I will speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please keep quiet. Why are you interrupting?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, the Constitution of the country say that all have equal rights before the law, all have equal protection, but, our system says no, we will fix it on the day of the birth itself. The law of this country says that law and the Government will have the responsibility of protecting life and property of enemy person of the country but the system of the country says that whatever may be the law, any leader of Bhartiya Janata Party will have the right to take out *Rath Yatra* whenever he wishes, he may create enmity, impose curfew, cause murders of people in cities, demolish Mosques and whatever he wishes he may do that. The Constitution of this country says that every person will have the freedom of religion, faith, speech and expression, but the system of this country says that under the flag of Bhartiya Janata Party, people can demolish any mosque at their will without any hindrance in any city by taking law in their own hands and violating

the orders of the Supreme Court and ignoring the National Integration Council. This is our fight with them in the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA (Junagarh) : What happened in Shahbano case?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I will speak about it also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not have much time. Please conclude quickly.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I did not get time to speak. Prime Minister is sitting here. He wants me to speak. Yesterday, he told me the method. I used to resort to walk out to say my point, today I am not resorting to walk out, I am only requesting you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Here, Prime Minister and Home Minister stressed that there is no difference of opinion between them. I could not understand the necessity to speak so...*(Interruptions)* I want to tell as to why this necessity arose? ...*(Interruptions)*. You may tell all this when your turn comes. I tell you as to why this necessity arose?

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North) : Sir, I have spent about twenty-five years in this House. The party which is in Government must learn to know and hear the points of view of others whether they are palatable or unpalatable. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs are present here...*(Interruptions)* If an hon. Member is not able to address this House, what justice are we doing here? you are the custodian of this House. I request the hon. Prime Minister to discipline the hon. Members belonging to his party.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : After the Ayodhya incident in 1992, the hon. Prime Minister had expressed his views in an interview given to 'India Abroad'. He had expressed his helplessness about his colleagues and sought to know as to what to do with them and where to take them? I am sure that the hon. Prime Minister had said these words in anguish and in an agonizing tone. I know he was very much distressed over the Ayodhya incident and he was finding himself helpless within the party...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : He has already spoken for half an hour. How much more time will he take?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Now, will he decide time? If he does not want me to speak and compels me, I will sit down...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Let our time be also given to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted to you is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If you do not let me speak, I will sit down, but then nobody will speak from that side...*(Interruptions)*. I will not speak like this...*(Interruptions)*. Now let anybody speak ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SATYAPAL JAIN : The Samata Party got five minutes, Kumari Mamata Banerjee got three minutes, how can he get half-an-hour?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If this is their attitude, let me see how they speak...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : It is to be decided by the Chair as to who will speak and for how long. Once he is in the Chair, he will know it...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If there is no order in the House, I cannot exercise my right to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Please allow him to avail the time allotted to our party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your party's time is already over. Arifji, please conclude quickly.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If they interrupt me, I cannot speak...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude quickly.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Unless there is order in the House, they also cannot speak ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude quickly.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Right from the word go, they kept on disturbing me...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude quickly.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : There was a confusion and I am happy that the hon. Home Minister has cleared the cloud by stating that he stood by every word of the hon. Prime Minister. I have heard the Home Minister saying that he learnt everything from Atalji and whatever he did was with the consent of the Prime Minister. I was happy to learn that the hon. Prime Minister has been trying to explain that his views were different on some issues. Today, it has become clear that the views of Advaniji and Atalji match each other...*(Interruptions)*. Till now, the doubt was there because on the one hand Prime Minister's interview published in newspapers suggested that he was distressed over the incident but on the other hand, a picture showed hon. Murli Manohar Joshi in full of laughters. This created doubts in our mind that while on one side Hon'ble Atalji was saying that his heart was full of grief when the dome was being demolished, on the other in photos published in some papers hon. Joshi has been shown as bursting into laughter and someone was sitting on his back whose photo I could not recognise. So, all such things create doubts ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over now.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I am concluding my speech. At last, I want to mention that hon. Advaniji has made a reference here about politics of untouchability and has said that Communist Party of India made this country a country of demons. This matter relates to the period when the then Government had decided to implement the Mandal Commission Report in 1990. At that very time hon. Advaniji proceeded on a 'Rath Yatra'. Why did the Ayodhya issue not come to his mind before? Why did he go on a Rath Yatra as I have already said that BJP advocates casteism and untouchability and when the question of giving participation to the backward people in the Government came, they could not muster courage to oppose that move.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. I will not take more than two minutes time. This is my request to you...*(Interruptions)*. You just ask this from BJP. I am not saying this. In an interview on BBC hon. Advaniji has said, I fully remember and it is on record. He said that he had to raise the Ayodhya issue to unite people at the time when an attempt was being made to divide the country in the name of Mandal Commission. This is what Advaniji said. I have great

respect for hon. Atalji. But at the same time I also know what was said during the time of the last Mughal emperor - 'This universe belongs to God, the emperor reins and the order is given by the commission Government.' The same is the situation here 'This universe belongs to God, BJP reins and the order comes from Jhandewalan.' This is how attempts are being made to run this country. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to go into the details. I am concluding my speech with these words that the people in Government have always violated the laws of this country. They have violated the constitution and disobeyed the orders of judiciary. I am concluding my speech with the request that they are in the Government now and they should try to know their responsibility. Now, no effort should be made to violate the laws and indulge in the contempt of court. We, the people sitting in the opposition know how to make the law binding on people.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was decided that the Prime Minister will give his reply at five o'clock. It was extended by an hour to enable some more parties participate in the discussion. Now one and a half hour have already passed. Some Members have to go. They have said that they have to submit their return. They have to catch trains or flights. So, kindly do not extend the time...*(Interruptions)* They have to go...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have to submit our returns.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to go, you may go...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Members of your party have already spoken for 17 minutes.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : You please tell us as to how much time we have spoken. If there is no time left for me. I will not speak.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, before I begin to speak, may I appeal through you to the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to conduct and control the time at the beginning of the discussion and not at the end of the discussion?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : You ask the Speaker...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : That is my appeal through the Chair. That appeal should reach the Speaker's office and the BAC. Every time, every day and on every occasion, we, the smaller parties, are becoming victims of the time constraint.

We should finalise the matter. And then, we should start. Otherwise, we would not speak here. We are not at the mercy of anybody here...*(Interruptions)*

Anyway, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity given to me to express our views on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. On behalf of my party, the RSP, I rise to place it on record that I do have the highest regard for the President. But I am sorry that I cannot appreciate the Address delivered by him before the joint parliamentary session. This is because of the fact that this Address is full of incompetences. It is full of contradictions and compromises which cannot fulfil the demands and aspirations of the people of our country. I am sorry to say that I cannot appreciate the President's Address here.

There is a mention in the Address about *berozgari hatao*. There is also a mention in the Address about rapid rural industrialisation and special emphasis on agro-industries. The hon. Minister of Finance is here. So, I would appeal to him through you. May I ask him: Is there any country in the world which has generated employment without undertaking the responsibility of land reforms? It is my observation as a student of economics that *berozgari hatao* is impossible without land reforms.

I am sorry to mention that there is no plan, no programme and no project for undertaking the responsibility of land reforms in India. Unless there is a scientific process of land reforms, *berozgari hatao* can never be possible. *Berozgari hatao* and the rapid rural industrialisation or the agro-industry is nothing but a political slogan of the BJP and their allies. It is impossible. I believe that the social basis of the BJP and its allied parties, which has been expressed in the National Agenda, is the social basis of themselves, is nothing but to maintain the *status quo*, is nothing but to maintain the vested interests of the feudalistic mode of production in the land system. So, they cannot undertake the responsibility of land reforms. That is why, *berozgari hatao* is a political slogan of the ruling combination. It is not a good desire for good economy. This is the economic interpretation of the Address given by the hon. President of India.

There is another mention in the Address that India can and shall be built by Indians only. The main purpose of this statement that India can and shall be built by the Indians is nothing but to satisfy the national bourgeoisie. This cannot be possible. May I ask the Government through you : Do you believe in the transfer of technology?

Do you believe in the transfer of learning and wisdom? If the Government depends upon the technology from the West, how could you then separate technology from capital? If there is technology from the West, then capital from the West is also a must. No Finance Minister, no Government could separate technology from capital. So, technology from the West would certainly invite capital from the West.

Sir, I oppose the entry of the multinational corporations in the productive sector of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I oppose it for obvious reasons. I believe in the continuance of the State Trading Corporation. I believe in the abolition of the private property system. I do not believe that the multinational corporations could come here and develop our country. It is quite obvious. But, where is your proposal for the State Trading Corporation in the Address? Where, in the Address, is any proposal for the sick public sector undertakings? Is there any proposal for the revival of the sick public sector undertakings? Is it not a fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru started the State Trading Corporation and it was he who started the State monopoly of capital? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I would be very brief in my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already spoken for five to seven minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have only a few points to make. I would finish within one minute.

Sir, then comes the question of national security. I believe that the question of national security could never be compromised. It is a fact that we have to develop ourselves. A self-reliant economy and a self-reliant Defence is a must for the Independence of any country. There is no doubt about that. But wherefrom comes the question of exercising the nuclear option? Do you want to prepare the nuclear bomb? Do you want to believe in the culture of nuclear bombs? India does not believe in the bomb culture. Our hon. Prime Minister and the former External Affairs Minister who is present here believes in the policy of non-alignment propounded by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The non-alignment policy does not speak of exercising the nuclear option. It does not speak about preparation of a nuclear bomb for this country. It is the economic security of our countrymen that would ensure and be responsible for the defence of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat now.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I will finish within one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How many more 'one' minute would you take? Please take your seat now.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is a voracious reader of the world history. His Government, through the Address, has already given an assurance about creation of three smaller States, namely, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. The creation of smaller States is the beginning of the process of balkanisation. As a student of history, the

[Shri Pramotes Mukherjee]

Prime Minister must be knowing about it better than me. At the time of the Second World War, 'this process of balkanisation led to the growth of Hitlerism. This process of balkanisation led to the growth of rural despotism. So, great care should be taken in this regard. I would like to submit that the urges, aspirations, hopes and desires of the backward people must be taken into consideration. More States must be created but an integrated Central Government is also a must.

Sir, for all these reasons I fail to appreciate the hon. President's Address to both Houses of Parliament ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Prakash Ambedkar may take the floor.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your kind attention...*(Interruptions)* Kindly allow me to speak for a few minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please take your seat now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been attending and hearing most of the speeches that have been delivered here and also the President's Address.

There is one important aspect that has been mentioned and that is, that Delhi is going to be given full Statehood. When this issue was raised first time, three years ago, I was the only person in the other House who opposed this idea of giving even a limited Statehood to Delhi. We are a federal nation. A federal nation has a federal Capital and a federal capital needs a federal territory.

I know one incident which happened in Jalgaon wherein the President of the Nagar Palika had held the Collector at ransom. The Nagar Palika controlled the water and drainage systems. When there was a tussle between the President and the Collector, the President would always threaten the Collector saying that he would cut off the water or drainage system and thereby the Collector had to bow before the President.

18.42 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This is a situation where we are developing and giving the full authority to a State. As long as there is no tension between the States, the situation will continue but once political tension and economic tension start developing, every State will start questioning why the Capital of this country be in Delhi which is a State territory. Everybody will start asking, why it should not

be in Calcutta or in Hyderabad, Thiruvanthapuram, Chennai or Mumbai. This is what the demand is going to be and are we going to face this? This is my first question to the hon. Prime Minister.

I come to the next question which has been raised here. It concerns the political morality and political corruption also. Packages that have been offered to the State Governments through the regional parties are one form of corruption, the political corruption. Today, we are developing into a situation wherein the national parties are becoming irrelevant. The regional parties are holding the Government at ransom. This is not only concerned with the relations between the national party and the regional parties but it goes a step further. The Government is giving something out of the economic considerations to those State Governments which are supporting it.

This package is outside the purview of the recommendations of the Finance Commission. May I tell the Government through you, that then the States would start questioning why they should contribute to the Centre when their shares out of the proportion are given to those States which are supporting the Government and those States which are not supporting it are being deprived and are putting the seed of disruption and disintegration of the country.

There is a third issue which I would raise here which is concerning giving Statehood to some other regions. My party and I believe that there should be smaller States, governable States, that the people and the Government should have some relations. Today some States have grown so much that their population has grown from eight crores to over 16 crores. They are unmanageable. I know some of the Chief Ministers who even do not remember who the Collector is or who the officer is. In this situation it is not possible to develop the State. And, therefore, a demand has been made by many people that there should be the smaller States. Our State should also be reorganised.

Sir, the President's Address says that the Government is going to give statehood to certain areas. The Fazal Commission had made a recommendation that Vidarbha region should be given statehood. I would like to know why it is being denied when the BJP manifesto claimed that if they came to power at the Centre they would give statehood to Vidarbha region. This is my question to the hon. Prime Minister.

I come to the last issue. The Government made an issue of review of the Constitution. Hon. Member Shri Vaiko, who is a good friend of mine, made a reference to what Dr. Ambedkar had said in the Constituent Assembly, that was his last speech. But there was another reference also which Dr. Ambedkar had made. He said :

"However good a Constitution may be, if those who are governing are bad, do not

blame the Constitution, blame the people who are running the country."

May I like to know from the Government as to which part of the Constitution they feel is not workable in this country? May I like to know from the Government what additions they would like to make in the Constitution which are and which will be the ideas of use to the future generation? May I know from the Prime Minister whether the review in the Constitution that he has spelt is going to be on the basis of what is stated in "We and Our Nationhood"? I will just read out a few lines from it.

"The non-Hindu people in Hindustan must adopt the Hindu culture and language, must learn to respect and hold in reverence the Hindu religion, must entertain no ideas but those of glorification of the Hindu race and culture. That is, they must not only give up the attitude of intolerance and ungratefulness towards this land and its age-old tradition but must also cultivate the positive attitude of love and devotion instead. In other words, they must cease to be foreigners or must stay in the country wholly subordinate to the Hindu nation, claiming nothing, deserving no privilege, not even the right of the citizen."

Is this going to be the philosophy behind the review of the Constitution? Is this going to be the basis of the new Constitution? Or is this going to be the basis of the new Constitution that, as Vishwa Hindu Parishad has been saying, 'we are Manu's followers and our stands is Manusmriti' is to be respected? May I know from the hon. Prime Minister, when he speaks of a review of the Constitution, as to which portion of the Constitution he is going to review? If he kindly mentions it, all the doubts that have been in the minds of the people will be dispelled.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Please extend the time of the House a little more...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, I would like to speak on the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Please give two minutes time to everyone.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the problem. We have allotted eight hours for discussion but we have taken more than eleven hours and twenty-three minutes. Please cooperate.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I have come from Bodoland which is far away from Delhi. I must be given a chance to speak on the Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : How is it possible now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, let each speaker take only one minute. Shri Bwiswmuthiary.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to move an amendment to paragraph 28 of the President's Address wherein the present Government of India has included the matter relating to creation of only three States, namely, Vananchal, Uttaranchal and Chattisgarh and excluded the most genuine, burning and legitimate demand of several millions of the indigenous Bodo people for creation of a separate State of Bodoland. The other day also, I have mentioned on the floor of the House that until and unless the Government of India concedes the demand of a separate State of Bodoland for Bodos, you can not bring peace and stability to Bodoland area and to the entire North-Eastern region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, by merely declaring various economic packages worth crores of rupees for the development of Bodoland and North-Eastern Region, you can never bring permanent peace and stability either in Bodoland or in the entire North-Eastern region unless the burning Bodoland question and other pending problems of the North-Eastern Region are resolved politically forthwith. These kinds of announcements are nothing but political gimmicks and sloganeering only. The Government of Shri Deve Gowda and subsequently the Government of Shri I.K. Gujral had announced an economic package worth Rs. 6100 crore for the special economic development of the North-Eastern region, but out of this even six paise may not reach our Bodoland territory. This is my apprehension. Alienation of the Bodos from the Assamese and the Government of Assam has already completed. There cannot be any sort of compromise on Bodoland demand...(Interruptions)

Bodoland territory is located at such a place which is strategically most important and sensitive from the point of view of national security. It is the gateway of the entire North-Eastern region. Whenever you people want to go either to Meghalaya or Mizoram or Manipur or Arunachal Pradesh or Nagaland, you shall have to cross the Bodoland territory...(Interruptions) Therefore, the necessity of bringing back permanent peace and stability and a lasting political solution to the Bodoland question has been a must. I could not find any precise language to express the agony of millions of our Bodo people...(Interruptions) Our mothers and sisters are oppressed and gangraped. More than 200 Bodo girls and women were gangraped and around 1200 Bodos were either killed or butchered during the last six years

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

of Bodoland mass movement. We do not get any sort of justice. Even some gangrape incidents have taken place very recently. Who are listening to our genuine cries? Who are listening to the cries of our mothers, sisters and fathers?...(Interruptions)

If you believe and worship Lord Krishna as your Almighty, then you must have to respect Bodos and their genuine sentiments because Bodos are the father-in-laws of Lord Krishna...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

Shri N. Dennis.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : The present hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister and all the learned Members of the House should extend their helping hand and cooperation towards finding out an amicable and lasting political solution to the long pending 'Bodoland Tangle' by creating the much long awaited separate State of Bodoland forthwith. Therefore, I request the new Government to bring a Constitutional Amendment Bill in this regard on the floor of this House in the next Parliament Session itself...(Interruptions)

I strongly move an amendment to Paragraph 28 of the President's Address wherein only the question of creation of only three new States, namely, *Vananchal*, *Uttaranchal* and *Chattisgarh* have been mentioned and our genuine Bodoland demand has been excluded. Until and unless an amendment is considered, I cannot agree to Paragraph 28. I regret and express my strongest reaction for the same...(Interruptions) Further, I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and the present Government to amend the aforesaid Paragraph and to include our Bodoland demand also...(Interruptions)

I would like to request the present Government to grant a Central University, a Central Agriculture University one Medical College and one Engineering College within Bodoland. These are the basic minimum needs of our area apart from our Bodoland demand. Most of the Universities, Medical Colleges and Engineering Colleges are located only on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra. What sort of justice has been given to Bodoland even after a lapse of long 50 long years of Independence?...(Interruptions)

During the Independence struggle, the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi appealed to our ancestors to join the Independence struggle to get the British driven out from the Indian soil and assured them that justice and share of India's Independence would be given equally to each and every ethnic group of people, either small or big, including Bodos after Independence. Now, where has our share of India's Independence gone? what happened to our share?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

This will not go on record. Only the speech of Shri Dennis will go on record. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had personally requested you to give more time to my party. There is another party in this House which was given four minutes but they were allowed to speak for about thirty six minutes. If this House is not giving us protection, if a Member is not given protection in this House then we boycott this House with the confidence that we shall take care of time ourselves in next House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you. Please take your seat. I will give you a chance.

18.56 hrs.

Then Shri Prabhunath Singh left the House

MR. SPEAKER : Now I call upon Shri N. Dennis to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It was decided earlier that the hon. Prime Minister would reply to this debate at 4 p.m. Now it is already 7 p.m. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY (Tripura West) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the President's Address there is no mention about the policy of the Government about providing special opportunities to the most backward parts of the country, to the backward people and to the backward classes and mainly the total population of tribals, who are yet to be brought to the mainstream of the national life.

On the last Independence Day, the NSCN, the ULFA, the PLA and the extremist groups of NLFT, the ATTF in Tripura had assembled in meetings and declared that Independence Day should be boycotted and they did it with openly speaking against India's Independence. It was very difficult to tackle the situation. All the State Governments had to request the Central Government for assistance. The United Front Government took up the matter at appropriate level and tried to tackle the situation; the process had been started. I want to know whether the new Government would follow it up.

These extremist forces are trying to challenge and attack the total integrity of the country and are doing it in such a way that our sovereignty is being endangered. They are declaring the independence of the total North East and a cessation of the total area from India. They are declaring it openly. They are trying to make the slogan to popularise a cessation of the North East from India. All their activities — declarations and other

* Not Recorded.

things — are known to the Army; all the documents are with the Intelligence Department of the Centre. They had everything. I would like to know what steps the new Government has taken and what their policy is. They have not made it clear in the President's Address.

For the first time, the Central U.F. Government had made a package of Rs. 6,600 crore for the development of the North East; for meeting the infrastructural gap. We do not know whether that will be followed or not. I am in doubt whether this new Government will start executing them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up. Please take your seat. I had given a chance to speak.

SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY : Sir, I am coming to the last point.

Today our Health Minister, Shri Bimal Sinha, has been killed by the extremists in Tripura. When this matter was raised in this House today, the Minister of Home Affairs assured that he would make a statement on this. That is all right. May I ask for why this new Government, during the last fifteen days, has withdrawn some forces from Tripura?

19.00 hrs.

Out of a total of 62 companies, why have 25 companies of CRPF have been taken out of the State?

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : The speech of Shri Dennis only will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dennis, only two minutes' time is left. You have to complete. It is already seven'o clock.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, he is a most senior Member. He has been elected for the last five, six terms.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, I have given him a chance to speak. I am not disturbing him.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in the discussion. The President's Address is similar to that of the National Agenda of the BJP and its allied parties. It has given official status to the National Agenda.

The people of this country have not voted for a single party. It is a fractured verdict. The people have not given the mandate to any single party. Parties with different ideas and ideologies and also with different

manifestos have joined together and formed the Government. Some parties have joined after the formation of the Government. There is now a joint mandate of the BJP and other parties put together. So, on vital matters, they would find it very difficult to arrive at a conclusion because their ideas and ideologies are different.

The President has expressed that matters of national interest would be arrived at by a consensus and conciliation. If a proposal is fully observed in observance, it is a good proposal. Thwarting the proposal by not implementing it is a violation. The formation of the Government in Himachal Pradesh is one such example.

Several national problems are proposed to be solved in the President's Address. The credibility of the Government would be assessed and measured on the basis of the performance of the Government.

There are many problems. Population control is one problem. Today our population is 96 crores. In 1951, it was 36 crores. By 2000 AD, the population would reach 100 crores. It will be 16 per cent of the total population of the world. The fruits of our developmental activities would not yield the desired results if the population is not controlled.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Zero per cent birth has to be achieved. A legislation has to be enacted for the adoption of one family and one child norm. Uncontrolled population would lead to difficulties. For example, the percentage of literacy in 1951-52 was only 18 but in 1991, it was 52. The number of illiterates in the country also increased because of the increase in population.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. At the time of full Budget, you can have more time.

SHRI N. DENNIS : About 19 lakh people are unemployed. A number of people are knocking at the doors of foreign countries for jobs. They are not getting proper opportunities of employment in our country. Their abilities and intelligence have to be utilised for the better service of our country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dennis, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have not allowed you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dennis, please wind up.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. DENNIS : As far as poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes are concerned, bank authorities are creating problems in implementing all these programmes. So, strict instructions have to be

[Shri N. Dennis]

given to them to cooperate with the implementation of the employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dennis, please conclude. Please take your seat.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil) : I would like to place before the House one problem faced by the people of our region, particularly Kerala and the Kanyakumari district. The price of rubber has declined very much. The import of rubber has to be stopped. The cost of rubber per kilogram in 1995 was Rs. 64; it was Rs. 45 in 1996; and it has, at present, declined to Rs. 25 per kilogram. So, the rubber growers are facing severe financial difficulties.

Lastly, I oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, the time allotted for this subject was eight hours. We have already taken more than 11 hours and 30 minutes. The Prime Minister is also waiting to give a reply. So, kindly cooperate with me because in the coming Budget Session, we can accommodate a number of hon. Members. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. I will allow you next time.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to express our feelings on the President's Address which His Excellency, the President of India delivered to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament. As this discussion was taken up soon after the discussion on Confidence Motion, it is quite natural that some repetition will be there. The enthusiasm with which the hon. Members participated in the debate and there are still many Members who have been deprived of an opportunity to speak proves the keenness of the Members to participate. Shri Balram Jakhar of the ruling party initiated the discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS : The discussion was initiated by the opposition.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, it was done by the opposition. Mr. Speaker, Sir, old habits die hard.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming events cast their shadows before.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He and my friend Shri Janardhan Reddy and some other Members have

observed that the National Agenda on which the Government is constituted and which will form the basis for the Government functioning is nothing but a hollow promise and have said that it is far from reality and that an attempt has been made to transform earth into a paradise. At least we have made promises and consequently the Members have drawn the conclusion that this is nothing but an attempt to mislead the electorate. I think by saying this we are not doing justice to the enlightened electorate of this country.

Recently, elections to the 12th Lok Sabha have concluded. The people might not have educational opportunities or they might not be used to high standards of living, but the common man very well know what is right and what is wrong for him. He knows what is in the national interest and what is detrimental to the interest of the nation. The voter has always demonstrated this understanding. When for a short period democracy had disappeared, the entire nation was converted into a jail. Even at that time the people remained vigilant and fought for their rights and the results of the elections conducted at that time showed the people's consciousness and their alertness. Can anyone mislead the Indian electorate with false hopes? Can't the people subject the promises to the acid test of fulfilment.

We have not promised the impossible. We have promised potable water to every village. Is it a false promise? This is down to the earth promise..We have promised drinking water to everyone. If we are unable to fulfil this, it would be a national failure. If we are able to achieve this, it would not be the success of a party or the Government but of the entire nation. We want to take concrete measures to fulfil the promises we have made. I would like to reiterate as I had stated earlier that resources are not scarce but are scattered. I am of the conviction that if these resources are mobilised, the entire machinery is geared up and dedicated to the fulfilment of the goals coupled with a political will, these promises can be fulfilled and implemented. I look forward for the cooperation of the House in this small task which is a challenge for us. If we fail to fulfil the promises that we made to the people, will they not ask us about them next time? Do we not have to face the electorate again? The people would say that as we have not fulfilled the promises made, we do not deserve their votes. The enlightened electorate would reject us. After all people must be relied upon. Nobody can throw dust into the eyes of the people of this country. There is a saying in English that you can fool some people for some time, you can fool some people for a long time but you cannot fool all people for all times. Are we going to do that? I would submit that you are not doing justice to us. We would try our level best to implement all the promises that we have made. We would need your cooperation in this regard. We never adopted non-

cooperative attitude in such constructive endeavours. Though it is a different matter that such a National Agenda was never put forward. So also a proposal to mobilise the entire country to implement such a national agenda was never made. And wherever it was made to whichever extent it was made, it succeeded. Let us not allow political dissensions to go to an extent where it may become impossible to work together even on the basic issues.

I was surprised when Shri Natwar Singh talked about foreign policy and wanted to know whether the foreign policy is being changed? When I was in opposition and used to make speeches on foreign policy, Natwar Singh ji used to congratulate me. It is not a secret. Even after remaining in opposition I was a supporter of foreign policy and the essence of our foreign policy has been the power and the capability to take decisions independently and that is non-alignment. Though no group is there today but a super power is emerging. There are several developing countries. These countries are also members of non-aligned movement. They are looking towards us. They are telling us that if we go on accepting conditions in the name of globalisation and are not able to protect the interests of our people and fail to face such challenges despite our big size what the small countries will do? Earlier also, we had given guidance to them under the leadership of Pandit Nehru. I do not keep myself in his category, but there should be no doubt that today the whole country will stand united to protect its sovereignty. We shall not be pressurised by anybody in economic or defence matters. Whatever decisions are to be taken, they will be taken by us in the interest of the country and I want that all of you should have a share in making these decisions. But I believe that foreign policy cannot be static, it cannot be motionless. It has to be changed in the changing scenario but the fundamental norms would not have any change, I assure you.

The proposal to constitute a commission for the review of constitution has become very controversial. Those who have supported such a review, are important persons of all parties. Nobody can doubt their intention. Such apprehension cannot be expressed about them that they want to undo all that Dr. Ambedkar had done. But, our constitution has completed fifty years and we have made amendments in it several times. Framers of our constitution themselves had provided the mechanism of amendment because they knew that the document they are formulating is not a static document. It is being done to protect the interests of people and if required constitution can be amended and they made provisions also, but procedure of amendment was made quite stricter — the requirement of two-third majority was made. The proposed commission will have persons whose impartiality, learnedness and knowledge of law will be beyond doubt and secondly, they will make

recommendations only. This commission would not impose any decision on the country. Its recommendations will be placed before the Parliament and certainly we have majority in the Parliament but how much, you know it. So creating such a bogey is wrong that constituting of commission is wrong and their intention behind it is this that they want to change the whole structure. India has adopted the path of democracy. It will never become a monarchy. Arif Saheb need not give us such warning. India will never be a religious country we have often said it. Untouchability would not be there legally once again, we want to remove it from our practice. Topic being discussed is devolution. Rulers in Delhi should curtail their power and resources to some extent and States should get more power, more financial resources, this is our policy. Everything will become centralised and country's face will change as a result thereof and democracy will be suffocated. Such views have no basis. I want to reassure that we do not have any hidden intention. I have said so repeatedly, so this is also really painful for me. But, we can go forward by believing one another and having mutual faith. While working honestly, we may commit some mistakes, but we would not indulge in unreliable conduct. I want to assure you that there is no need to peep into the history of Bhartiya Janata Party. During my childhood, first of all, I came into contact with Arya Samaj. I was a member of Arya Kumar Sabha and as member of Arya Kumar Sabha to take up cudgels against hypocrisy is not a dogmatic attitude. To test the facts on the basis of logic to express difference of opinion seriously and fearlessly but not to have doubt about the intention of the person in opposition and also giving no opportunity to him to doubt my intention were imbibed by me since my childhood. Thereafter when I reached college I remained in contact with Students Federation of India because already I used to take interest in students' movements, fought elections, won them and usually elected unopposed. That was a student's organisation affiliated with the communist party ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How did you join that side?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The communist ideology did influence me to come back but when the Communist Party supported the partition of the country on the basis of religion and termed it as self-determination, I felt that I could not associate myself with such a party.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we never supported the partition of our country...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, they supported the partition.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : At that time, the feeling of economic equality, end of an era of exploitation, creation of such a world where there was no dominance of any country over the other was very strong.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This feeling still prevails.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The Soviet Union was the centre of attraction for those countries which were fighting for their freedom. However, it was discovered later on that there was no personal freedom in that country itself. Earlier also, the attractive face of the Soviet Union used to be shown to the people and the democratic socialism, if not communalism, definitely used to inspire the new generation. Among the revolutionaries included the communists and the socialists and they made great sacrifices for the nation. When I was a member of the Students Federation, I came into contact with the RSS. It is a good organisation which teaches discipline and inspires people to do something every day for the country. There can be difference of opinion with that organisation. Many Members may not be remembering that when our neighbouring country attacked us — Shri Nehru was then the Prime Minister — the Republic Day parade was to be held on 26th January but most of the armed forces were deployed on the border and they could not be recalled in view of security. Therefore, arrangements were made to organise parade with the remaining armed forces and police personnel available. Meanwhile, someone suggested Panditji that civilians should also be allowed to take part in the parade.

Today, when there is tension on the borders of the nation, we should show unity. The RSS was called to take part in that parade. I remember that there was a protest against this step of Nehruji in the meeting of the Congress party. However, Nehruji had said that there could be differences of opinion with the RSS but when the nation was passing through a crisis, they all should forget those differences and work unitedly. Again, when the country was invaded, there was shortage of personnel in the army and the police. At that time, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was the Prime Minister. A problem cropped up as to who would manage the traffic in Delhi. We were facing the shortage of traffic police personnel. This task was entrusted to us and at that time, I had said :-

"Dukh mein sumiran sab kare, sukh mein kare na koi,

Jo sukh mein sumiran kare, to dukh kahe ko hoi,"

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got drawn in this controversy because I find myself a repository of all virtues, but we have duly discharged the responsibility

of an opposition for 40 years. We hope that those who have come in the opposition after a long time will stay there for long and they would also perform their duty. The word 'Dharma' does not mean 'religion' 'Dharma' is a comprehensive term. 'Dharma Char' means 'Follow Dharma'. There is no interpretation of the 'Dharma' which is to be followed. It is said that one should follow one's 'Dharma'. It is to be decided by the person as to what his/her 'Dharma' is. My 'Dharma' is to address you and speak good thing and your 'Dharma' is to give me a patient hearing. The confusion arises when 'religion' is translated as 'Dharma'. However, the confusion would not have arisen in the translation of the word 'secular' had been "Panth Nirpeksh" or 'Sampradaya Nirpeksh', as no religion can be absolute and all religions are relative. But, there is now no need to go into that controversy. When we say we are a secular nation, you must have faith on us and we will put it into practice. I assure you that the misconception spread deliberately or inadvertently earlier will be dispelled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri N. Janardhana Reddy has raised one more vital issue. A large number of cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh are committing suicide. This issue was raised even during the elections. I have also taken up this issue with the Andhra Pradesh Government. This is indeed a symptom of a grave malady and it will have to take into consideration as to what quality and quantity of fertilizers and manure are to be used; how much loans should be provided to the farmers, how it could be arranged and that if the farmers are not in a position to repay the loans, should such a situation compel them to commit suicide? These issues keep haunting our minds. Shri Janardhana Reddy hails from Andhra Pradesh. I would like to assure this august House that we would definitely take some urgent steps in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cooperative movement needs to be strengthened. Cooperative societies are working successfully in some States while they are not that much successful in other States. But, we have no alternative to the cooperative societies.

What sort of participation should be there in a democracy? Participation is not an abstract thing. This is a relative concept and has a definite form. Now in what form and at what level this participation should exist? There is a public sector, then private sector is there. We have to develop a third sector which has already developed to some extent but it still calls for further attention.

We have to eliminate the shortcomings which have crept in the cooperative movement. We have to revitalize it. The interests of the people for whom these cooperative societies have been constituted or for whom the cooperative movements are undertaken should be safeguarded. It is also generally seen that the

resourceful or affluent persons capture these cooperative societies. Then they utilize these societies for their political ends. Party-politics have to be kept off the cooperatives. But the need of the hour is to expand this network of cooperative system throughout the country.

Nishad ji is present here. I would like to recapitulate his good suggestions. One of his suggestions is to provide identity cards to all the voters. We have been making this demand for years. Though this exercise was started but it was abandoned midway. If we have to check bogus voting, we will have to provide identity cards. If we want to check illegal entry into the country, we will have to provide our citizens identity cards. If people keep identity card with them at the time of emergency or crisis it would be convenient in many ways and also they can avail many other concessions and benefits. They can have ration cards on the basis of these identity cards.

I agree to his suggestion but he has given another unique suggestion that the candidate polling less than one percent votes should be awarded six months' imprisonment. Though this is a good suggestion, yet it is a bit harsh punishment. It cannot be put into practice. He has also stated that the candidate should not be allowed to spend more than Rs. 50,000/-. Nowadays, contesting elections is becoming a costly affair.

I contested election first time in 1957. I had only two jeeps at that time. I shifted my constituency from Lucknow to Balrampur. I had not gone to Balrampur before. The Party suggested me to contest from Balrampur which was thought to be an easy bet. I went there. I had one jeep and managed one more there and thus, I contested election with two jeeps only. I visited the whole constituency with two jeeps and I won that election. Nowadays, one requires a convoy of vehicles. How it could be possible? Are we not contesting elections with blackmoney? We should think over it with a clean heart. That is why, when we talk of reviewing the Constitution, election reforms are also there ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : It has nothing to do with the Constitution.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It has a link with it. If we reform the election system and introduce list system...*(Interruptions)*

If a person casts his vote in favour of a party only in the ensuing elections...*(Interruptions)* That is what my point is. I know that there are problems in it, but it would discourage casteism and a process of collective thinking will be started.

I am giving an example without going into details. However elections being a costly affair, it will make politics a slave to wealth. It is a dangerous signal. Sometimes I wish not to contest elections. But beating

a retreat is also not advisable - "Na dainyam na palayanam".

Arjun had taken two vows that he would neither show weakness nor would run away from the battle field - I do not claim myself to be Arjun but I do wish that this situation in the country must change. For me this is my last election. Today, I would like to say that after this I would not contest...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Yes, election process has to be changed.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It can be changed provided you change your way of thinking about it...*(Interruptions)* ours, yours and that of everyone's attitude should change. We must give it due consideration. All these things are such which we cannot relish.

We have entered into coalition as none of the parties has got clear majority and there was no other alternative before us. If we do not form the Government by making adjustments or through cooperation, then it is said our ideology is wrong, we are full of ills - Pilot Saheb, I have rich experience of it while you are new to these things.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I accept what the people are saying today. But you have termed it as an art of Governance which is wrong.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : You are again going by to the newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to waste the time of this House by making detailed observations on each issue raised here. However, I would like to congratulate my young friend Shri Omar Farookh Abdullah if he is present in the House. He has been elected for the first time but he has delivered a very good speech. His reply as a citizen of Kashmir to the charges that are traded about India, should prove to be an eye opener, it should be a warning to all of us.

In this discussion, issues related to North-East have also been raised. Today, we received a shocking news from Tripura. There is unrest in some areas which have witnessed violent disturbances. All the Governments have so far been paying attention to it but the extent of success which should have been achieved has not been achieved. We want that development of North-East should receive special attention the other day also I had mentioned this thing. I would call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of North East and shall discuss the situation of that area with them. I shall call for their suggestions and take a decision as to what steps could be taken in this regard.

Our friend from Bodoland has also raised some problems of Bodoland in his speech. Their problems are related to development. Let us discuss these problems seriously and reach to a conclusion based on consensus...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, this is just to give you some sort of interpretation. Our issue is not at all related only to the socio-economic problem. This is a very-very acute and serious ethno-political crisis. It has to be resolved politically by granting a separate State of Bodoland only.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The Government has no intention to set up a new State reorganisation Commission. In the President's Address and National Agenda also we have mentioned about the creation of three new States. Today, an hon'ble Member from Vidarbha came to see me and he has submitted a memorandum. I would like to assure him that we will take a decision on that after considering all the aspects.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Please take a decision favouring creation of the said State.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Atalji, the National Commission has recommended for this...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My Marxist friend had pointed out that the problems of agricultural labourers have been ignored. It is not so. In many States laws regulating minimum wages have been enacted but they are not being implemented honestly. In places where farmers are well off, labourers are being paid even more than the minimum wages. But this is not the situation in the whole country. If a consensus is there in favour of a Central Legislation in this regard, then we can consider it...(Interruptions)

I had gone to Bihar, when this incident of massacre occurred there. I asked the victim farmers near Jahanabad as to whether there is land dispute or wage related dispute. They said that it is neither land dispute nor a dispute related with wages. Certain other dispute is the root cause of this incident.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : This issue is before the commission so do not talk about it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : All right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Subrata Mukherjee has given a very important suggestion for, converting barren land into fertile land. Already, the Government is contemplating on these lines. There is difficulty in increasing the limit of irrigated land but the barren land is lying unutilised and if a national campaign is launched taking cooperation of all and Government would have to take the initiative, then we can make barren land cultivable and achieve the target of increasing production in the country. I want to tell you that Government will take initiative in the regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, several issues were raised but it is not possible for me to give reply to all.

SHRI ANAND MOHAN (Sheohar) : Certain qualification for Members of Parliament should also be prescribed. Educational qualification has been prescribed in all the cases even for a peon or a Marshall or for a constable. Similarly, educational qualification for the MLAs and MPs should also be decided...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : As I had said in the beginning, if the electorate is illiterate, it is not necessary that the legislators should be educated.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : You please also say that the Lok Sabha should last for full five years.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to comment on this issue. I had already mentioned it on that day. They can put all these points before the Commission which will review the Constitution. They can plead their case there. Even they can get their points included and whenever these things come up before the House, a suitable decision can be taken.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : That Commission must have Shri Kalpnath and myself as Members.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I raised two issues when the Prime Minister was not there. The first related to the provision of the reservation in promotion in respect of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. An amendment in the Constitution to this effect has already been made, the Department of Personnel is still to implement the same. When we took up this issue, the elections were declared. The present Government is requested to look into it.

The second issue related to the persons detained under TADA. The hon. Prime Minister made a very good point in Lucknow yesterday and people heaved a sigh of relief hearing it. When TADA Act has already been repealed, the persons detained under TADA should be tried in the normal course. I hope the Government would consider these two points.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has made good suggestions which would definitely be considered. I hope that he would continue to make good suggestions in future also...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, a number of amendments have been moved.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (Kaliabor) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the hon. Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tarun Gogoi, please take your seat.

A number of amendments have been moved by hon. Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately?

I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negated.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 25th March, 1998."

The motion was adopted.

19.52 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation arising out of thunder-squall in Orissa and West Bengal and relief and rehabilitation measures taken

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Statement to be made by the hon. Minister, Shri Som Pal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I seek the leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising from a thunder-squall that hit the States of Orissa and West Bengal on 24th March, 1998 and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government.

The thunder-squall occurred over some coastal areas of Orissa and West Bengal in the afternoon of 24th March, 1998...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. Order please.

SHRI SOM PAL : According to the latest available reports from the Government of Orissa, three villages in Jaleswar Tehsil in the district of Balasore were hit by thunder-squall affecting about 5,000 people, 2,000 houses and four educational institutions besides causing loss of 22 human lives including 13 children. Ninety seven persons have been injured...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Sir, he is talking about two States. We wanted a comprehensive Statement about the other States also...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Please bear with me. I think, I am covering both the States...(Interruptions)... Please, let me finish it. Clarifications, if any, are to be sought only after I finish it.

Sir, about 17 cattle heads have been killed and 396 injured. The Government of West Bengal have reported that the thunder squall has affected 18 villages in three blocks of Midnapore district in West Bengal. According to the State Government, about 30,000 persons, 5,702 houses and 2,569 hectares of cropped area have been affected, besides loss of 48 human lives and 1,583 cattle heads. About 1,200 persons have been injured.

India Meteorological Department is the concerned Department for forecasting and warning about such natural calamities. According to the IMD, during this part of the year, north-east India generally experiences thunder squalls which are severe local weather phenomena known as Nor'wester or "Kal Baisakhi" which are characterised by very strong winds that tend to reach 200 km. per hour sometimes, but for a very short duration hardly lasting about fifteen minutes and sometimes over a limited area, say, 20 kms. Here it may be explained that it is not a tornado. Tornadoes are very violent phenomena usually having a funnel shaped cloud which sucks objects on the ground resulting in severe damage. Tornadoes are very uncommon over India. According to the 'IMD, the situation over north-east India has been currently favourable for occurrence of thunder-squalls. Warnings were issued to AIR and Doordarshan and State Government officials by IMD offices at New Delhi, Calcutta and Bhubaneswar about the likelihood of occurrence of thunder-squalls over these areas on 23rd and 24th March, 1998. But, thunder-squalls, are very sudden developments which do not provide enough lead time for precise fore-warnings of their location and time of occurrences.

The hon. Prime Minister was informed in the evening of 24th March about this calamity. PM directed us to visit the affected areas in both the States to assess the extent of damage and ascertain the requirements of resources and other assistance that may be required to be provided to the State Governments by the Government of India. Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri K. Swain, hon. Members of Parliament from Midnapore and Balasore constituencies respectively were requested to accompany me. Shri Indrajit Gupta was somehow unable to come...(Interruptions) Kumari Mamta Banerjee, hon. Member of Parliament accompanied me in the mission along with Shri K. Swain. Another high level delegation led by Shri Naveen Patnaik, hon. Minister for Steel and Mines had also visited the affected areas on 26th March, 1998.

We reached Kalaikunda airstrip at 12 noon on 25th March, 1998 and proceeded to the affected areas in Dantan Block of Midnapore district of West Bengal and Jaleswar Block of Balasore district of Orissa. During the course of our visit, we met the affected people and visited the injured persons in the hospitals. In West Bengal, the team was unable to obtain any comprehensive information about the extent of damage to houses crop, livestock, etc. The DM, Midnapore, however, presented a list on affected villages. In Sarta village of Dantan block, which is probably one of the worst affected, the team saw no evidence of any rescue and relief operations by the local administration till then...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : Why are you telling all these things? You should concentrate on the relief work being undertaken.

SHRI SOMPAL : Drinking water was also a serious constraint. Tarpauline were provided by the local administration to some of the effected families for temporary shelters.

In Orissa, the team visited Gobarghata village in Jaleswar block where collapse of the school wall and thatched roof of building of upper primary and middle school caused death of thirteen students on the spot and the teacher later in the hospital. The team saw food being cooked by some volunteers of NGO's ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Only the speech of the Minister will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SOMPAL : The team found that relief and rescue operations were conducted with greater speed and efficiency; the report and documentation was also comparatively much more comprehensive and complete. Villagers told that policemen came to the villages to conduct rescue operations within two hours of the incident. Cremation of all the dead took place within a reasonable time after post-mortem...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is making a statement. Please listen to him first.

SHRI SOMPAL : The members of the public expressed their satisfaction with the relief efforts undertaken by the local administration in close cooperation with NGOs and village community. We also felt that this praise was well deserved ...*(Interruptions)*

20.00 hrs.

In three villages which were hardest hit by Kal-Baisakhi, according to the latest reports of the Government of Orissa, the total human casualties were

22, of which 13 were school children and there was a casualty of 17 livestock. Out of 2,000 houses, 200 were completely damaged and 1,500 were partially damaged; more than 1,000 coconut trees and 350 jackfruit trees were uprooted. The team also met the patients admitted in Jaleswar hospital. For treatment of serious injuries, 19 patients were admitted to Balasore hospital and three sent to Cuttack Medical College.

Hon. Members are aware that as per the existing system State Governments are responsible for undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). The Government of India and the State Governments contribute the CRF in the ratio 3:1. The Government of India releases its share in four equal quarterly instalments automatically. In case there is a shortage of fund in the corpus of the CRF, the concerned State Government can request for advance release of the Central share of the CRF or meet the expenditure from on-going Plan programmes.

An amount of Rs. 51.72 crore, consisting of Rs. 38.79 as Central share, to Orissa and an amount of Rs. 54.16 crore, consisting of Rs. 40.62 crore as Central share, to West Bengal have been allocated in the CRF for the year 1997-98. The entire Central share has been released...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : How much has been released?

SHRI SOMPAL : The entire Central share has been released.

According to reports received from the State Governments, an amount of Rs. 8.12 crore was available as 'unspent' with the Government of Orissa and an amount of Rs. 31.92 crore was available with the Government of West Bengal as 'unspent'. The Government of India have released in advance the Central share of the first quarterly instalment of 1998-99 of Rs. 10.19 crore to Orissa and Rs. 10.67 crore to West Bengal from the CRF to augment their resources for extending relief to the affected persons.

As I mentioned earlier, the primary responsibility for providing relief to the people affected by natural calamities is that of the State Governments concerned. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing additional resources in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time.

During 1997-98, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reported losses on account of landslides, lightning, floods, cyclones, hailstorms, droughts, earthquakes and pest attacks. The Government

* Not Recorded.

of India is seeking detailed reports from these States...*(Interruptions)*

Keeping in view the long term perspective, the State Governments are required to create in-built mitigation and preventive measures in their Plan schemes. At the Government of India level, different Ministries and Departments are implementing various programmes and schemes for long term mitigation and prevention of natural calamities. These include the Drought Prone Areas Programme, the Desert Development Programme, the Technology Mission on Drinking Water by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, the National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas, the Soil Conservation in Catchments of River Valleys Projects and the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers Projects by the Ministry of Water Resources.

A National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) has been constituted from 1995-96, based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, for providing the assistance to the States in the wake of calamities of rare severity...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : He is not talking about the relevant issues.

SHRI SOMPAL : An additional amount of Rs. 120.00 crore has been allocated during the year 1997-98 in the NFCR...*(Interruptions)*

This Fund is managed by a National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC), a Sub-Committee of the National Development Council, headed by Agriculture Minister and consisting of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, two Union Ministers and five Chief Ministers as members, to be nominated by the Prime Minister annually on rotation basis...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.
...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You also know the position. The hon. Minister is making a statement. Please listen to him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL : NCRC, based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of Inter Ministerial Group thereon, decide whether calamity can be treated as a calamity of rare severity and approves the quantum of assistance from NFCR.

I can assure the Members of the House that no effort will be spared to assist the people of the affected areas in this time of suffering on account of this natural calamity...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please listen to the hon. Minister.

* Not Recorded.

20.07 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER : Please go to your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is on his legs. Please listen to him.

...*(Interruptions)*

20.09 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker. Sir, friends from the Opposition want to know the real position. In this case, two delegations have visited that area. One was led by the Minister of Agriculture whereas the other was led by Shri Naveen Patnaik. So, I would request you to allow Shri Patnaik to lay his Report on the Table of the House which is a unanimous Report of all the Members who have accompanied him.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, if you may recollect, you may remember that when you were in the Chair, the hon. Prime Minister made a commitment on that day that he would talk to the States and get the information by Monday. But today's statement does not carry any information...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, you are a senior Member. Please understand that rules do not permit for a discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You may remember that the Prime Minister made a commitment that day that he would get the information by Monday. Today is Tuesday. This statement does not carry any information. That is not correct, Sir.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : There was a specific commitment from the hon. Prime Minister that he would collect the information from the respective States and give the detailed information to the House. So, it was his responsibility to collect the information. I do not know whether he has collected it or not. If the information was collected, why is it not placed before the House?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is all, Sir.

[Translation]

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, some information has been collected
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR That is not
here...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It contains other
statements also...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The Government must have
received information from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar
Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bihar...(Interruptions)

[English]

But there is no information about them in this
statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That is about Orissa. But
you said that you would collect information from other
States like Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is making a
statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir,
it has never been the practice in this House that a
report is read out by a Minister who has visited the
place. It is the concerned Minister who makes a
statement. We expect the Minister of Agriculture to make
a comprehensive statement on the promise made by
the hon. Prime Minister...(Interruptions)... But what is it
that Shri Naveen Patnaik going to read? How can a
report be laid by him in this House? It has never been
done like this in this House. At no point of time had it
been done like this in this House. Why should he read
his statement now? It is the concerned Minister who
makes a statement always...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me first.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : He cannot read his report.
Only the concerned Minister should lay it on the Table
of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, are you laying the
report on the Table?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI
NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Sir, I will take only two minutes
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to take two minutes?
All right. Hon. Members, please hear him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He will take only two minutes.
Please take your seats. He is not going to read.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, do you want to lay the
report on the Table?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, rather than his report
being read out here, the hon. Prime Minister may ask
his Minister to make a comprehensive statement
alongwith action taken, if not today, sometime later. But
this is not the way, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : This is of no avail. This
had not been done in the House at any point of time.
Sir, you are setting a wrong convention...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I would like
to say something on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER : How is it possible? He is already
speaking from your party and again, you are asking for
an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I may
be allowed to make a statement as I am from the affected
constituency. I am from Balasore. You may kindly allow
me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please take your seat first. No
further clarifications.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Bapatla) : Sir,
whenever a natural calamity takes place, it is the practice
that the Ministers will go to the place and report back
to Parliament immediately. No report is a prepared one.
After that, a Central team has to go and assess the
damage immediately and report it. Then the relief will
go there.

In the meanwhile, he is not able to inform the House
properly as to what is the seed money that is available
in each State. By March-end, that might have been
completed...(Interruptions) What is the amount that has
been given immediately by the Central Government?
He is giving an advance from the share of the next year.
That is not the Central help. The help from the Central
Government is different. The Central help can be
assessed only after the team goes there.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed
to clarify the position...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to
bring a point to the notice of the Government. In order
to assess the actual damage after every calamity, a
Central team of experts, including officials, who can

* Not Recorded.

really assess the damage, used to go to the place to assess the damage and report. Then, the relief is to be released.

Firstly, what I want to know is whether the team sent out by the hon. Minister is the Central team which is meant to be so.

If it is not so, when will you send the Central team?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL : Please allow me to clarify the position...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No clarification. Prof. Kurien, please conclude now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has said that a statement would be made on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)* Please let me complete it...*(Interruptions)*. If the hon. Minister has made a statement on behalf of the Government, how can another Minister be allowed to make a statement on the same subject? That is what I want to know.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, here is a small clarification...*(Interruptions)* After the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission these have been accepted by the National Development Council and all the States — this has been made a responsibility of the States to tackle such problems...*(Interruptions)* There is a regular system and 3:1 ratio is sent to the States. In the case of calamities of extraordinary and rare severity, special teams are despatched after the demand is received from the States.

This information is being collected from all the States which I have mentioned in my main statement and the amounts which have been released for the natural calamity. I have got a statement. If you want me to read out, I can do so. It is a long statement for all the States...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : How much amount was released for Maharashtra?

SHRI SOMPAL : Why Maharashtra and why not for all the States?...*(Interruptions)* In the case of Maharashtra, the amount released was '53.98'.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMPAL : It will go on unnecessarily.

MR. SPEAKER : No clarification please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia Basudeb, you are aware of the position about the rules. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : A report was submitted by an all-party team...*(Interruptions)* We raised this issue

on the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)* That team was sent by the Government, that is by the Prime Minister. They visited the areas...*(Interruptions)* We want to know about that report...*(Interruptions)* That report should be laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, this is with regard to the conduct of one of the hon. Members of the House. It is very bad on the part of the Member to have done so. The hon. Member should behave well in the House. It was very bad on his part going to the hon. Ministers and to the Treasury Benches side. It is not good on the part of the Member to do so. I am going to name Shri Sunil Khan.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, I am sorry.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has expressed sorry for that and so the matter may be closed now.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes in view of his expressing sorry, the matter is closed.

20.21 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

(English)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members you have transacted vital business since the 23rd of this month. Succession of the new Government to office has been confirmed by this House smoothly. The House also rose up to the expectations of the country in transacting and completing the financial business so as to enter the new financial year without any hassle.

Further, the House has adopted today the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address delivered by the hon. Rashtrapatiji consistent with its traditions. I was immensely helped by all hon. Members of the House in my task. My sincere thanks to all of you. Let us now look forward to the full Budget Session.

Now, the tune of *Vande Mataram* will be played.

20.21½ hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

20.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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