

[Smt. Dil Kumari Bhandari]

a bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI : I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

JUDGES (INQUIRY) AMENDMENT BILL  
(Amendment of section 3)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a bill further to amend the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

*The motion was adopted.*

15.34 1/2 hrs.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL  
(Amendment of section 166)

[English]

SHRI P.C.THOMAS (Muvattapuzha): I

beg to move for leave to introduce bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRIP.C.THOMAS: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)  
(Insertion of new part XIA)  
by Shri Chitta Basu

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Following motion moved by Shri Chitta Basu on the 13 th March, 1992, namely:-

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted for this Bill was three hours. The time already taken two hours and 30 minutes; 30 minutes remained to be taken.

Shri Nitish Kumar was on his legs last time.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Chitta Basu for bringing forward a constitution (Amendment) Bill, in the House in public interest. Its object is to confer constitutional Status on both the National Development Council and the planning commission for the planned development of

the country. The Bill provides for the appointment of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers of all the States as Chairman and Members respectively of both the bodies.

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

It has been observed that with the change of the Government at the Centre the Planning Commission is always reconstituted. The Planning Commission was reconstituted thrice in the last two years and four times the Eighth Five year Plan was redrafted over the same period. These changes occurred during the regime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar and Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. The Planning Commission was set up through a general gazette notification. Had the Planning Commission been conferred with the constitutional status then a term for it would have been prescribed before which the reconstitution would not have been possible. At present on political grounds the fate of the Members of the Planning Commission is decided. It is correct that the winning party who forms the Government win the elections on the basis of its manifesto and it has got its own policies and programmes and these policies and programmes from the basis of planning in the country. Though apparently, it seems to be reasonable yet it has been decided that planned development approach will be adopted in the country. No political party in the country is against the adoption of the approach of planned development. On many an issue national consensus has been arrived at in the country. Since India is known for its diversity that's why any unilateral move on the part of the centre can prove to be disastrous for the country. Therefore, even in the matter of planning some sort of broad national consensus should be evolved. Though it is correct that the Planning Commission holds discussions with the State

Government's representatives and the Chief Ministers. However, now it is being observed that the Planning Commission is not playing its role independently in providing guidelines on planned development rather it is dancing on the tunes of the Ministry of Finance and the Central Government. All the Chief Ministers are called to the Planning Commission to plead their cases. The decisions are taken on political basis by giving least importance to the view points as well as the needs of the State Governments. The Governments of the opposition ruled States are taken to task by the centre. In this way many problems are cropping up. With the change of the Government at the Centre, the Planning Commission is reconstituted. Therefore, the Planning Commission has no such right as it should have got.

Thus the Planning Commission has lost its independent identity and has become a puppet in the hands of the Central Government. On the other hand, it has become a tool of the Central Government to harass the State Governments rather than Planning body. Therefore, I support the Constitution (amendment) Bill on the ground that providing the constitutional status to the Planning Commission will pave the way for the representation of the State Governments on it for the purpose of discussions. During the discussion it has also been mentioned to provide the Constitutional status to the National Development Council also. By obtaining his status the council will decide the approach of the plan and also fix the targets for the future plan. On these basis the Planning Commission will function.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now the situation of the country has changed. Those days have gone when there used to be one party Government for long. From now on wards the Governments will go on changing. It is good sign for the democracy. It reflects the maturity of our democracy as well as of our voters. The public does not intend to give

enough time to the Government to produce results. The public now want the Government to be tested on the basis of development and public welfare. In such a condition the Planning Commission should have a permanent status so that the welfare of the country may get the priority over the interests of the party. The experts will continue to formulate plans on the basis of targets fixed by N.D.C. on the basis of national Consensus. This will facilitate the Planning Commission to formulate and implement its plan and schemes on the basis of the suggestions given by the Chief Ministers in the meetings of the NDC and there will be no uncertainty in respect of the tenure of the members. Thus the members will remain in their posts for the period of five years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prevailing situation in the society is that the people fear to annoy the persons who appoint them and never dare to disobey them. The Government has the power to remove people anytime and that's why the members of the Planning Commission who are highly educated just demonstrate their skills in flattery instead of showing their dexterity in other fields. I do not want to pinpoint anyone for this state of affairs and just want to apprise the House of the same. The Planning Commission just toes the line of the Central Government instead of examining the genuine demands of the States. In the circumstances the Bill introduce to provide constitutional status to the Planning Commission through this constitutional amendment is quite reasonable.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out one more thing regarding the provision appointing the hon. Finance Minister as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. I think it is not at all justified. Since the Hon. Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Planning Commission, the Deputy Chair-

man should be a known economist, trusted by all, supported and helped by a team of talented persons who should work for the planned development of the country in conformity with the decisions of the NDC and the true picture of the development should be presented before the country. They should not only formulate the plans but its implementation should also be monitored. Now-a-days the meetings of the NDC have become customary because suddenly the meeting of the NDC is convened and the documents relating to planning are kept before the NDC which approves it without any deep discussions. As a result no concrete decision comes out of the meetings. Whatever exercises are made by the Planning Commission are approved by the N.D.C. This sort of mere formality is not at all proper and particularly when the situation of the country is complex. While supporting this Bill I request Shri Chitta Basu to rectify the clause regarding the appointment of the Deputy Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has always been repeating that he wants to run the country on the basis of national consensus. If he is really interested to run the country on the basis of nation consensus, he should try to take the country along on the issues on which national consensus has been arrived at and not on the issues where there is disagreement.

We have to proceed ahead on the path of socialism. We have to ensure our own development and uplift the poor above the poverty line. We will have to see that people depended less on agriculture. We have to provide employment to maximum number of people who are unemployed now and ensure accelerated development of the country. We must develop and become self-reliant so that not only we are able to lead the country but also take leadership of the Third World countries. The Government must pass the Bill if it wants to save the people from the monopoly of certain countries and to make

India self-reliant through development. The remaining shortcoming can be removed by constituting a Select Committee. Every issue can be discussed in this committee. The spirit behind the introduction of the Bill must be honoured. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA ( Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on the Bill that has been moved in Parliament has been going on for the last two days. I intently listened to the first part. I must thank Shri Chitta Basu for whom this serious subject could be discussed in this august House. There are two aspects in the objectives of the Bill. First, a provision to make a constitutional amendment should be made in the Bill so that the National Development Council and Planning Commission could be given statutory recognition and the work could be accomplished through constitutional means. I am sorry for one thing and that is despite moving a good Bill in the House they stretched their discussion from constitution upto U.S.A. There after , they dealt with World Bank and I. M.F. Along with constitution, emphasis was laid on all other matters. This indicates that their real objective was not to give constitutional validity but to cast aspersions on particular party by giving it a political colour through political manoeuvrings. I oppose this move, I understand that a time has come when a new thrust should be given to the working of Planning Commission and National Development Council. Because after independence, when only one party ruled both in the States and at the centre, it was easy to take decisions in the Planning Commission or National Development Council. Today the scenario has changed because different Governments rule different states and in the Centre too during the last two years a third Government has assumed power as the Government of our party. Keeping this in view it is felt that constitution of the Planning Commission and National Development Council should be done by holding discus-

sions at the national level and they should be accorded constitutional validity accordingly. I feel that if the Prime Minister convenes an all party meeting, a decision on how to constitute them in the right perspective can be taken alongwith deciding the implementation of the ongoing in the country. With that a unanimous decision on fixing the priorities of the schemes could be taken.

Similarly, I have a feeling that in the present circumstances a consensus should be reached while deciding the priorities of the nation instead of fixing individual priorities by individual parties. It is essential to hold discussions and seek opinions of each and every party.

The mover of this Bill, Shri Chitta Basu has rightly said that generally the Prime Minister becomes the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Deputy Chairman is selected from among the economists. Till date we have observed that a person who has knowledge of financial systems and plans is appointed as the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. If we look at the previous records we can see that our First Five Year Plan started with a budgetary provision of barely Rs. 2400 crores in constraint to the budgetary provision of Rs. 2 lakh crore in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The development of the country has become possible as a result of five year plans and we have become self reliant in agriculture sector owing to facilities provided in these plans, the priorities of which were fixed by the Planning Commission. Our Coal, steel and agricultural production has increased spectacularly. There has been enormous progress in agriculture marked progress has also been seen in other sectors and industries. Undoubtedly, we have made progress in all sectors of Planning. I want to say that there are no drawbacks in this financial system. It cannot be said that this system is not successful. You will have to agree that every party has an election manifesto and it is the

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sole responsibility of that party to fulfil the commitments made in the manifesto when it assumes power. The party in power takes steps to fulfil the commitments made to the people in terms of various plans. As such, we should keep this aspect in mind that any party which assumes power is elected by the mandate of those people whom the party had made certain commitments in its election manifesto. If the party is not extended support for execution of the plans and given the right to run the financial systems, no party can fulfil its responsibility and implement the plans.

As such we should keep in mind the priorities and necessities of the country. When different parties assume power in the State and the changes that take place in the centre several times, we have to find out a system through deliberations regarding the assistance and right that should be given to the party which has assumed power for fulfilling the commitments it had made before the people.

In this regard, I consider it essential that in today's circumstances whenever financial system or any plan is considered for implementation, the support and assistance of other parties which are in power in the States should necessarily be taken. If it is not done, the centre will face many problems because no plan or financial system in the interest of the country can be implemented in the right perspective if the centre adopts its own ways and the State Governments their own in a manner which suit them.

I can see merit in the provisions of Bill that has been moved in this august House. There are many good provisions in it. As such, the Government should taken them into consideration.

Since it is a Private Member, Bill introduced by an hon. Member from the Oppo-

sition, it should not be thrown away lock-stock and barrel. Its contents should be discussed minutely in the interest of the country and I think Shri Chitta Basu and several other hon. Members have talked of the I. M. F. and the World Bank. He should not mix this issue with it and assuage its seriousness. He has introduced it in a nice manner. Its seriousness should not be assuaged by making references to foreign banks.

When he makes such references, others start realising that he criticises the Government only. Therefore, I would like to say that he has done a good job by giving us an opportunity to discuss this issue and draw the attention of the House to it. He should urge upon the Government on this issue keeping in view the interest of the country, irrespective of party affiliations, we all shall stand by him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and with these words, I conclude.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: (Kota): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to provide the Planning Commission a constitutional status, the senior-most hon. Member of the House Shri Chitta Basu has moved this Bill in the form of a Private Members' Bill to amend the Constitution.

It is true that the nation had envisaged that the country would proceed in accordance with a specific planning and its good results began to appear in the country. Unfortunately, our planning met several obstacles from time to time and it began to appear that we have, perhaps abandoned our Five Year plans. After the '70s it appeared in the country that we have abandoned our Five year plans and due to this, the progress came to a standstill at times. Even today, the Eighth Five Year Plan, which should have been started as per scheduled time, could not be started, and again we are going to have a discussions it from the current month.

It is very strange that the purpose of which we set up the Planning Commission do not appear to be projecting that very purpose. Therefore, the former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Shri Ramkrishna Hegde had expressed his views and said that the Planning Commission should definitely be given a constitutional status and the country should progress through it, but in the meantime the Government changed, Shri Ramkrishna Hegde resigned and he could not put his own concept before the country and the Government of his party as well. The new Government came and it seems that it has given up that concept of granting a constitutional status to the Planning Commission. I am also of the opinion that the country has almost given up the procedure of preparing development schemes of the country through the Planning Commission. It appears that the market oriented schemes, the changes in economy and all other arrangements have not been taken up with the hon. Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri Pranab Mukherji.

16:00 hrs.

This concept was placed before the country straightway. When we constituted the Planning Commission and on that basis decided upon a specific policy, there was no other reason to present all these opinions before the Planning Commission and formulate a different policy. It is the misfortune of the country that it has left such concept and there is new economy before us now. I submit that while we are going to grant constitutional status to several commissions, though a group of the country does not approve of such status to minority, majority commission, yet the country is going to grant it constitutional status.

16:01 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

We are going to grant constitutional status to the Women Commission, also. While constituting the Planning Commis-

sion, the renowned persons with expertise in policy and rules as well as intellectuals of the country should also have been included in it. The Five year plans chalked-out by the Planning Commission and the statistics it places before the country are not implemented in time. Commissions have been appointed in several countries but no where such situation has arisen that the targets fixed by the Planning Commission are not achieved in five years. What is the reason that despite the decision taken by the Planning Commission to eliminate unemployment within a specified period, the unemployment could not be eliminated.

Today the shape of economy in the country is that while one State has become rich, the other has been reduced to poverty. Foreexample, even today Eastern Uttar Pradesh is a backward area. The Planning Commission may take these things into account while allocating funds.

The desert in Rajasthan is a big problem in itself. The Planning Commission never took the issue of combating the problem of the Rajasthan desert seriously. My submission is that when all the figures are available with the Planning Commission, the Chief Minister also should take these things seriously while discussing these issues.

I support the Amendment Bill moved by Shri Chitta Basu for granting the Planning Commission a constitutional status.

[*English*]

SHRI SYED SHAHBUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I broadly agree with the respected colleague Shri Chitta Basu and particularly with his linking the Preamble of the Constitution, the social and economic objectives of the Constitution with the process of planning. But it is rather ironical, Mr. Chairman, that he has come with this Bill, just a day too late, at a moment in our history when the Nehruvian framework of planned development is being abandoned and we are being thrown to the wolves, to the forces of the market. But,

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whatever it be, there cannot be any question that a developing society, in order to move forward, needs a planned course of development. Particularly in a country of our vastness, of our plurality and at the same time, of our segmentation, of the great inequalities in terms of class, in terms of levels of technology and in terms of the rural-urban divide, we cannot possibly obtain a uniform development of the entire country, of all its people without deliberation and without consideration and, therefore, without planning the course of development.

Sir what does development planning mean in its essence? It first means the definition of national objectives. Then it means a definition and consolidation of the available resources for development not only in terms of money, but also in terms of manpower. It also means the executed and monitoring of the implementation process. It also means a question of accountability for the results achieved.

Now, Sir, as a nation I think these are very close to consensus our national objective, that is to say, the objective of our national planning is first to remove poverty and second, to bring down inequality disparity. Everything also follows. For these two we have got to go into the question of production and distribution, we have to go into the question of investment on priorities and finally of reducing the inter-regional and inter-gareup disparities from time to time so as to envision whether the process of development is indeed being effective and taking us forward in the achievement of our national goals.

Sir, inequality, if left to itself, can never lead to equality. Inequality aggravates inequality because there cannot possibly be any equality of opportunity among unequals and therefore, a guiding hand is necessary and that is why I said the country does need deliberation and does need a purposive action, does need a sympathetic view of the totality of the national situation in order to

see who is to be brought up and who is to be kept down in order to bring about a certain levelling process. Unfortunately, Sir, the planning process in our country has been subjected to political changes as has been pointed out by many of our friends despite the consensus about the national approach that I have just mentioned.

Sir, on the one hand the Planning Commission in executive terms is an attached or subordinate office. On the other hand, perhaps because of that it has been converted into a pliable and ever-ready instrument in the hands of the centre to maintain a regime of centralisation, to maintain a regime of autocratic control over the States.

Now my point, Sir, is that this centralisation, can never bring about equality—and it is one of the reasons why we have not been able to achieve the equality that we have been seeking.

Sir, my friends here have mentioned the darbars held by the Planning Commission, Chief Ministers lining up with a begging bowl for being allocated their Central share. Every year we see the pathetic sight. They are being given their dessert as if that money did not belong to their States. In fact, Sir, the concept of a 'federation' meant that the resources are being collected for distribution to the wider nation, that the Central Government is largely acting in behalf of the country as a whole, which consisted of so many States and so many Union Territories in order to consolidate and collect resources in a planning manner. But on the other hand, as I said, it became like a super government. And not only that, Mr. Chairman, the Planning Commission, the way it has been functioning, became an obstacle in the process of development. So many thousands of Central schemes and Centrally sponsored schemes were brought into being, some of them would not deserve consideration as they were macro schemes, mini schemes are merely token schemes. Some of them were just politically motivated, they could not possibly make any dent towards attaining the objectives that we have adopted

*(Insertion of new Part XIA)*

for ourselves as a nation and yet, each one of those schemes meant that the Central could dictate terms to every single State at every stage of the game and therefore, in that sense, the Planning Commission itself became an obstacle and a hurdle in the process of development.

Mr. Chairman, my contention is that in a country of our size, there cannot be total planning, there cannot be centralised planning only at one single point. Decentralisation is a must; decentralisation, not only in terms of allocation of financial resources, but also in terms of delegation of authority and in terms of devolution of power right down to the Panchayat level. If, in fact, we are planning for the people then to the people in that case, the Planning process must go down, must not be concentrated in the Centre, must not only go down to the State Capitals, it must go down further, it must go down to the block level, it must go down to the Panchayats, to the people themselves who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of the planning Process. And therefore, a role can be devised for the Planning Commission, a role to define the national objectives, the principles for the distribution of the national income and resources and perhaps, formulation of certain model schemes to be adopted at various levels of authority that I shall define subsequently at their option and at their will. The multiplicity of the schemes must go and if a scheme is to be implemented right down at the grassroot level, at the rural level, then the power of implementing it, the Power of executing it, the Power of controlling it must not rest with the Centre. The Centre is too far away and therefore, the present regime of corruption and the present system of leakages shall never end. You will allot from here Rs. 100/- and finally you shall have at the grassroot level, at the ground level real investment of only Rs. 25/-, nothing more than that; you may be lucky if you get Rs. 25/- in terms of the value of the actual concrete results achieved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to touch one more point. The formulation of the plan itself is defective. It has been traditionally

defective; sitting here in Delhi, they arbitrarily make out so many miles of roads are to be built, so many schools are to be constructed, so many CHULAS are to be introduced, so many this and so many that, without any reference to the actual felt needs of the people at the grassroot level. What do the people they want for themselves? I have been roaming around the countryside, Mr. Chairman, for the last 10 years and I have come to feel that the people regard these schemes as a waste, people do not want these schemes.... People want water, people want electricity, people want schools and people want roads. People want basic things. People want drinking water and here we are telling them, 'No, you do not need drinking water, but you should have toilet facilities. No, you should not have school buildings, you need bus stands' Yes, we also need bus stands, but at a later stage of the game. First we must construct roads. Therefore, the entire process has become topsy-turvy. Instead of starting the planning process from the top, Mr. Chairman, the entire process has to be completely reversed. The pyramid has to be turned upside down. I want a village plan for every single human habitation and then a Panchayat plan as a module and then by bringing together these modules and adding an element of what is needed for the block as a whole I would formulate a block plan. Then, by adding up the block plans and adding an element of what / the district needed as a whole, for example, a Teachers' Training Institute, for example, a Vocational Training Centre, we shall have a district plan. Further, by adding the district plans as a whole and then adding an element of what is needed for the State as a whole, we shall come to the State plan and then by adding the State Plan as a whole, one by one, all these bricks put together and then adding a national component to define what is needed for the nation as a whole, we shall come to the national plan. That will be real plan of the country, that will be the real plan for the nation and that will be the plan for the people in which would take into account people's desires, people's aspirations and people's needs and in this manner, we shall be able to mobilise the energies of the



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people the enthusiasm of the people and the will of the people. And this make a success of the planning process, I would like that when Mr. Chitta Basu's statutory Planning Commission comes into being, it shall define its role in this manner: In order to bring about a balanced appreciation of the real the demands at various levels.

I would like that implementation or the execution of each scheme, each programme, each project to be is defined by the five-tier system of planning must be left to the level at which the benefit is to accrue. For example, the number of primary schools have to be built, is a matter the village level the panchayat level. In that case, primary education must be the responsibility of the Panchayat. If the secondary school is to be associated with the blocks, in that case, secondary education planning and must be left to the blocks. They should serve as the planning agencies. They should serve as the execution agencies and the implementation agencies. The implementation agency not only should have funds but also free choice of the projects. Whatever they desire, they can choose. The shelf is open. They are a free customer. Gandhiji said, "Nobody is more important than the customer". The customer will choose freely at his option. He shall have the resources to implement the project. The control shall be provided only by the next higher level and not by distant Delhi, not by the distant-State capital. If it is the primary school plan, it shall be executed by the Panchayat and shall be subject to the control of the block. The block level plan shall be executed by the block and it shall be subject to the control of the district. The district level plan shall be executed by the district and it shall be subject to the control of the State. The State plan shall finally be overlooked by the Centre, not as a matter of intervention or interference on day to day basis but to see that it does fall into the national pattern and does contribute to the achievement of the defined national objectives.

Therefore, I feel that this Bill, reason-

able as it is, useful as it is, has to be supplemented by an —indepth constitutional amendment to bring about what I would call the *panch khamba raj*. A two-tier system but a five-tier system with well defined levels of powers and responsibilities. Therefore, the panchayat level the block level, the district level the State level and the national level have to be defined with their set of power and responsibilities and with a clear share of resources in the total national kitty and a list of subjects on which they shall exercise full authority.

I hope sometime Mr. Chitta Basu will sit down and frame such a bill for us. Today, however, I stand here to support the Bill that the Planning Commission be given a statutory status. I hope, once it is given statutory status in consultation with all the States it shall define a very clear cut role for itself and shall not serve simply as an instrument of intervention at the command of the central Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this Bill ends at 4. 15 P.M. There are a couple of Members to speak and the Minister has to reply.

Shall we extend the time by half- an hour, till quarter to five of the clock. The hon. Members who are going to speak now will restrict the time to about five minutes please.

SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI (Bengaluru) Mr. Chairman, Sir, India has a federal set up and the Centres provides financial aid to various States. The National Development Council, and the Planning Commission are the vital organs through which the financial distribution amongst the States and the Centre takes place.

The Bill brought forth by my learned colleague Shri Chitta Basu to confer constitutional status on the National Development Council and the Planning Commission is a very important and a significant move.

The NDC and the Planning Commis-

sion, as they exist now, are not constitutional bodies. NDC is the highest policy making body of social and economic issues and the Planning Commission is the instrument to implement the direction of the Council.

However, experience shows us that the NDC does not meet regularly and the deliberations made in this meeting are quite insufficient. The deliberations can be said to be mere formalities. There is also hardly any scope to discuss the social and economic problems in the NDC meetings. In a way, NDC finally approves the Draft Plan after the earlier approval by the Centre.

Similarly, in the Planning Commission as well, there is very little scope for discussion on these vital issues. It will not be out of place to highlight our learned Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Pranab Mukherjee's recent declaration on a very important issue involving the private corporate sector's mobilisation of its capital resources. He has rightly observed that a situation where equity was preferred to tax and also where both the investors and savers were willing accept risk in expectation of reward, should be created.

Further, on India's economic policy planning etc., there is much hue and cry and deep concern that India has succumbed to pressures from international financial institutions. If the conditionalities prescribed by the IMF, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank were good for the country, I dare say there is nothing wrong in same accepting them. At the time, it was not these international financial institutions that had inspired our new economic policy but the Congress party's election manifesto which, in turn, was originally piloted by our former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi he had also advocated decentralisation of powers by providing more teeth for decision making at the panchayat level.

Therefore, the suggestion to make NDC and the Planning Commission constitutional bodies with well defined composition and functions by investing definite powers to

make them nodal agencies between the Centre and the various States is, in my opinion, a welcome measure.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Mr Chairman, Sir, it is the need of the hour to discuss the resolution moved by the hon. Member of Parliament. The uncontroversial image of the Planning Commission has been questioned in the last few years and the character of the Planning Commission has changed considerably after it was formed for the first time. In the beginning Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru had remarked that regarding economic matters it should be in the interest of the nation. Then our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi called it a pack of jokers. During the last few years all the appointments have been done on political basis and during this short period it has seen three deputy Chairmen. In such circumstances, it is worth consideration as to how our plans can be implemented. When Planning Commission was constituted, growth rate of Population this country was decided to be restricted to 125% but today it is 2.25%. It means no achievement has been made in this direction so far. When we have been unable to control this problem we must contemplate how we are going to plan our future. The problem of unemployment is on the increase and have failed to provide even the minimum basic needs to the population of our country. We have not been able to provide primary schools in Twenty five percent of our villages and half of our population is illiterate. We are facing such major problems and we will have to see how we can solve these problems. In the context of these problems we should decide the shape of Planning Commission. It is beyond doubt that it has taken a political form today. I do not say that constitutional status should be given to the Planning Commission but I would like to submit that there should be an open discussion on the utility of the planning Commission in view of the prevailing grave problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1992-93 Budget a

[Sh. Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

provision of Rs. 1,000 *per capita* expenditure has been made for Union Territories while every low amount has been allocated for other States such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. Provision has been made for only Rs. 80 *per capita* expenditure for Uttar Pradesh. Similarly for some State it is Rs. 300 *per capita* for others it is Rs. 400 and for some other State it is Rs. 700 *per capita*. In these circumstances, how a uniformity can be maintained. How would these states progress? Government is not taking into consideration the problems of the big States whose projects are at a stand still due to paucity of funds. Even after the passage of forty-four years after independence the shape of Planning Commission is still to be decided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government of different political parties are in power in different States and the Centre wants that certain States governments may not function properly. It should not be allowed. We must decide what system we are going to have in this country and the direction where we want to lead it.

Through you, Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to submit that people of all the political parties should sit and discuss and decide the character of the Planning Commission. Even the Sarkaria Commission has submitted that appointments in the Planning Commission are being made on the political basis since 1980. Only the economic experts should be appointed in Planning Commission but the Government is following the contradictory policy in this regard. After taking over by the new Government, it took eight weeks to constitute the Planning Commission. So our five year plan has lagged behind. We would have to pay attention to these facts and function in a proper order.

In the end, I would like to State that I do not think that the Government would approve the resolution moved by Shri Chitta Basu but it is the need of the hour that an open debate should be organised to decide

the character and nature of the Planning Commission so that it may help the rural India to develop.

I thank you, for allotting me time to speak.

DR. S. P. YADAV (SAMBHAL): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Private Member's Bill brought forward by Shri Chitta Basu is a very appreciable one for the planned development of the country and there are no two opinions in this regard. But is it possible to give practical shape to his proposal? We have been observing that with the change of the Government the Chairman of the Planning Commission is also changed and with this exercise the whole plans undergo a vast change. The plans look rosy only on paper but these plans never take a practical shape.

In Morababad district of Uttar Pradesh, Hasanpur Dam was being constructed. The Engineers constructed 3-4 Thokar Bundhs there in such a way that the major portion of the main dam was washed away by Ganges. Government did not pay any attention. I raised the matter in this House but even then no attention was paid to the matter. Whatever information we could get against the Junior Engineers of Uttar Pradesh, we sent it to Uttar Pradesh Government. I paid a visit to the site of the Dam and came to the conclusion that there was a large scale corruption in the construction of dam. Complaints were made in this regard. The Chief Engineer of the Uttar Pradesh Government, who himself was very corrupt, transferred other Junior Engineers and no action was taken against anybody except these minor transfers. Corruption has reached its peak. In this way the corrupt big officers give minor punishments to their subordinate officers. In the District level meetings we raised a point regarding the misuse of funds allotted for the development of villages under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and pointed out as to how much amount out of the total allocated funds was really spent on rural development and how much was being misused. But nobody pays any attention in this regard. Corruption makes inroads in the plans even before their formulation. Government is not even aware

about the number of plans and the expenditure incurred on them.

It has become very difficult to implement these plans due to growing indiscipline. The hon. Minister has already told the House about the corruption prevailing in Railways. In Moradabad, the DRM has made fictitious appointments. The candidates were appointed on the basis of false experience certificates. This matter has already been taken up and workers are sitting on hunger strike. But the Government is unmoved. What is the good of such a planning?

"Now into the field of education. congratulate the U.P. Government for taking initiative to check cheating in examinations by living in forward a Bill. But is this problem of copying prevalent only in Uttar Pradesh. Even in the Central Schools of Delhi and in I.A.S. examinations the same problem exists. How many plans would be formulated by the government and how would it implement them? I am surprised to note that the double standards are being adopted in the Uttar Pradesh examination centres also. In high school examinations, the rule applies but will it apply in University examinations also, which are going to commence on twenty-fifth. I have my own doubts because no enhancement has been made to this effect. My submission is that planned development of the country is possible only when there is a clear cut draft of the planned development before the Government. It will prevent the Governments and the Chairman of the Planning Commission to implement these plans and programmes without making any changes in them. This is the only way through which the Planning Commission can lay down target for planned development.

We find today that our problem of education is closely linked with the growth of population. The growth rate of population in India is so high that just in one year an addition equivalent to the total number of inhabitants of Australia is made to the certain of our country. this is The situation in our country.

What are our schemes? Has the Government taken any steps to check population growth? Why education is not being included in the Concurrent list? It is a State Subject it should have been included in the Union List. There should be uniformity of education all over the country.

The problem of unemployment is also linked with it. What are the schemes that the Government is formulating for unemployed youth. Today terrorism, extremism and provocative feelings are spreading all over the country. All this is being done by the youth who are unemployed. The country will enter the 21st century with 21 crore unemployed youth in the century. What are the schemes for them? I do not want to say much. But it is a good legislation for the planned development of the country. I support it and demand from the Government to take some effective steps on it so that there could be some development in the country.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitutional Amendment Bill brought forward by Shri Chhitta Basu. I know that if the plans had not been implemented, the country would not have made this much of progress. There was no agricultural development, no factories in such numbers, no roads, and no drinking water in the country when the Britishers left. Jawahar Lal Nehru's effort for the planned development of the country has now bore fruit. This is the reason that the far off hill areas have made some progress. Ours is a small State. The village roads of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh were connected with main roads and the electrification work was expanded. Today Himachal Pradesh is capable of generating 20,000 MW of power. This capacity should be utilised. There was a proposal to construct a canal for Haryana and Punjab and Rajasthan was benefited by it. That work remains incomplete. Haryana has completed its part but there are some difficulties in its completion. A huge amount has already been spent on it. It should be fully utilized and the work should be completed under a time bound programme. All the

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democratic institutions right from the Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Zila Parishads, the Legislative Assemblies up to Parliament are engaged in development work. Each Panchayat receives grants accordingly and prepares schemes. They hold meeting after every six months. The Sarpanch of the Panchayat presents its report to its executive body and then it is considered in block, zila Parishad and Legislative Assembly levels people say that nothing has been done. It means that all this development in the country has taken place automatically. But it is not so. All this development has taken place in a planned way. There is a demand to merge the Development Council with the Planning Commission. It is also alleged that State Chief Ministers are not consulted in the matter of allocation of funds. In fact, the Chief Ministers participate in the meetings of the Planning Commission when the budget is finalised. The funds are allocated as per their demand. A question has also been raised as to why such a huge amount was spent. It is because the Chief Ministers attend the Development Council meetings. Their officials also come with them mostly by aeroplanes and participate in meetings here three to four times a year. But it has been of no use. I would like to make a submission about hill areas. It rains heavily in our areas. Heavy rain causes soil erosion. Sufficient funds should be provided to the State Government to check soil erosion.

There is a campaign in Himaachal Pradesh for taking up afforestation and for increasing land under agriculture. I think that the State Government should be directed from here that it should not involve its party members only in this work. There should be a ban on B.J.P. from forming an association of its own for this purpose.

The State government has started Antyodaya programme. The purpose is to raise the person who is at the bottom and has lost everything. One lakh people have been identified. I don't think that one lakh people

would have been brought under this category. Some officers have been deployed for selection of people. Their M.L. As are also involved in it. These families have been selected on this basis. I think it is not good for the nation. The unemployed people should be identified. Several unemployed people have gone to high court and obtained stay order. I think it is not a party programme, a but national programme and action should be taken to implement it.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur):  
On which subject you are speaking?

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: I am speaking on planning. The hill region in Himachal Pradesh gets more rain. I demand that large tanks should be dug to store water near the villages which lie on the hill, so that greenery can be maintained throughout the year. So far as the question of schools is concerned, the position is that if there are public schools at places, at some others there are ordinary schools.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.  
Your time is over.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI:  
Every effort should be made to provide education to people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the bill which has been brought by Shri Chitta Basu. You are placing your demands. Thank you for raising a matter concerning Haryana.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI :  
I think the hon. Minister will have separate meetings and consult all concerned about the proposal to amalgamate the Planning Commission and the National Development Council a demand for which has been made by several hon Members. I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I support the Bill in principle. I think the issue raised by Chitta Basu de-

serves very serious consideration. Regrettably, indeed tragically, the Planning Commission today is not what it was intended to be. The original concept of the Planning Commission was to have a body of experts. In fact that is why the first planning Commission was de facto headed by Shri V. T. Krishnamachari. In fact there was a talk initially that Pandit Nehru as Prime Minister was disinclined to be the Chairman. The idea was that the Planning Commission must be a body of experts; it must give its opinion as experts, as an independent body and make its recommendations in the best national interests, not in the interest of any one political party or another. That was the whole concept. Panditji was then persuaded to become the Chairman because it was that there must be some linkage with the Government.

In fact initially there was to be no Planning Minister although personally I am very happy that we have a Planning Minister in Shri Bharadwaj. The Planning Minister was inducted only for a very limited purpose. That limited purpose was to be able to answer questions in Parliament relating to the planning Commission. This is what the original concept was. It was not the concept that the Planning Minister would be a separate administrative body, perhaps having some say or otherwise in the Planning Commission. In other words, the basic concept was that it was intended to be a body of experts. At one stage, the concept was again revived and we had Prof. Lakadawala appointed as the Deputy Chairman. Then Dr. Manmohan Singh— he was not in Politics at that time and he was not inducted into public life— was the Deputy Chairman. Therefore, I fully support the Principle, but I do not go along with the details of what my friend Shri Chitta Basu says.

Shri Chitta Basu wants that the Union Minister of Planning shall act as the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. In his own Statement of objects and Reasons he says,

"The Planning Commission has similarly been transformed into an ap-

pendage of the Union government".

If you are going to have the Prime Minister as the Chairman and the Planning Minister and the Deputy Chairman, what else will it be, if it is not to be an appendage of the Union Government? Therefore, we should try and revive the original concept, the original concept of an independent Planning Commission which will plan in the best national interest of the country and not in accordance with any particular ideology.

One other point is that I would like the Planning Commission to have a statutory basis. I would have liked to say much more. But time does not permit. I am very grateful to you for your kind indulgence in allowing me this opportunity. I would also like the Planning Commission to be a statutory body, because I would like the Planning Commission to be able to inform the country adequately with authentic information, authentic facts which we can all accept. Today, we have an extra-ordinary situation where one Government comes in and another goes and out; a second Government comes in and the third Government goes out each Government blames the previous Government for all the economic ills. The country has the right to know as to what the facts are. Today, those facts are not available. Panditji had again thought of setting up, what he called, - the National Statistical body. Something like that should be created or such a body should be there in the Planning Commission so that can have an independent Planning Commission and that it should be able to provide the people with facts that they can trust.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my thanks to hon. Members who have participated in the debated— Shri Chitta Basu, the Mover of the Motion, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, Shri Vadde, Shri Sudhir Giri, Shri Oscar Fernandes, Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, Shri Joshi, Shri

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Syed Shahabuddin, Shri Gopi Nath Gajapati, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Shri Yadav, Shri Krishan Dutt Sultanpuri and lastly Shri Inderjit. (*Interruptions*) I am sorry, Nitish Kumar. I have noted your points also very carefully. (*Interruptions*) I have noted the points raised by all the hon. Members. I would like to put on record that the discussion has been motivated purely by the desire that we should have a very effective planning in the country. Even the Mover, Shri Chitta Basu has said that. He is a very senior Member of this august House, a great parliamentarian, freedom fighter. He is a Member of the Forward Bloc. We know the philosophy of Forward Bloc. They are always faster very dynamic, very vibrant than any other persons. I appreciate when he says that the Planning Commission should be strengthened, it should be made more dynamic. I know that and for some time, I have been working in the Planning Ministry. So, that is the need of the hour. If the planning process in the country is not dynamic, then, the whole system of the Centre-State relations gets affected. Then, the areas demarcated for the States are encroached by the Centre or some areas where the Centre has to make a national policy, the States have an objection that it should not do so. These are the areas where the institutions do not function properly. Planning Commission, National Development Council, as bodies, there is nothing wrong. What is the Planning Commission's constitution? The Prime Minister is the Chairman. No body can deny that when we talk of national planning, the Prime Minister ought to be and should be the Chairman of that body because he is the leader of the nation. Similarly, if the Deputy Chairman is not an economic expert, there is no use of such a person sitting in the Planning Commission. Similarly, there are other Members, and so on. So, nobody disputes this aspect that the constitution of the Planning Commission should be as efficient as possible. I have no hesitation in conceding this aspect.

The second aspect is National Development

Council. The National Development Council also, you will see, is a very very important institution headed again by Prime Minister in which Union Ministers are also Members. All Chief Ministers, along with their Planning Ministers, Governors, Reserve Bank and other important functionaries of the Government and financial institutions also participate. But I do say that the type of deliberations that are required by the planning Commission and by the NDC, they do not get that time, I also concede that planning only two-tier, namely the Centre and the States, is not enough considering the vastness of this country.

I must congratulate Shri Syed Shahabuddin. He has put in more elaborate terms the need of the hour. The need of the hour is we have seen that vast areas of this country are ocean of poverty. Many a time, I face difficulties in this august House to defend this poverty rampant in the country. When the hon. Members put questions to me, I feel that it is time now that we must awake and do something. Otherwise, the poor people will become impatient. Already we have got some sort of impatience being shown in the anger of the people in many places in India. Therefore, I congratulate the hon. Member, Shri Chitta Basu, for having moved this bill because it is time now that we are facing so many economic crisis and other problems. At the same time, I must remind this august House that our planning process, as was pointed out by the mover of the Bill is a product of our Constitution. Our Constitution defines the powers of the centre, States and other institutions like judiciary, executive, legislatures and so on. But one thing is definite that has got a two-tier system of administration. There is a Union Government and there are State Governments. And we must see that the relationship between the State and the Centre always goes on in harmony and it should be projected. When there is a matter relating to planning of a State, it should be the idea of the State that should be given priority. That is what the State wants to do in the State. The Chief Minister is representative of the people. He must be given due respect. His views must

\* be given due respect by the Centre that look, this is what the Chief Minister has, because his party also gets a mandate from the people on their promises made to the people. So, no Planning Commission or any person should neglect or ignore the request of the Chief Minister with regard to the priorities of the State.

But so far as nation is concerned and national perspective is concerned, the Centre must get priority. And it is here the Prime Minister-Central Government's view - must prevail. Administrative Reforms Commission or committees have gone into it. I need not waste the time of the House. They have emphasised like that.

To this extent, if you see, what is needed today? We have seen that there is a tension in the judiciary. We have seen that there is a tension in Parliament. We have seen there is tension in the Planning Commission. There was fortunately no tension in the NDC. I was present. It went on in great harmony. It was unique. Why? I was surprised. People expected fireworks in the NDC. But the Chief Ministers and Prime Minister were aware of the danger the country was facing. So, everybody cooperated. The historic deliberations of the NDC, if I may say so, went on very peacefully with full cooperation from the Chief Ministers, Ministers, and officers. Prime Minister got cooperation from all corners. I must congratulate them because this was the need of the hour. So Sir, if we are really serious, we must give our serious thought to this that the planning process must be made more dynamic. I had studied this issue earlier during my tenure as the Law Minister. I know where is the difficulty. The difficulty is the same that we have become too much centralised. We want to keep everything for ourselves. And bureaucratic snags are also there. I had pointed even then, in the Nagar Palikas and panchayats Bill that once it is in List II, List II must be given respect. Local self-government is the Job of the State Governments. The local self-Government must be administered in the States and Central Government cannot interfere in local self-government and there-

fore, Nagar palikas, panchayats, zila parishads, panchayat samitis or whatever name they are given, should be strengthened. Mahatma's dream of the village republic and village panchy at must be strengthened. I know the problems of the poor rural folk of this country having come from a rural area. How can we plan for them without knowing their problems? We do not know their problems and the problems of the cities and those of the rural areas are totally different. As was pointed out, we have hundreds and thousands of schemes. Why can't we pick up five or ten schemes like drinking water, sanitation programme, education and medical facilities? People would not like to come to cities as they have got their wholesome meals in the village with a good climate to live. Cities are now polluted and so, nobody would like to come to cities for litigation or for medical treatment. What has become of our courts and hospitals? You would not love to live in cities if you will not develop your rural areas. I must congratulate Mr. Syed Shahabuddin. He had actually worked on the problem. Planning must be decentralised immediately. But for that, I do not see what is the efficacy of giving statutory status to the NDC. NDC is more than statutory. It is the product of the Constitution, under the mandate of the Directive Principles. It is the duty of the State to promote this type of social emancipation of the poor masses. If you make it more rigid and bound by a statutory status, then there will be no flexibility.

SHRI Inderjit: Is it not a fact that the Planning Commission today is constituted on the basis of a Government resolution? It is an executive decision. What we want is a statutory resolution.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ: Inderjitji wants a separate article for the planning Commission. I appreciate what you want. You want that a situation like which had been emerging during the last two to three years should not be there. Every year, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and other Members are appointed and then the Government goes; they also became wid-



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ows. If the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission resigns, the Members also resign. That type of a situation should not be there. For two months, I did not have Members of the Planning Commission in my own Ministry. That situation is very bad. I am very happy to see the Planning Minister, I have no say in the working of the Planning Commission. I have adhered to a principle. I have not participated in any deliberations with any State Chief Minister. It is only the Planning Commission which participated. I had been invited. But I adhered to what the Committee headed by Shri R.R. Morarka said. They have suggested that the Planning Minister should keep apart. But I do feel the difficulty of a Minister answering Parliament without knowing what is happening in the Planning Commission. I do know. I have my difficulties but I get the cooperation of the House. They understand that this Minister is a handicap of not being a fullfledged or active Member of the Planning Commission, I am their spokesman in Parliament. That is a great privilege on me. But the question is of developing the institution. If you really want to have development of the institution of planning, then it is time for all political parties to come together and see what kind of planning you want.

17.00 hrs.

Shri Gangwar has just now spoken and I have listened to him very carefully. The solution dose not lie in amending the Constitution. We have amended the Constitution to stop defections. Has it served the purpose? It has not, because political parties have not adhered to the spirit. You must adhere to the spirit of a law, if it were to be properly implemented. If it suits me, I will encourage defections; if it suits you, you will encourage defections. so, where dose it lead to?

To build an institution, what is really needed is courage and dedication. That is the need of the hour and we are all open to discussion. I am quite confident the our

hon. Prime Minister will be ready to discuss this issue with all the political parties because he feels that, keeping in view the enormous problems of the country, it is the job of everybody, to participate in nation building. And planning is a process of nation building. Planning is a process whereby we can wipe the of tear from the eyes of the poor and the weak. Planning is for the poor, whose limbs are weak and who are not in a position to stand on their own. Planning is needed for the poor men in the street. The rich have no problems. This problem has to be addressed by all of us. That is why I say, that if you are really keen on this, devote some more time to it. I do not agree with your philosophy that the historic perspective of planning is given a go by, by participating in negotiations with the IMF and the World Bank. We are members of the IMF and world Bank. I listened to Shri Vaipayee's speech on the other day. This great country cannot be cowed down by any power in the world. This is a country where parliamentary democracy thrives. Our socialism is not like that of Soviet Russia or China. The aim of our democratic socialism is to remove the vast oceans of poverty. The aim of our socialism is to ensure food, clothing and shelter for all. And this is where the integration of the State is required. If we are all equal, there is no need for State intervention. Everybody will have a free market. But free market does not suit those who are backward, under-privileged and down-trodden. A laborer gets Rs. 30 as a minimum wage. If food prices go high in the free market, how can he get a minimum of four or five kilograms of flour with this Rs. 30? This is where the need for public Distribution System through state intervention arises. State will plan in such a way that the poor man gets two square meals a day. That is why we are proud of our national perspective and the planning process in this country is very successful. The moment there is drought, our relief machinery gets into motion. The moment there is a flood, our national machinery gets into motion to flight the calamities.

I quite see that the public sector must not be treated with contempt. The public sector is the saving grace of this country over the last 40 years. We have put our money into the public sector. But we cannot cling to a public sector which is unproductive and which creates budget deficits. If we do not apply our mind to these things, where will our country go? After all, we have to pay through our nose.

Sir, Planning is a conciliatory process between the States and the Center. Since it is in the Concurrent List, the job has to be done both by the States as well as the Center. And I invite Basuji to make some more research on this. Representatives of all the parties—the CPI, the CPI (M), Forward Bloc, BJP—have spoken on this issue and all have spoken very well indeed. I accept the spirit of their arguments. I give an assurance that whenever you want to discuss the issue, we are ready to discuss, so that the process of planning becomes more effective. Ultimately, if it is the wisdom of the House or wisdom of all the political parties that our planning should be given such a shape or that the NDC should meet more and more frequently, well, it is fully acceptable to us. Discussion always leads to better results.

I want you to appreciate one fact. You know that this country has faced many challenges before. Howsoever server they may be, there is no question of our surrendering to any powers. It is a vast country and it is a great country. We are not to be cowed down by anybody in the world. I also say that it is in our own interest to take the present day situation into account. We used to be so proud of our great friend the Soviet Russia. But because of their rigid planning and rigid structure, they broke into pieces. But we are very flexible. The framers of the Constitution brought in the fundamental rights and directive principles. Had we not incorporated the fundamental rights in our Constitution, we would have been like China where even students could shock the nation. But here so many times people come in lakhs and lakhs

an demonstrate at Boat Club, we stand very comfortably before them and listen to their demands. That sort of situation has never arisen in our country. This is because the moment any person lands on the Indian soil, he is given protection under Article 21. This all comes in the planning. I do not want to make it a partisan issue but I would like to say that the freedom movement was essentially led by the Indian National Congress.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: (Barsat) Planning was also a part of it.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Yes, that is why I congratulate you. At the outset it was conceived that planning was necessary for the poor men and that is the commitment even today. No political party says that they do not stand for the poor. All the political parties say that. I would like to have a consensus on this.

Shri Gangwar ji has given a clear signal and I accept it. If you want to have a real democratic planning then you have to take into consideration the views of all. Prime Minister believes in consensus. Many issues on Center-State relations are still pending. This is not the time when I can invite you nor anybody will take my invitation seriously. But, I personally feel that the Center-State relations must be discussed and planning must also be discussed.

I request Basu ji to withdraw it. I have taken note of all the points. When we will discuss all these issues, this will also get more attention.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will, gentlemen, we overshot the time a little bit. The hon. Minister was speaking with such a conviction that I did not feel like interrupting him. Therefore, I request the House to complete the procedural work the time for this Bill be extended by another half-an-hour. The time was extended till quarter to five. Now, we extend the time for this Bill up to 5.20 hours.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Sir, I am thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate. The object of the Bill is very simple. As all the Members have already observed planning is essential for a country of the size of India having multiplicity of cultures, languages and ethnicity. Therefore, we cannot do without a planning system in our country and there has been a complete agreement on this issue. What I have sought is that the planning process being very important and essential and imperative, it must be a part of the Constitution itself.

I quite appreciate when our planning Minister was saying that there is a Bill pending before the House for the amendment of the Constitution for constituting panchayat Raj Nagar palika. Sir, there are different views on it. The panchayat Raj, Local self-Government is within a State List and when the earlier panchayat Bill was before the House, many of us objected on the ground that it was an interference into the State subject. Now, the new Bill is before the joint Select Committee. The purpose is to have the constitutional basis of the panchayat Raj. This is good. This is a welcome move. What shape the legislation will take is a different thing. But I referred to this because an urge was felt that panchayat Raj should have a constitutional basis. A Gram panchayat is also a constitutional body after the amendment of the Constitution. I do not know whether it was 73rd or 74th Amendment.

Sir, if that is the position of the Government, then I have got no quarrel. If you accept the great importance that is attached to the Planning Commission, then it is good. If we attach so much great importance to the Planning Commission, then why don't you give it a constitutional sanctity or constitutional status?

Some hon. Members have pointed out that many Commissions have been given constitutional status. The Finance Commis-

sion is a constitutional body. Then, there are so many Commissions which have been given the constitutional status. My point is that, an important body like the planning Commission should have some constitutional basis. Nothing more and nothing less.

Sir, I think, the Government should not object to that idea. I am sorry to say this. Of course, he has responded well. But, he has also taken firm position which is inflexible that there is no need of providing a constitutional status to the Planning Commission.

**SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ:** May I just clarify the position? It is not a firm attitude at all. I have said that in the gambit of Center-State relations, this issue can also be discussed. When you can make Constitutional Amendment on Panchayat Raj and Zila Parishads, this can also be discussed. After all, this Bill is before the Joint Committee. So, issues cannot be considered in the Private Members Bills. My attitude is that we may need an overall discussion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** I think, the hon. Minister did say that the Prime Minister is ready to discuss it with the Leaders of the Opposition.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** I referred to his remarks only to see that he clarifies his position and a wrong signal is not emitted from here. The Government is willing to consider the proposal. I think, this is the position of the Minister. It is a matter also to be considered in a different situation, in a different forum. There is nothing wrong in it.

Therefore, I feel, the Government should give a proper thinking to the suggestion of having a constitutional basis of this very important institution, like the planning Commission and the National Development Council.

Sir, the matter was succinctly pointed out by the Sarkaria Commission, although

the Sarkaria Commission did not recommend for the constitutional status for the Planning Commission and the National Development Council. But, I would only like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Paragraph 11.743 (page 382) of the Report. "Conclusion; We are, therefore, of the view that being the supreme inter-Governmental body for all matters related to socio-economic development, it is necessary that NDC should remain and re-constituted as National Economic and Development Council by Presidential Order, under the provision of Article 263 so as to have a direct moorings in the Constitution."

At present, the Planning Commission is constituted by an Executive order.

I think there is a difference; I think you will appreciate the difference. At present, the Planning Commission and NDC are constituted under the Executive Order.

Sarkaria Commission has not accepted what I recommend; but it also felt that there should be a constitutional basis. I have always been stressing upon the word 'basis'; and he has mentioned the President can issue an order under Article 263 of the Constitution. This is a recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission. I point it out only to stress upon that. The Commission like Sarkaria Commission has also felt the need of providing some kind of constitutional basis to the Planning Commission. Therefore, I think the Government should think about it in a better way.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I may put all apprehensions to an end. I have said in a very eloquent voice that this is the most favourable time when any issue which concerns nation as a whole, the Government will discuss it with any political party including the Centre-State relation at any given time. Because this issue touches the Centre as well as the States. Even otherwise in the parliament we cannot decide and sit over it

that we are going to have this type of planning Commission or NDC, because it is a concurrent subject, I think nothing better can be said by a Minister on this.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: All right. Thank you very much. You have provided a forum for a discussion of this nature.

So far as other points which have been raised are: one is regarding people's Participation in the Planning. It is only for that purpose I have sought a constitutional status. There has been a question raised regarding decentralisation of planning process. It is for a constitutional status is required.

I am prepared to accept what my hon. Friend, Shri Syed Shahabuddin has suggested that this entire planning process mechanism needs to be restructured, revamped; and for that, everybody is agreeable; we are all agreeable to that suggestion. But the only points is that I sought by this Bill to have a constitutional recognition of this very important Institution.

The hon. Minister has raised a question of China and Russia. I do not criticise it. China has its own problems; they have their own system of planning; they have got their own problems; and they would have to find solution of their own problems.

So far as Russia is concerned, they have their own planning system. Whatever achievements they have made, it is all right; it is open to us; whatever defects were there, they were responsible for them; and we are taking a lesson from them also. My idea is not to say follow China's line or accept Russian line. It is India. We have got our own problems; our problems are Indian problems; and solutions are also to be Indian solutions. Therefore, it is unnecessary, I think it is futile to raise a question what has happened in China, what has happened in Russia; it is immaterial and it is irrelevant, and it is not germane to the subject which is under discussion.

SHRI INDER JIT: We could draw a lesson from China.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: We are drawing a lesson in our own way. Since all sections of the House have expressed their views broadly supporting the principle underlying the Bill, it is a happy moment for me.

It is a happy moment for me that the entire House has given its support. It is for the Government to decide. I am quite alive to my limitations. This is a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. It requires a special majority and in the present composition of the House as it is today, it is also not possible for them to have a Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I have got that little amount of maturity after working for so many years in this august House. Therefore, I will not venture for the Division of the House knowing fully-well the fate of the Bill.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (katwa) : If all the Members were present here the Bill would have been adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Not necessarily. Anyway, I would urge upon the Government to bear in mind the commitment they have made now. At least an arrangement should be made for creating a forum for discussing the future of the planning Commission, the planning process with cooperation and greater understanding between the Centre and the States in so far as the planning process is concerned. I hope that the Government will make appropriate response to this and I, with your permission, withdraw this Bill.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I withdraw the Bill.

17 23 hrs.

### CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)  
By Shrimati Dil kumari Bhandari

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We now go to the next item, Item No. 11. This is again a Constitution (Amendment) Bill moved by Shrimati Dil kumari Bhandari . The time allotted for this Bill is two hours and there are a number of speakers. Therefore, I request all the speakers to kindly make very, very brief speeches.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): The day on which voting on the Bill takes place, I request the Government to issue a whip asking all the Members to be present and vote on this Bill. We will also do the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which Bill?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: This Bill, the present one about inclusion of the Nepalese language in the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How do you presume that they will not make their Members available?

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Because in the case of a private Member's Bill, what happens is, even when the Government is in agreements, all that it says is to announce in the House that it is willing to move a Bill of that kind on its own as an official Bill. In this case, I am sure if you see the content of the Bill you will agree that it is very limited. If the Government can make up

its mind, it is quite possible that this Bill itself can be adopted. There has been just one precedent perhaps, shri Feroze Gandhi's Bill, which was an unofficial Bill, and which was accepted by the Government and incorporated in the statute book.

Similarly, in this case, if the Government makes up its mind that can be done. It is necessary because it is a Constitution Amendment Bill and the required majority has to be there. The requisite strength has to be there. It will always be a Friday on which this Bill will be considered. So, unless the Government takes it up and we also, the various political parties also take it up, it cannot be done. There is complete unanimity on this. Then, a second process for the Government bringing in a fresh Bill would not be necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a precedent to that effect.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do appreciate the views and sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition and my hon. friend Shri Saifuddin Choudhury. I can assure them that the Government would no way be lacking in so far as the requisite necessary presence of Members in the House to keep the House functioning.

I think as Advaniji has said, there is a general feeling and unanimity on this issue. We can discuss about it. There is enough time for that. We can work out the procedure. But there is no need for us to ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I am sure that adequate presence of Member will be there for the Quorum. But the Leader of the Opposition wanted to know whether this Bill would be converted into a Govern-

ment Bill. You can discuss about that matter.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Let us not create any debated at the present moment... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We cannot jump the gun. We cannot decide on this at this stage.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I said very clearly that there is enough time for us to work out on this... (Interruptions)

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support your view that we should not jump the gun. Certain views have been expressed about unanimity. I am not so terribly sure about the unanimity because the Constituency from where I come has a particular view in the matter. And therefore I do think that we ought to have a full-fledged discussion first the Government should make up its mind, then I do not think we should push the Government into a position that it should mobilise all its strength to adopt a Bill which has not yet been discussed.

MR. Chairman, how long are we sitting today?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Upto 6 O'Clock. "Now, Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I Beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Before I go into my formal speech, I would like to speak in Nepali which is understandable by all the people who speak Hindi.

[Translation]

"Bhasha Ho sabhyata Hamro, Sara

[Smt. Dil Kumari Bhandari]

Udai Unnati, Jeet Valbhav, vachhdan,  
Bhasha Me pchisamm Yee".

It means that language is our culture. Our progress depends on it and our victories and prosperity will continue to live in it.

With this perspective, I am going to introduced this private Member's Bill. I hope that all will agree with it.

[English]

The Bill which I am presenting before the House today for consideration is a simple, non controversial and most imperative in nature. This Bill seeks to include two more languages, that is, Nepali and Manipuri, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

This is not the first time that such a Bill had come here for discussion. Many time the Bills were withdrawn on the assurance of the Minister. Many times the Bills were put to vote and negated. Of course, they were brought in the Eouse by Opposition party Members.

Sir, I fervently hope that it will be passed without any opposition. I say this with confidence that there be no opposition to the proposal of inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule from any side in this House.

Sir, during the last winter Session, 104 hon Members of Parliment belenging to all Partes incuding all the Leaders of the Opposition Parries supported the demand for inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution by signing the representation addressed to the hon. Prime Minister.

Of course, Shri Chandra Shekharji, the former prime Minister, did not sign the representation but he wrote a separate letter

supporting this case. I am grateful to all the hon. Members for supporting this just demand.

Hon'ble Shri Arjun singh, Minister of human Resources Development while addressing the 4th All India Official language Conference organised by Rastriya Hindi Academy at Gangtok on 2-4 October, 1991 said and I quote:

[Translation]

It is an irony that this language has not yet been given constitutional recognition

[English]

The same Conference unanimously resolved that Nepali language should be included in the 8th Schedule forthwith.

I would like to apprise the House what other great leaders had to say about the Nepali language. The great son of India, late Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, had written to Shri Morarji Desai, the former Prime Minister of India, about the Nepali language. I quote:

"I feel that inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule may help the process of cultural integration of the Nepali speaking population with the National Mainstream."

Late, shrimati Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister had also written a letter. I quote:

[Translation]

our congrees wishes that Nepali language should now be given constitutional status as per your demand."

[English]

Shri Chandra Shekharji also said and I quote:

[Translation]

"This issue has been under consideration for a long time. I am sorry that no decision has been taken in the matter. I do not see any reason for not giving constitutional status to Nepali language."

[English]

Shri Santa Ram, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh also said and I quote:

"Nepali is a rich language spoken by a large part of our population in India. It should be instantly recognised by the Centre as its case has been pending for long."

Shri Samar Mukherjee, Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha had written to Shri P. V. Narasimha Raoji. I quote:

"It is high time Government of India should reconsider the issue and implement the assurance given by the Prime Minister that Nepali language should be given constitutional status in the larger interest of unity of country."

Recently, Dr. Ratnakar Pandey, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha also wrote a letter to Shri S. B. Chavan, Home Minister. I quote:

[Translation]

In the capacity of honorary Chairman of National Hindi Academy, I request you to maintain national unity and integrity as also peace in North-Eastern State of Sikkim. I also request you to respect the aspirations of one crore Indian Nepali people and to include Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution by introducing a bill during the current session of Parliament. It will be a historical step aimed at serving the national interest.

[English]

So, the national consensus on the protracted demand of Nepali language recognition has been made clear on more than one occasion.

Therefore, I am confident that this Bill will meet a hundred per cent approval of this august House and will be passed. The long standing demand for the inclusion of Nepali and Manipuri languages has been more than four decades long. These demands are very constitutional also.

In Article 351 of the Constitution it has been stated that these languages will be included in the Eighth Schedule which will ultimately help in the development of Hindi. For further development of Hindi and enrichment of Hindi it is very necessary to include Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule not only because the Nepali language has its origin in Sanskrit but also it is written in Devnagari Script. In fact, according to the eminent linguist of the country, Prof. Mamwar Singh, I quote:

"This aspect of Nepali language is both unique and unparallel which can act as a catalyst to the development of Hindi".

Prof. S. Chakradharan from Calcutta, Prof. R.N. Srivastava and Prof. Namwar Singh, while addressing the All-India Conference of Bharatiya Nepali Rahtriya Parishad last month at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, said that the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule will not only help the emotional integration of the people speaking this language but also help to enrich Hindi. In the same Symposium, the President of Rashtriya Hindi Akademi Shri Swadesh Bharati also forcefully extended his support for the case. Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution provide protection for the interests of linguistic minorities. So, to uphold the spirit of these articles, it is necessary to accord recognition to other languages



[Smt. Dil Kumari Bhandari]

also. So as to protect the interests of those speaking Nepali and Manipuri, it is necessary to include these languages in the Eighth Schedule. There is hardly any economic involvement in according recognition to these languages. This does not Jeopardise India's security but enhances the feelings of Nepali-speaking Indians in the country that are equal partners in the nation-building process. This will also recognise their massive contribution to the shaping of modern India. Therefore, there is no valid reason why this language be deprived of Constitutional recognition.

I am happy to know from some newspapers that the Government has decided to consider the long-standing demands of including Manipuri, Nepali and Konkani languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. If it is true, I am very grateful to the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Raoji and the change in the thought is very much welcome. I only reiterate that this thought should be instantly concretised as a policy directive. So far in the past, the Government have been putting forward, as Syed Shahabuddin had once very rightly put, senseless arguments against extension of the Eighth Schedule. If inclusion of languages in the Eighth Schedule is not important, then why Eighth Schedule? If the Eighth schedule is to there - and I feel it has to be there - there should be logical criteria for inclusion of more languages. In fact, the Eighth Schedule represents the changing and varied character of cultural development in the country. It is dynamic and not static. That is why the Eighth schedule should also change both in spirit and content.

During the last monsoon Session of this parliament, while replying to my supplementary question, hon. Shri M.M. Jacob, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, had said that there is no criteria and the Government do not have any proposal to create any at present. so, on what basis the government

are deferring and refusing the inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule?

As far as Nepali and Manipuri languages are concerned, both have been recognised by the Sahitya Akademi of India. As to the statement supplied to me by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the criteria for recognition of languages by Sahitya Akademi as decided by the Executive Board of the Akademi in 1984 on the recommendation of Gokak Committee, are: (1) socio-linguistic aspect; (ii) literary aspect; (iii) educational, administrative and political aspect. Nepali and Manipuri both fulfil all the conditions on the basis of which fifteen other languages were included in the Eighth Schedule.

As regards the linguistic importance of Nepali, Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, an Internationally renowned scholar and linguist of India had this to say, and I quote:

I quote:

"The tale of languages that really has an important place in India is reduced considerably, we can say that we have some 15 literary languages only for whole of India".

He listed them as Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sindhi, Tamil, Teluge and Urdu besides two more that is English and Sanskrit which have a special place.

I do not want to take much time of this august House explaining how rich the Nepali language is - the opinions of learned people like Dr. Chatterjee should suffice that. But it is unfortunate that Nepali, despite being a very rich language apart from Hindi - the national language - could not find place in the list of languages which are constitutionally recognised.

Dr. Chatterjee had also opined that other Indian languages are to be added in the

Eighth Schedule following the wishes of the speakers of these languages, namely Sindhi and Nepali. We are happy that Sindhi was included in the Eighth Schedule way back in 1967. However, Nepali has been denied the recognition.

Nepali is an Indian language. This is only too clear. This language has its birth in India the North- West part of India, to be precise, when there was no present-day Nepale as a political entity .

As to the question whether the Government considers Nepali as foreign language, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in their reply to a question on 4th December, 1991 stated that Nepali was not treated as a foreign language.

With regard to the point that the relations between India and Nepal will be affected if Nepali language is included in the Eighth Schedule or whether it will adversely affect the relations between the two countries, we had asked the Ministry of External Affairs. We have received a reply and I quote from it:

"The Ministry of External Affairs have no objection to the proposal for inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule since this is an internal issue which does not involve our relations with Nepal with which this Ministry is concerned".

Nepali is a language of more than 10 million citizens of India, spread over Sikkim, Darjeeling and Dooars of North Bengal, all North Eastern States, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. Furthermore, Nepali is spoken by many more as their second language. I would like to give some explanation here to what hon. Member Shri Inderjit pointed out with regard to certain things. I do not want to indulge myself in any controversy regarding this unnecessary and insignificant controversy which has been raised.

SHRI INDER JIT: But, Sir, I have not spoken as yet on this subject. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Before you speak, I want to remove your presumptions in anticipation of the same.... (Interruptions)

Language has very important place in one's life. This involves so much of emotional issue infact the Whole existence of a perdon it is not a correct thing to play cheap gimmicks. If I indulge in such cheap gimmicks, posterity will never forgive. I, for that matter all the people who speak Nepali languages, are not that weak that we will change the name of our mother tongue merely by suggestions of some ignorant and fabricated arguements put forward by some vested interests.

In this respect I would like to quote from one document released in 1973 by Shri Subhash Ghising . I do not know whether I am allowed to take his name or not. But I will read from his own document. I quote:

"Jhoota Jati Gorkhali prate Nilojhanda ka general Secretary, Subash Ghising ka Ghor Birod".

He again said:

"Hami Gorkhali H'ni No"- We are not Gorkhas-

"Hami Nepali"—"We are Nepalis.

"We are Nepalis and can preserve our language and culture by remaining Nepali."

I do not want to say anything more, I leave it to the wisdom of this august House and the knowledgeable hon. Members of this august House.

Sir, Nepali is the official language of Sikkim and Darjeeling sub- division of West

[*Smt. Dil Kumari Bhandari*]

Bengal. As far back as on 8th January 1927, Nepali was recognised by the then Government, vide Notification No. 422 dated 8th January 1927.

As for Sikkim, Nepali had been the national language till its merger with India in 1975. Unfortunately, this language of national stature has not been accorded recognition.

Sir, the State Legislative Assemblies of West Bengal, Tripura, Sikkim and now very recently Himachal Pradesh, have passed unanimous resolutions for inclusion of Nepali language in the 8th Schedule. No other language, even those listed in the 8th Schedule have this kind of support. Of course, it was not necessary for them to show such support at the time when recognitions were conferred upon them.

Sir, Election manifestoes of National Parties—Congress(I) of West Bengal, Sikkim and Assam, the BJP, the Left Front and other regional parties, have included programme for constitutional recognition of Nepali and Manipuri. Very recently the BJP in its Convention at Sarnath reiterated their support for the demand. I hope the sanctity of the manifestoes will be upheld by all.

Sir, it goes to the credit of Nepalispeaking people of India that despite being strategically scattered all over the country, they have made uninterrupted and substantial contribution right since the freedom struggle to give this robust shape to Modern India.

Our contributions have distinct mark on India's cultural and literary heritage and on all other aspects.

More than four decade long movement of Nepali language has been the most peaceful movement. This shows our commitment towards the democratic process and integrity of the nation.

Sir, My people in Sikkim are also getting increasingly restive to Government's dilly-dallying policy. I am afraid for how long we can politically and emotionally control their passion and commitment to their mother-tongue.

Sir, Mahipuri is also the official language of Manipur. As I have already mentioned, its richness has also been a consistent demand for inclusion of Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Sir, though the elders have approached the Central Ministers and met the Prime Minister with a Memorandum to this effect and staged a peaceful dharna at Boat Club. The frustrated youth have started urging the people of Manipur not to pay any taxes as a part of civil disobedience movement.

Therefore, Sir, I should like to request the Government to accept this Bill and include Nepali and Manipuri in the 8th Schedule and fulfil the numerous verbal assurances given on various occasions. I appeal for full support to this Bill from all sides in this House.

Now, let me speak in Nepali. While concluding I want to say:

[*Translation*]

I will speak one sentence in Nepali language:

"Bado Durlabh Janos Bharat-bhoorniko Janam Janle"

It means that it is very difficult to take birth in India. Is it justified to keep such a language out of the Constitution a language, first poet of which had expressed such feelings. It is an irony that we have not included it in the Constitution of India.

Therefore, in this perspective, I would request the Hon. Member of all sections of the House to support it and extend their cooperation in getting this bill passed.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill presented by Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari. I would like to express my gratitudes to her. We have also included both the languages and problems of North-East India in our manifesto. I consider them important. A Private Member's Bill has been introduced to adhesive this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Eighth Schedule of the Constitution specifies the languages which have been given recognition by the Constituent Assembly. That Schedule was revised once in 1967. When this schedule was passed in 1950, it did not include the Sindhi language. I also speak Sindhi. Thus it looked awkward to us as it did not include the Sindhi language. We became the Members of Bhartiya Jan Sangh. At that time, a commitment was made in the manifesto of Bhartiya Jan Sangh to include this language in this schedule. \*Hon. Atal Bihari Vaypayee, who is my senior colleague, was elected to Lok Sabha in 1957 for the first time and I remember that he had introduced a Private Member's Bill in this regard. It was a Constitutions (Amendment) Bill which sought to give recognition to the Sindhi language by including it in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Government did not concede the demand at that time. A mass movement was launched throughout the country. Sindhi speaking people had come from Pakistan and were spread throughout the country. They also launched agitations. Thereafter, an amendment was made to the Eighth Schedule and Sindhi language was recognised. I remember that an argument was advanced in those days about the difficulty in recognising Sindhi language. It was said that there were many languages in India. Not only dialects but a number of languages are there. It is true. But why was it considered necessary to limit the languages 14? It was argued that we had included only those language to which were spoken by majority of people in any State and recognised as the official language of that State. They used to argue that there are problems

in including the other languages. Different questions used to be asked as to which languages should be included in the Schedule and which should not. Today, it is all right. But tomorrow it may create problem. This was their argument. We people used to argue that Sanskrit was neither spoken in any State nor was the official language of any State. But it has been recognised. Those days, English was not the official language of any State. It was made official language when Nagaland and Mizoram were formed. At that time, English and Sanskrit language were not official languages of any State. We used to argue though I don't consider it an important one. I am referring to it because today the situation is such that both the languages Nepali.....my hon. Coileagues Shri Inder Jit may have some objection in my calling it as Nepali. He has a logic behind this argument. You may call it Gorkhali, I don't have any objection. Nepal is a separate country. Therefore, Nepali is a foreign Language so we should not include it as such rather we should call it Gorkhali. I am not adamant. If somebody wants and the Government agrees then it may be called Nepali-Gorkhali. So I don't have any objection. I am not fighting for the word I am fighting for the language. Today, we are discussing it. The status of full-fledged State was given to Manipur in 1971. Sikkim became part of our country in 1975 and Nepali is the recognised language of Sikkim and Manipuri is the recognised Language of Manipur. Thus the arguments which can be given in support of other languages can also be given in support of these languages. There is an other language "Konkani". Goa also became a State after that so I have no objection if Konkani language is also included in the Schedule. I am referring to all these things because at times reaching to such Bills or Resolutions it is asked as to how many Languages the Government should recogni as their number is very large. Then the names of those languages are mentioned. I can also give the names of many languages. But I would like to make a request to consider those languages which are official language of any

State and include them definitely in the Eighth Schedule. I do not see any reason of opposing or delaying it. In this very convictor. I had gone to Imphal recently. I witnessed the situation there. The agitation being launched there has not yet taken a negative turn. They have decided that no Hindi films will be shown there, no sign board in Hindi will be allowed to put up there. Not only Hindi but all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule will be discarded, only Manipuri will be accepted. This is taking a negative turn now. One or two incidents have taken place there also. It is my request that the Government should think of many things that if any demand is just, then will it be accepted only when the popular movement in its favour takes a violent form or should the Government report anticipating and recognizing the popular feelings and the constant demand and in this case four legislative assemblies have made a demand. Not only Manipur but also West Bengal and just now our Himachal Pradesh has also passed a resolution. Another legislative assembly Tripura has also made a demand and we are sitting passively and we are not doing anything. I understand that before the bill is passed, the Government should give a clear assurance, and before adjournment of this house and before the budget session ends that we shall bring up this topic, it is not a matter of inconvenience. I understand that the entire house shall agree on this and this work can be done without this bill. The common opinion about both the languages is such and I was surprised when Indrajit stood up to say that say that there is no unanimity..... (Interruptions)

SHRI INDERJIT: There is no dispute on language. We have full respect for the language. People speak the same language but the rest of the things which I have to say, I shall say afterwards. As you spoke about the name. The word 'Nepali' is identified with the nationality of another country. That is why when Morarji Desai was the Prime

Minister and when people said that the Nepali language should.... (Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barsat): Bangladesh is a sovereign country. But in Bangladesh, Bengali is the official language. Bengali is the official language of the State of West Bengal also.

SHRI INDER JIT: In Bangladesh, they can call it as Bangladeshi. (Interruptions)

18.00 hrs

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: I would like to apprise Mr. Inder Jit that while speaking I had narrated from the reply of the Home Ministry that they have said that it is not a foreign language. This is the language of the people of India.

SHRI INDER JIT: I will have my chance to speak. The Leader of the Opposition was gracious enough to Yield to enable me to make a very simple point that there is total respect for Bhasha. There is no Problem for the Bhasha.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: It is very unfortunate. Is it that we Nepali-speaking people have to change today the nomenclature of our language simply at the suggestion of the non-Nepali man who belongs to the state in which people do not speak Nepali?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is entirely in agreement with your point of view.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: It is very unfair on his part. It is not very fair on his part. We won't take it lying down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the time of the British, I think it was known as Gorkhali. But after British left, it has been renamed Nepali.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL. K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman has served the Army and he is aware of it. I know all this.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I served in Gorkha regiment for 15 years and I think I can speak as good Gorkhali or Nepali as Mrs. Bhandari.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, by saying one thing, I would like to dispel your illusion. Today, in Darjeeling, which is represented by our friend Shri Inderjitji, very few people are saying that this language should be known as 'Gorkhali'. I do not believe this that everyone is saying this but only some people are saying that it should be called the 'Gorkha' language. What is the logic behind it, it should be called gorkhali or Gorkha language. They are saying that by calling it Nepali, every Indian thinks that we people are Nepali nationals whereas if we call it Gorkhali we will be known as Indians. You yourself tell us, you just said that you worked

in the Gorkha regiment for 15 years. You please tell us in all the Gorkhas of the Gorka regiment are Indians? How many per cent are Indians? Most of the people are Nepali nationals, then will they be considered Indians only if they speak the Gorkha language and if we speak Nepali, shall we be considered to be Nepalis?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhandariji, Inerjitji is expressing his conscience with your views, but his way of talking is his own and he has the right to express his views.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, the house stands adjourned. The Leader of the Opposition was on his feet. He will continue. The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 20th April 1992 at 11.00 hrs. Gentlemen, enjoy yourself during the good break.

April

18.02 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 20, 1992/ Chaitra 31, 1914 (Saka)*

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