

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

First Session  
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



PARLIAMENT OF INDIA  
No. 3  
Date 20/10/2000

*(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 8)*

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

## **EDITORIAL BOARD**

**G.C. Malhotra**  
**Secretary-General**  
**Lok Sabha**

**Dr. A.K. Pandey**  
**Additional Secretary**

**Hamam Singh**  
**Joint Secretary**

**P.C. Bhatt**  
**Chief Editor**

**A.P. Chakravarti**  
**Senior Editor**

**V.K. Chhabra**  
**Editor**

---

[Original English Proceedings included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as Authoritative and not the translation thereof.]

## CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. I, First Session, 1999/1921 (Saka)]

No. 5, Tuesday, October 26, 1999/Kartika 4, 1921 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
MEMBERS SWORN	1
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE	
Tenth and Eleventh Reports ...	1
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS	
Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Reports	1
INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL	2
STATEMENT RE: INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE ...	2
CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL ...	3
STATEMENT RE: CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE ...	3
CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FOURTH) (AMENDMENT) BILL	
(Amendment of Article 334)	4
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL	162
STATEMENT RE: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE	162
RE: CHARGE-SHEET FILED IN BOFORS CASE ...	6-30
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to include Santali language in Ol-Chiki script in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution	
Shri Salkhan Murmu ... ..	30
(ii) Need to resume transportation of coal through crush coal transport at Kargali Washery of Central Coalfield Limited, Bihar	
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey ...	31
(iii) Need to take steps for early creation of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation	
Shri Kirit Somaiya ... ..	31
(iv) Need to improve telecommunication Services in rural areas of Betul-Harda Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal ... ..	32
(v) Need to Provide financial assistance to State Government of Rajasthan to alleviate problems of famine affected people of the State	
Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary ...	32

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(vi) Need to declare Nagpur Airport as an International airport Shri Vilas Muttemwar ... ..	33
(vii) Need to create a separate Ministry for fisheries Shri V.M. Sudheeran ... ..	33
(viii) Need to ensure early reopening of tea gardens of Tea Trading Corporation of India at Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, West Bengal Shri S.P. Lepcha ...	34
(ix) Need to sanction adequate financial assistance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide relief to the people affected by recent severe drought Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu ...	34
(x) Need for early construction of a railway over-bridge at Safedabad in Barabanki district (U.P.) Shri Ramsagar Rawat ...	35
(xi) Need to clear the proposal for construction of Rail-cum-road bridge at Munghyr, Bihar Shri Brahma Nand Mandal	35
(xii) Need for all-round development of Kargil and Leh Shri Hassan Khan ...	35-36
<b>MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS</b>	
Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra	34-47
Shri Vaiko	47-56
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	56-66
Text of Amendments	66-103
<b>STATEMENT BY MINISTER</b>	
Award of Swarnajayanti Fellowships for Young Scientists Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi	119
<b>DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193</b>	
<b>Increase in the Price of Diesel</b>	
Shri Shankersinh Vaghela ...	103
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	110
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy	115
Shri Rajesh Pilot	117
Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi	121
Kunwar Akhilesh Singh ...	123

**SUBJECT****COLUMNS**

Shri Nawal Kishore Rai	125
Kumari Mayawati	127
Shri P.H. Pandiyan	128
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	130
Shri Prabhunath Singh	132
Shri V.M. Sudheeran ...	134
Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav	136
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	136
Dr. M.P. Jaiswal	139
Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura	142
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	143
Shri Ranen Barman	144
Shri M.O.H. Farook	145
Shri Lakshman Singh ...	147
Shri Ramsagar Rawat...	150
Shri Raghunath Jha	150
Shri Subodh Mohite ...	151
Shri Tilakdhari Prasad Singh	152
Shri Ram Naik	152-162

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, October 26, 1999/Kartika 4, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

### MEMBERS SWORN

[English]

Shri Md. Anwarul Haque (Sheohar)

Shri E. Ahamed (Manjeri)

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Singh Deo (Dhenkanal)

11.04 hrs.

### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

#### Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee (1998-99) presented the Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the Committee to the Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha before its dissolution on 26th April, 1999. The Speaker was pleased to order printing, publication or circulation of these Reports under the provisions of Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

In accordance with Direction 71A(6) of Directions by the hon. Speaker, I beg to lay a copy each of the following Reports of the Committee (Hindi and English versions) on the Table of the House.

- (1) Tenth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Fourteenth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on "Union Excise Duties — Provisional Assessments".
- (2) Eleventh Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Forty-fifth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on "Avoidable extra expenditure on import of sugar."

11.05 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

#### Third, Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Reports

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, the Chairman, committee on Public Undertakings (1998-99) presented Third, Fourth,

Fifth and Sixth Reports of the Committee to the Speaker of the Twelfth Lok Sabha on 26th April, 1999 before its dissolution. The Speaker was pleased to order printing, publication or circulation of these Reports under the provisions of Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

In accordance with Direction 71A(6) of Directions by the Speaker, I lay a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Table of the House.

- (1) Third Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. — Setting up of Single Buoy Mooring Project.
- (2) Fourth Report on Senior Level posts in Public Undertakings — Appointment and related matters.
- (3) Fifth Report on Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd. — Dehradun Unit
- (4) Sixth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Tenth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on ITI Ltd.

11.06 hrs.

### INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961".

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

11.06½ hrs.

### STATEMENT RE: INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

[English]

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

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 26.10.99.

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-9/99]

*(Interruptions)*

11.07 hrs.

CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA  
(AMENDMENT) BILL\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950".

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

11.07½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CONTINGENCY FUND OF  
INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999.

[Placed in Library Sec. No. LT 10/99]

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, people are disturbed and are feeling the pinch of increase in prices of diesel in the country. Government is not withdrawing the increase in diesel prices and we have given notice for adjournment motion about this matter. My request is that Government business should be stopped and this matter should be taken up first . . . *(Interruptions)*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 26.10.99.

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. How can you ask for it now when the introduction of Bills is going on ?

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, do they realise how important is this ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is country-wide strike due to increase in the prices of diesel. . . *(Interruptions)* Notice should be taken of the adjournment motion in this regard. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a question of Public importance. Fraud has been committed on the people of the country. This Government is acting arbitrarily. This Government is acting arbitrarily by indulging in anti-farmer acts. . . *(Interruptions)* Government should reduce prices of diesel.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

*[English]*

Please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given notice of adjournment motion under rules. What fate awaits the farmers. . . *(Interruptions)* and the poor people of this country. The House should be told about this.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. Please take your seat. Item No. 9, Shri Ram Jethmalani.

11.08 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FOURTH  
AMENDMENT) BILL\*

(Amendment of Article 334)

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 26.10.99.

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

*The Motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, fraud is being committed on the people of the country. Discussion should take place on this matter in this Supreme House of the country. . .*(Interruptions)* this is anti-people and anti-farmers.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. Please understand it.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, among four things which are essential for an adjournment motion is a matter of public importance and the occurrence is very recent. Therefore I have given this notice for adjournment motion. Our notice fulfills all the conditions. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your ruling on this.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday also you did the same thing, what issue are you raising ?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First you sit down please.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : There is country-wide strike of truckers. . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, today we are discussing price of diesel, why are you creating such confusion ?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do not disturb the House.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker has said that today we are discussing this. . .*(Interruptions)*

11.12 hrs.

RE: CHARGE-SHEET FILED IN BOFORS CASE

*[English]*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, it has been a very long and arduous election. The Congress, as always, in all humility accepts the verdict of the people whether it propels us into Government or makes us sit in the Opposition because we believe that Government and Opposition are the two sides of the same democratic coin. It is in that spirit that we approached this new Parliament. But, we could never imagine the depths to which the Government were prepared to fall in the way they have vitiated the atmosphere and made their intentions clear in launching a witch-hunt after ten long years, dragging in the name of our dear departed leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi into the Bofors chargesheet without a shred of evidence. It is a matter of great shame that a leader of his stature after having passed away, a person who has no opportunity now to defend himself or to represent himself in the court, should be brought into the Bofors chargesheet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, surprisingly, one of the hon. Ministers said, Shri Rajiv Gandhi may have passed away and it may be true that there may not be a shred of evidence against him in the Bofors chargesheet but his name had to be dragged in so as to make the chargesheet sustainable. I think, this is a shocking and a very candid statement made on behalf of the Government. We cannot help but reach the conclusion that this is an attempt to denigrate the Congress; an attempt to divert attention from their own mismanagement of affairs and from their own scandals that beset them; and an attempt to denigrate the name of the late Rajiv Gandhi, who in his life time achieved the pinnacle of popularity in this country and in a short career established a weight and an influence on the world stage. I think that the dignity of the House here is also affected. Let us not forget that he was also the Leader of this august House.

We believe, Sir, that the law must take its own course. But, Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the Government not determine



[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

what that course of law should be. We want to make a clear distinction. We are keen that the Bofors investigation reaches its conclusion; we are keen that the guilty are brought book; we are keen that the guilty are prosecuted; but we have great objection to the dragging in of the names of innocent people into this chargesheet after their demise.

Therefore, while we insist that the Bofors case should continue to its logical conclusion, we do expect the Government to respond appropriately and delete the name of the late Rajiv Gandhi from the Bofors chargesheet. We do hope that the Government understands our sentiments and in that spirit acts in accordance with our sentiments. We are looking forward to an appropriate response from the Government. Otherwise, this Session is beginning on a very very inauspicious note and the onus of responsibility for this will entirely be on the Treasury Benches.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is not between the Government and the Congress party, it concerns the whole House. We will not sit quiet on it. We will also speak on this. . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter concerns the whole House and we will also speak on its discussion. This has been our issue also and we will speak on it. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion at all. Please understand. Because the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has mentioned something, I allowed him. This is not a debate. Please understand. The Government is also interested to give reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will also speak on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Give us an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is responding. Please understand.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion at all. Please understand. This is not a debate. Why do you object when the Government is responding ? I have asked the Government to respond. The Government is going to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : You have asked the Government to respond. The Government is going to respond. But you are not allowing the Government to respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : I want to make a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P.H. Pandiyan, what is your suggestion ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : There is no provision under Criminal Procedure Code to launch a prosecution. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already raised the issue. The Government is going to reply. There should be some procedure.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : We have no objection. You asked me a question. Please give me an opportunity to make my point clear.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Are you allowing a debate ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not allowing the debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We should be given an opportunity to speak. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, please sit down first.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This cannot be allowed as there is a deep rooted conspiracy going on in this regard. Mock fight between the Government and the

\*Not recorded.

Congress Party cannot be allowed to go on. We will also speak on this issue. This mock-fight and the conspiracy hatched by the two cannot be allowed to go on. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, first you sit down please.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Such alliances can not be allowed in the House. We will speak. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : First you sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : This cannot be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down, Shri Mulayam Singh ji.

[English]

SHRI PH. PANDIYAN : Sir, I want to make one submission. . . (Interruptions) I will make my submission in just two minutes' time.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA (Kaisarganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter concerns the whole House and not to one party only. We people have raised this matter . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, please sit down, you will be given an opportunity to speak afterwards.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in Zero Hour, please understand.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that you could not hear my point. Will you allow me now ? . . . (Interruptions) You said that you had not heard my point. Why do you not give us an opportunity to make our point ? . . . (Interruptions) Please allow us to make our point. If Shri Advani wishes to intervene, I have no objection. Let him continue. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is intervening.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : All right, I will make my submission later. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, the hon. Minister is intervening.

[Translation]

Please sit down, Shri Mulayam Singh.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will not sit until we are given an opportunity to speak. Therefore we should be allowed to speak and if we are not allowed to speak, we will not sit even if you may suspend us from the House. How is it that you are not giving us time to speak ?

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given chance to speak but first you sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will not resume our seats even at the cost of our suspension from the House. We will not sit without speaking.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mulayam Singh, please understand that the Minister is intervening.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand, the Minister is intervening, not concluding.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue, is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak after the Home Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, correct reply from the Government can come only after we are heard. We cannot listen to them unless they listen to us otherwise this is not possible.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Today, we have a very important business. Please understand. Please cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are ready to fully cooperate with the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : How can you interrupt like this, you are senior member, Shri Mulayam Singhji.

[English]

The hon. Minister is intervening.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a notice in my name saying that this issue will be raised during Zero Hour. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We are the people to make rules and conventions. Shall we have to learn from them.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please assure us that I will have the opportunity of making our submission. You had yourself said that you could not hear the point that I made. Now that there is less noise in the House, all I am asking for is an opportunity to intervene in this discussion of essential importance to the Congress Party. If this intervention is not permitted from my side. . . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Is there any discussion? The Government is prepared for any discussion which they want on this subject.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am asking for an opportunity to make my submission. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Please give a notice if you want a discussion. We are prepared for any discussion.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This morning, we gave a notice to raise the issue during Zero Hour to make our submission and we made it amply clear that two of us will make the submission. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are standing and you are allowing the speech to go on. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that today we have a very important business.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : This is the important thing for us. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you have given a notice for adjournment motion also. What is this? Now, you are disturbing the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem) : Please allow us to participate in this. We have also given a notice. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you adopt this attitude, then how will this House function ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will you not give us an opportunity to speak on such an important matter. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat. I have not allowed you. How can you speak without the permission of the Chair? Please take your seat. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I seek an opportunity to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Manishankar Aiyar, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You will be given a chance to speak but first you sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Please also give us an opportunity to speak. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We will give you the opportunity to speak but first you sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Advani, what is your intervention ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government has no objection to discussion on this matter. You have to decide whether you want to allow a discussion on this or not. . . . (Interruptions) If they want to make submission then an opportunity to the Government should be given to respond. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we have to make our submission first and then only, they can make their submissions. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Manishankar Aiyar, what is your submission ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you, . . .

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission ?

SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR : I was about to commence my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be very brief please.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with an extremely heavy heart because I had hoped to begin my second innings here. . . .

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there cannot be two set of laws in the country. . . .(Interruptions) one for the rich and other for the poor. . . .(Interruptions) The name of the person who commits theft is bound to be publicized. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your submission, please ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Please let me speak. I cannot make my submission if I am constantly interrupted.

MR. SPEAKER : The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has already made his point. What more do you want ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I have a submission to make and I told you also.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government has also replied that there is no objection in having a discussion.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I seek your permission to be able to make my submission in a House that is listening. Thank you very much, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, . . .

MR. SPEAKER : You are not to go into the merits. Please understand that. He has already mentioned it.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : If you are not going to allow me to speak, let me not mention it.

MR. SPEAKER : No. You can mention your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can also mentioned your point.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am mentioning my point. I am not even being allowed to begin. I begin by saying this. All that I am allowed to do is the courtesy of addressing you; I am not being allowed to continue. How can I speak ? Please allow a Member the right to express

his view here, when he has given due notice to the Speaker, in this Hour which is supposed to be dedicated to such a thing. If they continue to behave in this manner, how can you expect me to speak ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under which rule are you giving him permission to speak. . . .(Interruptions) I am a new member in the House. . . .(Interruptions) You please tell us under which rule discussion is going on here. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please understand that there are eleven names. They have given notices for Zero Hour on various subjects.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you given permission to him ? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have before us this chargesheet which have a recitation and names listed as accused. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the Deputy Leader has already spoken on the same subject. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please understand that Shri Scindia has already spoken on the subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : When we give notices under Zero Hour, we are not necessarily submitting on behalf of the party. He, as an individual Member, has every right to raise whatever issue he wants to raise. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Scindia, you have already spoken on this subject.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : If he wants to raise this issue again, what is wrong in that ? If you interrupt everytime, no business can be conducted. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Why are you not allowing me to speak ? Why are you afraid of me ? Why do you not give me an opportunity to make my submission ? *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, please address the Chair and not the Members.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am addressing you I am only asking whether I cannot be afforded the opportunity of making a submission without interruption on a matter of high importance to us.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : The House will continue if you allow him. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are confronted with a chargesheet which has a recitation and a set of accused without the link being established in the recitation with the accusations that have been put in column 2. In column 2, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been named. He is a person who in this House led the House; he is a person who was the Leader of the Opposition.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : What he is talking about. *(interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : We demand of the Government the deletion from column 2 of the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister, former Leader of this House and former Leader of the Opposition and a martyr to this country who had been honoured with the Bharat Ratna since no ground has been established which would warrant or justify the inclusion of his name in column 2. This has been done with malice aforethought; this has been done with a vicious intent; this has been done with a political purpose; and this has not been done to further the cause of discovering what happened in that particular event.

We repeat what Shri Rajiv Gandhi stated in this House twice over. Once on the 28th of December, 1989 he said, "We would like you to find the people who have taken the money because we know that when you find the people, all the accusations that have been made all these years will turn out to be false". There is nothing in the recitation

of the chargesheet which establishes anything other than that Rajiv Gandhi was in no way a beneficiary in any manner to whatever payments that have been made.

There is no link that has been established which would indicate any justification for it to be there. It is further more extremely malicious to include his name in Column 2 because not even in the course of the trial, will he be given an opportunity to clear his name. We demand deletion of his name from Column 2 because he was never interrogated by the investigative agency and there is no evidence of any substance or significance that has been adduced in the recitation. There is no possibility that he has of clearing his name in trial. He has been defamed, maligned and we will not stand for this kind of politically motivated defamation. We insist and demand that the Government delete the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi from the List of Accused. We are ready to await a reply. We wish to have a reply. We wish to know whether the Government will delete his name. This is our demand and we insist upon it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER It is given.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I have only one request to those who are giving reference to guidelines, that yesterday when the Prime Minister, the Leader of opposition and leaders of all parties were present, it was decided in front of you that the discussion, on diesel will be held after, the discussion in support of Motion of Thanks. But when this issue has been raised, we are being prevented for so long by saying that we have not given the notice. But it was decided in front of the leader of Opposition, Prime Minister and all other Leaders. All hon'ble Members here also wanted to speak, but I have stopped them. Therefore, some people should not read out guidelines for us. First of all I would like to submit, that on very first day I had said that if we will not get protection, then we will be ready to go to any extent in the House to get protection. You may suspend us for this.

As far as the question of Bofors is concerned, our question is related to it. We have struggled for this, we have struggled in the public. I do not want to comment on the report, or on the functioning of C.B.I. but in my opinion many criminals or culprits or corrupt people have gone scot free, therefore with all correspondence not in this session, but a separate session of a day or two should be called and a comprehensive discussion on it should be held, because it is a question of the security of the country. We have firm opinion on the issues related to the security

of the entire country, that some people have escaped. How true were the stories behind it. Some cases are ordinary ones and some times an offenders, who should be tried under section 302, is acquitted due to lack of evidences. But there were many people, who were in the news, how intimate was one's friendship and who belongs to which place, what is his relation, who is related to whom, and all this has been concealed. We want that as this question is related to the security of the nation, therefore a comprehensive discussion on this issue should be held. At that time we would like to voice our opinion in more detail, because for this we have struggled not for a year, but from 1987 to 1989. But we would not like to discuss, how popular one was and when the person is no more with us, we too had good relations with him, but it is not the question of popularity. The question pertains to dishonesty, corruption and security and therefore we want that a comprehensive discussion should be held on this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They should give the reply. You please stop them. I have not spoken. . .

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Kindly permit me to mention my view point. . . *(Interruptions)*

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

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, please.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : No, no first let me conclude my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you concluded ?

*[English]*

Shri Chatterjee, would you please take your seat ? Shri Mulayam Singh has not completed his speech.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I was interrupted in between.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you may conclude.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am just concluding. He has made me forget, what I want to say. I would like to appeal to you that this question is related to defence

\*Not recorded.

and security, it would not be appropriate, if this issue is left on the name of chargesheet or court. This House has got the full authority and the name of the persons who have been left out should also be included. Therefore, we want that discussion on it should be held. Secondly, not much time is left in this session, therefore, a special session of at least two days should be called and comprehensive discussion should be held. With regard to the war which has just ended these people say that it was intrusion, but I would like to say they were not intruders. It was the direct attack by Pakistan on our country. Therefore, I would like to appeal that Bofors issue is an emotional issue for us. We were lathicharged and were sent to jail on this issue. We had struggled a lot. The Congress Party and the Government can't indulge in the mock fight and leave us in lurch. Therefore, I would like to request that a special session should be called and a comprehensive discussion on this issue should be held.

*[English]*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, let me make a mention.

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Somnath Babu.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : We should also be listened.

MR. SPEAKER : We will definitely listen to you.

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as we are concerned, our stand is very clear that the law must take its own course. This is a matter on which naturally the country is very much agitated. We had, as a matter of fact, even resigned from the House. Therefore, we are not minimising the importance of this matter. The only thing that we have noticed today is that materials which formed a part of the present charge-sheet were available with the Government for quite some time. Nothing new has come to the possession of the Government. As a matter of fact, the earlier Government had not decided to proceed further until the last batch of documents were made available which are now still with the Swiss authorities because it was apprehended that there were many other persons, some names are obviously known, who are suspected to be involved. Their complicity or their participation in whatever may have happened was likely to come out of this document. Therefore, when these materials were available with the document all along even with the previous Government, even the present Government which was then in the opposition had not insisted piecemeal filling of the charge-sheet. It was never suggested. Therefore, until and unless those documents came, why suddenly the Government decides to proceed with the charge-sheet which is apparently not a complete charge-sheet ?

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

What we felt is whether the Government has anything in its mind to protect somebody, some highly placed persons who may have now made up with the ruling party or the ruling combination. They are very powerful people, know to be very powerful, very affluent people also. Therefore, I think the Government owes an explanation as to why this bifurcation of the charge-sheet. Why suddenly as soon as the results are out, as soon as the Government is constituted, without any new material, they come and submit this charge-sheet.

I am not holding brief for anybody who is mentioned there as an accused. My party is not concerned. As I said, we insist that the law must take its course. Now the matter is before the court, whether the court takes cognizance. . . .(Interruptions)

You need not support me. You are already interrupting others. I found that on the first day itself. Kindly spare us. I do not know you.

Therefore, what we are concerned with is, while trying to denigrate 'A' or trying to bolster 'A', let something not be done to protect anybody; nothing should be done which will interfere with the course of justice and which also will not give an impression of any political vendetta.

Our position is this. Therefore, we say that the judiciary may decide this matter in accordance with the law and the Government must make the commitment that without any political vendetta, they would try to find out the real situation. They must tell the House today, since the matter has come up, as to when the next portion of the charge-sheet would be coming than merely leaving it to some political appeal that is pending somewhere. In that case, why cannot they wait for another five to ten days? Why could not they wait? Then it could have been a complete charge-sheet. That is why, there is suspicion in the minds of some people that the reasons may be something else. It is the Government's responsibility to disabuse the people's apprehensions in this matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion. Please understand it. The Government is going to reply to this.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, there is no provision under Criminal Procedure Code to launch a prosecution against a corpse or a dead person. Even under the provision of Section 173, it cannot be done. Moreover, two Ministers have come out with a statement outside the House. The Home Minister said that he was keeping the charge-sheet in abeyance for the last two months. Now he has permitted the CBI to file the charge-sheet before the court. Under what provision of law is the Home Minister or the Prime Minister authorised to withhold the chargesheet for two months? In 1998, in Jain hawala case, the Supreme Court

has held that no Minister can interfere in any investigation and no Minister can control the CBI. That is pending and that has to be executed. This is quite important. The House should be apprised of the legal position.

The former Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is dead. It is not a writ proceeding; it is not a civil proceeding. It is a criminal proceeding. If he is arraigned as an accused, then he will be undefended. There is nobody to defend him. You prosecutor will prosecute the other accused persons but if they shift the blame to the former Prime Minister, who is going to defend him? So, the deletion of the name of the former Prime Minister who happened to be the Leader of the Opposition is essential under the mandate of law. It is against the canons of principles of criminal law. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You have had your say.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur) : Sir, he has not given notice . . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Why should I withdraw? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have received all the notices given by Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : The TDP Members had resigned from the Lok Sabha on this issue . . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : These are the materials which should be placed before the House. In 1990, one of the witnesses cited in the prosecution was Mr. Ram. He moved the Madras High Court and obtained a stay of anticipatory search warrant. He first got the stay of anticipatory search in the Delhi High Court and then he got the stay in the Madras High Court. I appeared and intervened but it is still pending for the last ten years. The stay is not vacated. So, he has been cited as a prosecution witness. The political part of this prosecution after the death of a person and launching the prosecution against a corpse is against all canons of criminal law in the whole world. Latin maxim says 'actio personalis mortua cum persona'. Criminal action dies with the person. Civil action may survive. Since he is dead, his name should be removed from the list of the accused.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, I have come here to place my facts. Otherwise, I would not have entered this House. I sacrificed my profession and came here.

I have come to this House to make some contribution for the country. I have come to this House sacrificing my

profession and I am here. . . *(Interruptions)* Under Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code, there is no provision for taking action against a dead person. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Only Shri Yerrannaidu's speech will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish it. What is this ? Shri Pandiyan, how much time will you take ? Please finish it.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will finish it.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Members also to speak. Please understand it. You are not the only Member to speak. What is this ?

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will finish it. There is only one Member in the House to speak now.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that there are 543 Members in this House. You are not the only Member to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I will finish it in a minute. . . *(Interruptions)* They are interrupting me. They are blocking my mind.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Under Section 173 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, a final chargesheet has been filed. There are various clauses but there is no clause for taking action against a dead person. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, you have already mentioned these points. What is this ? Again, you are repeating the points. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : All right, Sir.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the very beginning, the TDP is opposing corruption. On the corruption issue, in the Ninth Lok Sabha, the TDP Members resigned. The law will take its own course. After twelve years, the CBI investigated everything and filed a chargesheet in the court of law. Now, the matter is pending in the court. The court will decide about the merits of this issue. This is not a court to hear the argument. *Anyhow*, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has raised this issue. The Government has agreed to have a discussion in this House. So, we are accepting that. If the Government decides about it and whenever it comes up with a discussion, we will participate in the discussion on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Arun Jaitley to reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is he the Home Minister? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is responding. Please take your seat. What is this ?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : We are discussing an important matter. Therefore, the Home Minister should respond to it. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot prevent the Government from replying. What is this ? Please take your seat. The Government is responding to it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, propriety demands that the Home Minister should reply to it. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the CBI is not under the Home Minister. Let them first study the Ministry position. The CBI is under the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has given directions to Shri Arun Jaitley to reply on behalf of the Government. So, they cannot force that the Home Minister should reply. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : They cannot force the Government on this issue. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to you to take your seat. I have not allowed anybody to speak.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Shri Munsri, it has got nothing to do with the Home Ministry. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : As the Additional Solicitor General, he has appeared in this case in 1997-98. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seat. This is too much.

*(Interruptions)*



MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am rising only because Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has raised an issue. . . .(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, he appeared as the prosecutor and so, he should not be allowed to make a statement here.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, I am rising only because the hon. Member, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has raised on issue. Normally, anyone can reply on behalf of the Government, but in this case, perhaps, Shri Dasmunsi is not aware that this particular department, C.B.I., is with the Prime Minister and not with the Home Minister. So, the Prime Minister has directed Shri Arun Jaitley to reply to this issue. I have no objection and I can reply to this issue. Since the Prime Minister has directed Shri Jaitley to reply to this issue and also since this will be his maiden speech in the House, the tradition is that the maiden speech is never interrupted. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please ask your Member to take their seats.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would just like to stress the point that I have also been a Member of Parliament for many years now. This is a matter of propriety. We are dealing with an issue involving the former Prime Minister. This particular portfolio is also handled by the present Prime Minister himself. So, it would be appropriate, according to propriety of the House and also it would be the minimum courtesy that the Government could show to the Opposition, if the hon. Prime Minister could respond to us. We are not insisting that he should respond immediately. But at an appropriate time, whenever he chooses to do so, let the Prime Minister respond to us. This is the minimum courtesy that we are asking from the Government.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, this is not a regular debate. it has been raised during 'Zero Hour' and, with your permission, submissions have been made by the main Opposition Party and also by other Opposition parties.

12.00 hrs.

In fairness, the Government's response should also be heard today. If there is a fullfledged debate, I can understand the Prime Minister being asked to reply. But the matter has been raised during 'Zero Hour'. . . .(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. Please let him complete.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Please take your seat.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first. What is this ?

SHRI A.C. JOS : How can a junior Minister reply ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, no; please take your seat. There is no question of a junior or a senior Minister.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, what is this ? Let him complete.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am told that a notice was given under Rule 193 for a debate. We would be very happy and the Government would be very happy if the entire issue of Bofors and the charge-sheet are discussed. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete. What is this ? Why are you objecting to it ?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please take your seats.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : When that debate comes, naturally, the House would expect that the Cabinet Minister in charge of the CBI replies to the debate.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We want the name to be deleted.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : In this particular case, the Prime Minister has specifically asked Shri Arun Jaitley to reply to it. I would plead with you that the Government's response to the debate should be heard. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arun Jaitley.

*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Arun Jaitley says.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Sir, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has raised two vital points. His first vital point is that he has a serious objection to the addition of the name of a particular person in column 2 of the charge-sheet.

\*Not recorded.

In his second point, he says that the Government must take steps to delete that name altogether. . . .  
(Interruptions)

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has said that he wants the law to take its own course. Other Members, particularly, Shri Chatterjee, have also raised a question that the law must take its own course.

After nine-year investigation by the CBI, the CBI registered the first information report. The CBI conducted the investigation. After conducting the investigation, the CBI has finally filed an interim charge-sheet. . . .(Interruptions)  
The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was insisting that the law must take its own course. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you have asked the Government to reply. When the Government is giving a reply, you are objecting to it. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. You have asked the Government to reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why have you asked the Government to reply ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mani Shankar Aiyarji was saying that we should not object when he speaks. He objected when he was interrupted, but what is the objection, when I want to say a few points ? . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that Law should take its own course. Law is very much clear. The Government has got no right to decide whose name should be included and whose should be excluded in the List of accused. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

When the Deputy Leader says that the law must take its own course, the law is very clear. . . .(Interruptions)  
It is not the Government of the day which has to decide the names of the accused.

It is for the Investigating agency to do so. . . .  
(Interruptions) The law is equally clear that when a chargesheet is presented in the court, it is for any person to approach the court for the purposes of deleting or adding the name of any accused. It is now under the supervision of the court, for any person aggrieved, the appropriate forum is the court, the Government of the day is not competent to take any action. . . .(Interruptions)

Secondly, Shri Pandiyan has raised an objection as to why the name of the deceased person is in Column 2. This is not the first time that this has happened. . . .  
(Interruptions) Every time that there is an accused who is deceased, his name is always added in Column 2. In Shrimati Gandhi's assassination case, Beant Singh who was killed on the spot, was an accused but his name was in Column 2. In Rajivji's assassination case, Dhanu, the humanbomb lady who actually killed Rajivji, died on the spot but she was an accused and her name was in Column 2. There is no rule, jurisprudences that the Congress Party or anybody can direct the investigating agency to delete the names in this case. The past precedents are absolutely clear that the name of the accused who is deceased, is always carried in Column 2. This is not for the first time that this has happened. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, we are not satisfied with this. We are walking out in protest. . . .  
(Interruptions)

12.07 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and some other hon. Members left the House.*

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the various questions which have been raised. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you, Shri Pandiyan. Please take your seat.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : People have sent me to speak here. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi-Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House wants to listen peacefully, the country wants to listen. Therefore, I would like to request that let the hon'ble Minister complete his statement.

[English]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me clarify the objection which has been raised. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Sir, before walking out, I want to make a statement. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing you, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

---

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pandiyan, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : We are walking out of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri P.H. Pandiyan and some other hon. Members left the House*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an objection was raised with regard to an earlier capacity in which I have been associated with the initial investigation of this case. I am fully aware of that limitation. I am therefore, not going to refer to any fact which has come to my notice in that capacity. I am only meeting some objections which the Deputy Leader of Opposition had raised. He was fair enough to say that the law must take its own course and the law in this country is very clear.

It is not the Government of the day, either in the Centre or in the State, which has to decide who should be a particular accused in a case or otherwise. It is the investigating agency, the investigating officer and only the investigating officer who has an authority to decide this.

Our courts have very clearly ruled that no Government, no Minister has the power to add or delete an accused.

When Shri Scindia raised objection that the law must take its own course, he must be aware that the law very clearly is that the investigating officer is satisfied as to who are the category of persons as column 1 accused; who are the persons to be named in column 2; and, therefore, it is that investigation of the investigating officer which is final. If anybody is aggrieved, the remedy is that he goes to court; he challenges it before the court; he takes appropriate legal steps before the court. It will be a sad day if, on the basis of a political discussion, the Centre and the State Governments started adding or deleting accused persons. This has never been the law in this country. It should not be the law in this country.

\*Not recorded.

The second objection which has been raised—Shri Pandiyan has raised – it is whether there is any precedent that a dead person can be added as an accused in a case. A person who is unfortunately dead can certainly not be put up for trial. There can be no trial of that person. He cannot be put up for any punishment, but because of his some erstwhile association he may have had with the offence that had taken place, the past practice has always been that his name has been put in column 2. For good legal reasons there is column 2 in the chargesheet. The chargesheet is filed under section 173 of the CrPC. It is a statutory proforma, which has column 2. The past practice has always been that a deceased accused is put in the category of column 2; you are an accused but you are not being put up for trial.

I have with me some particulars. Unfortunately when Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated, one of the assassins, who was the chief conspirator, was Beant Singh and he was killed on the spot. On the analogy that Beant Singh was dead, his name should never have been in the chargesheet. Beant Singh's name was appropriately put in column 2. Similarly, when Rajivji himself was assassinated, one of the accused persons, was the lady, Dhanu, who was a human bomb who died on the spot. She was the key conspirator; her name could never be put up for trial because she was dead but her name was put in column 2. So, the past practice has always been that whenever there is a deceased accused, under section 173 when a chargesheet is filed, the deceased accused is not put up for trial but because of his role or some evidence relating to his conduct, motive or participation earlier, he is always there in the case as an accused in column 2. This has always been the past practice. Merely because somebody is politically influential and very powerful, his supporters today are influential, it will be a very sad day for jurisprudence if it is said that now we make a new beginning and even if the person was associated with the crime, because he is no more we do away with this practice. If you do away with this practice, then under the Evidence Act you must also have to do away with the leading evidence relating to his motive, participation earlier and subsequent conduct which has never been done.

A very valid point was raised by Shri Mulayam Singh.

*[Translation]*

I would like to assure them that this part chargesheet has been filed because. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I too have raised.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : Shri Somnathji too has raised the point that one set of accused have filed their in the foreign countries. All the legal appeals filed by them earlier,

have been dismissed on 17 August of this year. Their last political appeal is left. All documents are with C.B.I. One set of documents has to reach C.B.I., their legal appeal has been dismissed. It will be unfortunate if the Government begin to decide that after political appeal, whether to wait for it or not, part chargesheet should be filed or not, supplementary chargesheet should be filed or not. If the Government will do it in centre, then the State Governments may also follow it as example in the future. The State Police is with State and then the Government of Bihar will decide that in the fodder scam chargesheet should be filed against whom and whom not. In future the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu will decide not the Investigating Officer. This is a legal opinion, the opinion of the investigating agency and the political side, and the Government should not interfere in it. I would only like to assure you that the probe will not be influenced by the accused, no matter how powerful and influential they are. They were so powerful, whole scam took place in 1986, in 1987 it came to light and upto December 1989, till the Congress Government was in power, even the FIR was not registered. In January 1990, FIR was registered, accounts were freezed, appeals were filed again and again. There are few instances in the world where Swiss Bank has broken its secrecy and disclosed the names of those who were to be benefitted by these accounts. The movement of money has taken place. Despite the appeal and objection of influential people. C.B.I. has conducted its inquiry. I would like to assure you that the political appeals of all accused pending in the Federal Council will not take much time, but we can not set a time frame for it because the documents have to come from abroad. It all depends on the developments that will take place over there and the opinion of their Federal Council of Citizens. Those who are of the view that the Law will take its own course, then course of Law is very clear. This report has been prepared by the investigating agency, that political Government can not stop it. . . (Interruptions) As far as the question of discussion is concerned, I would like to make it clear that, my friends in Congress Party can raise it in the form of slogan, but they do not want debate and discussion on it, because in discussion the truth will be revealed, that may be very bitter and embarrassing also.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has not replied to the main thing.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY : You have got so many rights under adjournment motion, resolution motion, under rule

193, that if you want, we are prepared to hold long discussion.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Our attitude towards this Bofors case is well-known because all of us had resigned on that question protesting against what that Government did with Bofors. We do stand by the same stand that we took at that time. But I would like to know why has the Minister not replied to this question raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee because everybody knows Hindujas name was there and then the whole report has not come. So, what would have happened if it has been done after 10 days or so, so that they would get the whole report which they are expecting ? Then a lot of troubles could have been avoided. Undoubtedly, the law will take its own course. But this question on Hindujas will remain in everybody's mind. So, I would like to know why he has not answered question.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They are friends of both the sides. It should be discussed here as to who is a friend and of whom. All these things will be discussed. You should let this discussion take place. He too has the friendship and they too are having the friendship and many. . . (Interruptions) Sir, please let this discussion be held. Many people have the friendship. . . (Interruptions)

12.18 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All the matters under rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) **Need to include Santali language in 01-Chiki script in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj) : I want to bring to the kind notice of Government that Santali language with 01-Chiki script be included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution soon. The previous Government had assured us to constitute a high powered body to resolve the issue at the earliest but in vain.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to resolve this urgently. This will fulfil the hopes and aspirations of Santals and other tribals numbering over 1.5 crores spread over Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Tripura, etc.

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

**(ii) Need to resume transportation of coal through crush coal transport at Kargali Washery of Central Coalfield Limited, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Sir, the coal was used to be transported through crush coal transport (C.C.I.) which was set up at the cost of crores of rupees, in Kargali Washery under B&K area of Central Coalfield Limited. This equipment was in running condition but about three months ago it was closed down. With the help of this equipment of Bokaro and Khasmahal Colliery coal was transported to the Bunker.

Alongwith this, Kargali washery cocking coal has been made non-cocking and Kathara Washery has been made cocking coal due to which rules are being violated and equipments worth crores of rupees are not being utilised properly.

Therefore, the Central Government are requested that coal should be transported only through C.C.T., and Kargali Washery should once again be made cocking coal. A high level inquiry should be conducted to enquire into the above mentioned irregularities that as to why private sources are being utilised for transportation of coal instead of using government equipments worth crores of rupees.

**(iii) Need to take steps for early creation of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation**

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East) : Sir, in order to remove 25,000 jhuggi-jhonpris situated along Mumbai Sub-urban Railway Track, the Railway Administration, in the first-week of October, resorted to demolition without giving any prior notice resulting in clashes between Railway Administration and jhuggi-dwellers. They staged Dharna, Demonstrations etc. due to which the Mumbai Sub-urban Railway Service came to a complete halt that day and the daily passengers had to face a lot of inconvenience. About 2 lakh people have been rendered homeless as a result of this demolition by Railway Administration. Due to this there is resentment amongst the people and they are agitated.

With regard to the above mentioned act, the Ministry of Railway has given clarification that Mumbai Railway Administration has not sought the permission of Ministry for this. Due to this Railway Service has become irregular and 59 lakh residents of Mumbai have been suffering and motormen have been facing difficulty in driving their vehicles. The Railway Administration is planning to remove around 35,000 jhuggis situated near central and western Mumbai Sub-urban Railway Tracks. This kind of strife between the Railway Administration and the jhuggi-dwellers affects the railway services.

Therefore, I would urge the Central Government that the work of creation of Mumbai Railway Development Corporation should be completed and implemented immediately in order to regularise Central Railway Service and to improve Mumbai Sub-Urban Railway Service. The jhuggi-jhonpri dwellers should be taken into confidence and with their co-ordination they should be rehabilitated at some other place. The scheme for laying new railway track between Kurla-Thane should be accelerated. The 1161 jhuggi-jhonpris situated along this track should be shifted to some place in co-ordination with the State Government and the two new lines between Kurla-Thane i.e. 5 and 6 corridor should be extended upto Kurla-Kalyan.

**(iv) Need to Improve telecommunication Services in rural areas of Betul-Harda Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul) : The telecommunication Services in rural areas of Betul Harda Parliamentary Constituency are completely out-of-order. It is essential to take immediate effective steps for its improvement. The villages where telecommunication facilities are not available, arrangement should be made to provide telecommunication facilities there. Besides this, waiting list of telephones should be cleared in the entire parliamentary constituency.

**(v) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Rajasthan to alleviate problems of famine affected people of the State**

[English]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : I represent Barmer and Jaisalmer districts and one segment of Jodhpur district. This Thar desert of Western Rajasthan is famine prone area. This year is third consecutive year of famine. Main source of income of people is cattle breeding and to some extent farming. There are no other source of income.

Due to severe famine, people of this area have migrated to other prosperous States like Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, etc. in search of job/livelihood. Crops and cattle are perishing due to lack of rain and shortage of fodder. There is acute shortage of drinking water. Financial position of Rajasthan Government is not good. Therefore, I shall request the Union Government to take following action to alleviate problems of famine affected people of Rajasthan :-

- (a) Government of India should send a team of experts to Rajasthan to assess the gravity of famine;
- (b) Sufficient funds under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) should be released to Government of Rajasthan;

- (c) Government of India in consultation with Government of Rajasthan should arrange for fodder: and
- (d) Famine relief works should be started immediately to avoid hunger deaths and migration of people to other States.
- (vi) **Need to declare Nagpur Airport as an International Airport**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government for conversion of Sonegaon (Nagpur) airport into an International Airport.

Sir, the importance of Nagpur city from geographical and from security reasons is very significant not only that now the Buti Bori Industrial Estate, one of the biggest of its kind in Asia which is going to generate new industrial atmosphere, but also due to projects that are being set up here are to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore out of which some have already been proposed and have applied for industrial licences.

Sir, for the last two years Nagpur airport is available for air cargo operation to uplift international cargo and runway has already been extended to 10,000 feet and recarpetted for operations to meet the wide-bodied aircraft demand. International air cargo charters are also being operated without any problems from the runway.

In spite of the above air traffic potential and commercial viability, Nagpur is virtually cut off from all the four Southern States, Calcutta and Madhya Pradesh.

Making Nagpur an International Passenger Airport will help divert the extra crowd and burden from the over-populated cities. Moreover, nearly 3000. Haj pilgrims visit Jeddah from Vidarbha and adjoining districts of Madhya Pradesh.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to kindly take immediate necessary action on the above proposal which will go a long way to change the face of the most backward region in our country.

- (vii) **Need to create a separate Ministry for Fisheries**

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : I would like to invite the urgent attention of the Prime Minister to a long standing demand from everyone concerned in the welfare of the fisher-folk and the fisheries sector that a separate Ministry for fisheries be set up.

At present, as we very well know, fisheries and related matters are looked after by the Ministry of Agriculture. Quite naturally adequate attention time-wise and otherwise is not

available to the basic and pressing problems of the fisher-folk, one of the poorest sections of the society and the sector as a whole.

Therefore, I request the Prime Minister to kindly set up a separate Ministry of Fisheries and to bring it under the charge of a full-fledged Cabinet Minister.

- (viii) **Need to ensure early reopening of tea gardens of Tea Trading Corporation of India at Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri, West Bengal**

[Translation]

SHRI S.P. LEPCHA (Darjeeling) : Bhatakbhar Putud; Pesok in Darjeeling District and Luksaan tea estate in Jalpaiguri district of Tea Trading Corporation under Government of India are closed for the last several years. As a result of which world famous tea crop and plant are being destroyed. Thousands of labourers and their families are facing starvation. Due to starvation most of the labourers and their families had met untimely death.

Therefore, arrangement should be made to re-open these gardens as early as possible in order to protect national property and to save valuable human lives.

- (ix) **Need to sanction adequate financial assistance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide relief to the people affected by recent severe drought**

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the recent severe drought conditions which prevailed during Kharif season in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It was quite unprecedented. As many as 12 districts have severely been affected. Sowings also were not normal during this year. Only 69.54 lakh hectares of land could be sown as against a normal area of 80.16 lakh hectares owing to prolonged dry spells quite unusually ranging from 21 to 60 days. This resulted in heavy loss of crops in general and the major groundnut crops in particular. The crop losses were estimated at about Rs. 2566.91 crore. There is scarcity of drinking water. Most of the agricultural labourers are waiting for wage employment since there are no agricultural operations.

The Central team has also visited the State and assessed the situation. But surprisingly, no assistance has been released in this regard so far.

In view of the severity of drought and also urgency to provide drinking water to the people and wage employment to agricultural labourers, I urge upon the Government to immediately sanction a sum of Rs. 720 crore and release Rs. 200 crore immediately.

**(x) Need for early construction of a railway over-bridge at Safedabad in Barabanki district (UP)**

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki): Sir, in the absence of an over-bridge at Safedabad Railway Crossing situated at Lucknow-Barabanki national highway in U.P. major accidents are taking place. Most of the trains of north eastern India pass through this crossing and besides this there is also heavy traffic on this highway. There is need to construct an over-bridge at this railway crossing immediately.

Therefore, Central Government are requested to construct an over-bridge at Safedabad railway crossing immediately.

**(xi) Need to clear the proposal for construction of Rail-cum-road bridge at Monghyr, Bihar**

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr): A provision of Rs. 600 crores had been made in the Railway Budget for 1997-98 for the construction of Rail-cum-road bridge on River Ganga at Monghyr in Bihar. The Budgetary provision was accepted in the Railway Budget for 1998-99 also and after the acceptance being given by the Ministry of Surface Transport for the construction of National highway No. 80, Mokama-Farakkha, orders were issued to conduct a survey of rail-cum-road bridge. Besides, the Ministry of Surface Transport and the Ministry of Railways were assigned the job of survey and also directed to release the payments on the basis of bill. The foundation stone was laid by the then Railway Minister. As the Ministry of Surface Transport had given its approval for road-bridge, the construction of rail-cum-road bridge could be started simultaneously. After survey, Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee was given the responsibility of Model testing and designing. However, till date the Committee on Economic Affairs of Council of Ministers has not given the financial sanction for the construction of rail-cum-road bridge between Monghyr and Khagaria due to which the construction of the bridge has not yet started. The people of Monghyr and 10 neighbouring districts have continuously struggled for this bridge as it will connect the North and South Bihar.

Therefore, hon'ble Prime Minister is humbly requested to give the necessary permission for the construction of this rail-cum-road bridge in Monghyr. The delay in any project increases its cost which affects the nation.

**(xii) Need for all round development of Kargil and Leh**

[*English*]

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): Sir, I represent Ladakh parliamentary constituency and I come from Kargil,

a small town made big by the valiant fight and great sacrifices of the Indian Armed forces. Standing for the first time in this august House, I must first of all salute the patriotism, fortitude and soldiership of those brave sons of India who fought and drove away the enemy from every inch of motherland and in the process made supreme sacrifices.

While paying gratitude to the officers and jawans on behalf of the people of Leh and Kargil, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the difficulties faced by the constituency. Perhaps, many do not know that people of Kargil have been suffering the unprovoked pounding of Pak Army for the last many years. The civilians are fighting this war alongside the Army as porters and guides and 40 of them including women and children have fell to the Pakistani shells and bullets. Our fields remained uncultivated houses destroyed, livestock perished, trade, tourism and education system completely collapsed. I appeal to the Central Government for adequate rehabilitation and relief package to the inhabitants before the outset of long and harsh winter months.

Kargil is poised to be and must be a new pilgrim's centre of a resurgent India, the great nation to whom the 21st century belongs. Tololing, Tiger Hills, Betalik, Mushkoh, Yardor and Turtuk sectors have established the will and might of great Indian nation beyond any doubt and confusion.

People from all over the country are eager to visit these new shrines and pay homage to those valiant soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in defending the sovereignty of India. An airlift to Kargil and tunnel across Zogila are long overdue. This will give fillip to the tourism in Ladakh and strengthen the economic infrastructure of this most backward region of the country. Despite the sanction of Rs. 430 crore plan to counter the Pak propaganda and Jammu and Kashmir, nothing concrete has come up to for Kargil and Leh.

—————  
(*Interruptions*)

(*Translation*)

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing regarding cyclone also in the House, Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : He has not replied.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, more than hundred people have died in a devastated cyclone hit Orissa. . . .(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down, we are discussing regarding cyclone also.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI : It is a serious matter. You should allow us to speak for two minutes to raise this issue. The Government should reply regarding what measures the Government has taken... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing it today itself, please sit down, we are discussing regarding cyclone today itself.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): At what time?

12.19 hrs.

#### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I beg to move:

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :-

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on October 25, 1999."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, 13th Lok Sabha was constituted and after its constitution as per rules and conventions. The hon'ble President addressed the joint session of both the Houses. I am fortunate to get the opportunity to move the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Before going to start with the issues mentioned by the President, I would like to mention some facts regarding the people's mandate behind the constitution of this Lok Sabha. More than hundred crore people of this country have given their first mandate that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a charismatic personality should be made the Prime Minister of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country incumbency factor also works in Centre and State Government elections. Mandate

goes against that, but this time people have appreciated the work done by the Vajpayee Government in 13 months and have given the mandate that he should be again elected as Prime Minister and his Government should again come into power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this mandate in favour of Vajpayee Government is because of its successful handling of Kargil issue and the way it ousted the Pakistani army from LOC. In previous wars of 1947, 1962, 1965 or 1971, whatever we had won on the front, we lost on the negotiations table. In 1947, we lost one third of Kashmir to Pakistan. In 1962, China grabbed 38000 sq. Kilometers of our land. In 1971, 90,000 soldiers of Pakistan were sent back without any condition or agreement. However, this time during the regime of Vajpayee Government Pakistan army was ousted without losing single inch of our land. Not only this, India was also able to mobilise world opinion in its favour. The present mandate is because of winning the war and for diplomatic victory.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through overall it is a positive mandate but for some issues people have given negative mandate also. First of all, this mandate is against criticism and false allegation made by the Congress Party to down the morale of Indian defence forces during the Kargil war. It is also against the manner in which congress party toppled the smoothly running Vajpayee Government only to grab the power. That time they went to the hon'ble President and submitted him false documents that they have got the support of 272 MPs. This mandate is against that also. Here, I would also like to say that Congress Party has tried to establish dynastic rule but this mandate has rejected it and it proves that democracy and dynastic rule can not go side by side.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Surprisingly 114 years old Congress Party could not get even 114 seats. However, they did not learn from it while remaining in power or in opposition. In 1977 when elections were held in the country after emergency, congress could not secure even a single seat in the North India. Even at that time Congress was able to win 154 seats all over the country and under the leadership of Shri Narsimha Rao, it got 141 seats and thereafter it got 140 seats. Shri Narsimha Rao and then Shri Kesari were removed. This time Congress Party has got only 112 seats. However, it has not learned any lesson from its miserable condition this time and Congress itself is responsible for its continuous downfall. The Congress Party can well see its plight.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, even through the Congress Party has won 112 seats in the election, the hon'ble President in his address has mentioned about eradicating the corruption. He also made a mention about Government's commitment to remove corruption and for that he mentioned to bring Lokpal Bill.



[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

The Lokpal Bill could not be introduced in the last 12 years. Present Government have announced to do so and Prime Minister and all ministers will be brought under its ambit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress Party has always tried not to include Prime Minister in the ambit of the bill. We have brought Prime Minister also in the ambit of Bill. We hope that this time the bill will not be opposed.

Bofors Issue was discussed in detail here. After 13 years it came into light. I was astonished when Shri Madhav Rao Scindia and others asked to drop the name of Rajiv Gandhi because he had been the Prime Minister of the also remained leader of the Opposition and Leader of this House...*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you that many other Members had also been Prime Minister or leader of the House. However, no one from the Congress Party raised any objection when they were chargesheeted. No one from Congress Party uttered a word in the House against that. Shri Narsimha Rao was chargesheeted when he was Prime Minister and leader of the House but no congress leader or member raised any objection and no one tried to stall the proceedings of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Fridkot): Please cross check. . . .  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

You are forgetting.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra, please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : He was Member of the House when he was chargesheeted and was in a position to defend himself. The issue here is that Shri Rajiv Gandhi can not defend himself...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I was stating that Shri Kesri...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Just now, Shri Kesriji has said with a heavy heart that when charges were levelled against him, no one from the Congress Party came forward to defend him. I wanted to say that even sycophancy has its limits...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam) : Till now whatever he has spoken, he has spoken about the Congress Party.

*[Translation]*

He should speak about his own party.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I am saying that Lokpal Bill would be brought forward to eradicate corruption. No compromise will be made with corruption and on this basis only I am saying that the Twelfth Lok Sabha could have lasted longer...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please address the chair.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I am addressing you only. I am saying that if the Vajpayee Government had compromised with corruption, then the Twelfth Lok Sabha could have lasted its full term. We did not compromise during Twelfth Lok Sabha and no compromise will be made in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha also. We will run this Government. This Government will last for full five years and for that there is no question of compromising with corruption. Shri Arun Jaitley has categorically stated that the demand as to whose name should be omitted and whose should be included in the charge-sheet is not to be addressed to the Government. They can try for it in the Court.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one question is arising with regard to the hike in diesel prices. This issue will be debated here but have we increased the prices of diesel? The issue of diesel price hike should be linked with the international prices, this decision was taken at that time when all these were supporting the government in 1997...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajan U.P.): I am on point of order.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Malhotra, please continue your speech.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : When the diesel prices increased in the international market, why did not they increase the prices of diesel at that time?...*(Interruptions)* Had they increased the price at that time then they would not have been in power, they would have been sitting here...*(Interruptions)* This position should also be clarified.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the Government which was in power on 1.9.1997 was being supported by Congress, Communist parties and even by all those sitting there and it was that Government which took this decision and accordingly, the prices were increased. How fair is it to criticise on the basis

of that, at last much honesty should be shown that the decision which was taken there, should meet no opposition.  
...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : When did the prices increase in the international market...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Do you know the procedure or not?  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you talking about?  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What are you talking about?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The hike in diesel price affects the bus fare at the rate of two paise per kilometre. In Delhi, the annual burden on DTC comes to six crores rupees but the Delhi Government has imposed a burden of Rs. 260 crores on the passengers. Instead of two paise per kilometre, they have increased the fares by Rs. two, Rs. four and Rs. eight. They have increased the fares by hundred per cent for an increase of six per cent only...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : You are responsible. Your Government is responsible for this.  
...*(Interruptions)* Why are you blaming the Delhi Government?  
...*(Interruptions)* You have increased the prices of diesel.

*[Translation]*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : The fare hike would result in the profit of Rs. ten lakhs to a private bus operator and the one who owns a fleet of ten buses would reap a benefit of Rs. one crore. They have created such a situation here. Yet the Central Government is being blamed for hike in the prices of diesel.

Hon'ble President has mentioned about electoral reform and has spoken about the reform in the electoral law. The first thing which he laid and was criticised yesterday was that the tenure of Lok Sabha should be fixed for five years. I was very much surprised when a congress leader said a few days ago that it is a fascist and dictatorial notion. Yesterday also, the Deputy leader of the Congress Party severely criticised it. Will five Lok Sabha elections take place within a span of five years! Lok Sabha elections for the third time have been taking place in the last three years. Should the country face elections every years! Should the country be forced to face elections every year to satiate the appetite of a few power hungry persons. Is this any solution? Why shouldn't there be a fixed term for

it? The term of the Rajya Sabha is fixed for six years and that is not being opposed from any quarter. I want to say that if no party whip is issued by the Congress over this issue then not a single member belonging to Congress would cast his vote against this...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : You will continue to increase the price of diesel and still you hope to remain in power for full five years...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : You are opportunistic. What are you talking here? What is your principle ...*(Interruptions)* Earlier you were with the A.D.M.K. Now you are with the D.M.K. Your opportunistic alliances have created the instability...*(Interruptions)* You are talking opportunistic stand.

*[Translation]*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Hon'ble Mr. President has mentioned that the term of legislatures should be five years. Now the mandate of the people is clear enough that this Government should continue for five years. This Government will last for five years even without bringing in the Legislation, it is beyond doubt. But the term should be fixed and if the opposition moves a No Confidence Motion there should be a proper alternative. This thing has been said by the hon'ble President in this address and I think that the Congress should learn its lesson from it. You have to think of the alternative first before bringing in the No Confidence Motion. Mr. President has conveyed the same thing in this address...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : What is this method. These will name the Congress, they will name the B.J.P. Both of these are in collusion...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : One more thing that has been mentioned in the Presidential address is about proxy voting...*(Interruptions)* Everybody knows that in these elections, the postal ballots for all the constituencies of Lok Sabha did not account for more than one to two percent. In a constituency where the number of postal votes that should have been received was three thousand but not more than fifty or hundred have been received.

Here a lot of rhetoric is going on about the martyrs of Kargil and about their dignity. They can lay down their lives for the country but cannot cast their votes, they cannot be a party to decide about the fate of their country. That is why we have talking about the proxy voting. You should grant them the power to use their vote in proxy. I am sorry to say that the Congress and other parties opposed this and said that proxy voting should not be allowed. After all, how many persons are involved in proxy voting. Approximately ten lakhs army men and paramilitary

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

personnel who are posted at different destinations constituted this bracket. They are given 14 days in all to cast their vote. Of these, four days are spent in printing the ballot and by the time the letter reaches them, the elections are already over. The Government Employees have a right to vote but our militarymen and personnel of paramilitary forces do not have such right. The Congress party opposed it in principle. They have said that their vote will not remain a secret. The blind persons too have to take someone along to cast their vote. Whoever is their trust worthy be if their wife, son, brother or someone else and if he authorises them to vote, then they can cast the vote. As it is done in England and other countries, I do not know as to why objection has been raised to it. The hon'ble President has made a mention about proxy voting.

A mention has also been made about the Indrajit Gupta Committee constituted by the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Advaniji. It had given several suggestions about state funding of elections. We wanted that recommendations of this Committee should have been implemented at the time itself so that there should be no interference or influence of Capitalists on elections. Thus hon'ble President has emphasized the need for bringing a comprehensive bill on election reforms to avoid influence of money power and muscle power on elections. We all, including the Members from the Congress Party discussed the issue of state funding of elections. It would have been better if the issue of state funding of elections suggested by Indrajit Gupta Committee was implemented at that time itself by bringing an ordinance. At that time this ordinance was opposed and I would like to say that now this legislation should be passed unopposed.

The issue of delimitation is also very important. Some Constituencies comprise 30 lakhs voters and some 3 lakhs voters only. This difference has widened to a great extent in some constituencies. There is a provision in the Constitution for delimitation of constituencies afresh after 2001. In such situation we would get the report of delimitation Commission in 2003 or 2004 and in that case it will be difficult to implement that report by the next election. Delimitation is the need of the hour because difference in number of voters from 3 lakh to 30 lakh is too much. It should also be taken care of that the States which have implemented Family Planning Programme efficiently are not punished by reducing the number of seats on the basis of population and the States which have not implemented Family Planning Programme efficiently are not rewarded by increasing the number of seats.

The issue of providing reservation for women has also been raised in the President's Address which is related to electoral reforms. In this Presidential address a promise

has been made to provide 33 percent reservation for women which has also been endorsed by hon'ble President. But I would like to point out one thing that rotation may cause problem in corporations. Due to rotation a candidate cannot contest election from the same constituency again and these areas may remain unattended. The issue of rotation should be discussed again because candidate who knows that he has not to face the voters again then he may not nurse that constituency. This question should be linked with this problem.

Hon'ble President has also raised several economic issues before us. It is really a matter of pride that in spite of US sanctions the country maintained its pace of economic progress whereas we have seen that Asian Tigers Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Korea suffered heavy economic recession after imposition of US sanctions. Today we have foreign exchange reserve worth 33 billion dollars, which is a record. It is also a record that during this period inflation was not more than 2 percent. Price rise was checked.

Several other issues mentioned by the hon'ble President were already on our agenda. We wanted to implement those proposals but the Government was toppled. The issue of creating one crore jobs every year was being discussed here. We can solve the problem of unemployment in 10 years if one crore employment opportunities are created every year. 10 or 20 lakh houses should be constructed every year for providing housing facility to all. Thus 20 lakh houses are to be constructed annually. In the coming 5 years drinking water facility is to be provided in 5 lakh villages which are deprived of this facility. All these issues are on our economic agenda and the hon'ble President has also made a mention of them.

There are about 5 crore illiterate persons in our country and about 7 crore children are not going to school to get education. We have to make arrangements for primary education for them. Primary health facilities are to be provided for all. Hon'ble President has also made a mention of these important issues. All such schemes cannot be implemented by a Government which worked only for six months or one year and that also with great difficulty. A shortwhile ago an important Bill was brought here for extending the reservation facility for SCs and STs for another 10 years. Reservation for SC/STs cannot be extended without passage of that Bill. That Bill was presented here amid uproar because the opposition parties did not listen to any point. If disturbance is created during presentation of such an important Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Reservation cannot be scrapped. We will not let it be done.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): No Member from this side had spoken.

[English]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: You have your own time to reply or rebut it. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand that you have your own time to rebut it. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : In the Presidential Address hon'ble President has made a mention about the funds with the Government and stated that while spending from public exchequer preference should be given to poorest among poor. We have to create employment opportunities and infrastructure for welfare of the poor. For creating infrastructure 9 thousand kilometre long highway are to be constructed. Ports and airports are to be modernised and schemes for power sectors are to be formulated. All these programmes cannot be implemented without inviting foreign capital. It is the policy of this Government that foreign capital will be utilized for these works and our own funds will be utilised for public welfare schemes. All these projects can be started with an annual direct capital investment of 10 billion dollars. It will alleviate poverty and solve the problem of unemployment. All these schemes have been mentioned in the Presidential Address. We shall be able to lead our country on path of progress by implementing these schemes and by creating infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we do not want to just modernise our country but will bring latest facilities here. As it has been mentioned in this Address by hon'ble President that we want to get latest technology from the world in the field of information technology, science, computers, space and other technological development. We are holding the number one position in many sectors and will improve our position in other sectors also but we do not want to leave our culture. We want borrow technology from the west but we do not want to ape their culture. The hon'ble President has stated that we want to adopt latest technology without leaving our culture.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has improved relations with neighbouring countries by sending out message of peace. A bus for Lahore was started and hon'ble Prime Minister visited there himself. Hon. President has made a mention that we want to promote peace but at the same time we want to improve our defence forces

so that no country could dare to cast a hostile look. I was surprised that at the time of nuclear test, leaders of Congress Party and other political parties raised an objection saying that why we wanted to become nuclear power when the country lacks drinking water facility and food for all. Earlier also such mentality kept us enslaved for thousand years. We had been enslaved for thousand years because our defence forces were not provided with improved armaments.

We want to promote peace and improve relations with other countries but at the same time we want to maintain our strength so that attention is paid towards our message of peace. It has been stated in Gita :-

"Yatra Yogeshwar Krishnah,  
Yatra Partho dhanurdharah,  
Tatra Shri Vijayomurti,  
Dhruvah nirtimatimam,"

The world pays attention to the message of peace only when the messenger of peace Lord Krishna is followed by the great Warrior Arjuna. Pakistan would have been forced to end the Kargil conflict if nuclear test had not been conducted here. Thus it is essential to equip our armed forces with sophisticated weapons.

In the Presidential Address hon'ble President has made a mention about terrorism. I would like to say that terrorism has been checked to a great extent. Whether there is military rule or other form of Government in Pakistan, they keep on abetting terrorism in India. In Kargil conflict 400-500 soldiers laid down their lives but so far more than 500 soldiers have been killed in proxy war. Pak agency ISI is encouraging terrorism in Kashmir and Eastern parts of the country. For the last 1 or 1½ years terrorism has been countered very well and it has been checked to a great extent. But still a lot has to be done. TADA has been abolished because it was misused in some cases. Terrorism has been checked to a great extent without any such legislation. All the political parties can collectively think about enacting law to deal with terrorists, smugglers and other such criminals.

Sir, consensus among all political parties is required to tackle some problems. In the Presidential Address hon'ble President has made a mention of population explosion. Our development works become meaningless without controlling the population explosion. Such issues are to be tackled by rising above party affiliations. Consensus can be reached in tackling the problems like pollution explosion, poverty alleviation foreign policy and pollution. All political parties should cooperate in these matters ... (Interruptions) All the political parties present here should cooperate in it.

\*Not recorded.

[Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

Sir, last year when our party came to power, the position of our country among nations was 138 from viewpoint of human development. It is really a matter of grave concern because there are only 160 or 170 countries in the world. The number of countries may change but our position should improve. This year we reached 130th position but we cannot be happy about it. Our Government has resolved to bring the country among first ten countries in the next 10 years. We can achieve it if the whole country and all the political parties cooperate and make efforts for it. India can become a prominent country in the next century.

With these words, I move the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members as decided in the meeting with the leaders of Parties and Groups in Lok Sabha held on 25th October, 1999, in order to enable more Members to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and other urgent Government business, the House may sit during the lunch hour from 26th to 29th October, 1999. I hope the House agrees.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I stand here filled with emotion, a sense of happiness, a sense of commitment and a sense of contentment as I have been conferred this privilege to second the Motion of Thanks to the Address delivered by the hon. President of India before the two Houses of Parliament, moved by my esteemed colleague Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Sir, I am happy indeed that the incumbent Prime Minister has come back with a decisive mandate to occupy his chair and that the incumbent Speaker also came to occupy his position. This is the first occasion in Indian history of these five decades and it is a unique occasion. I am happy also because I had the occasion to second the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address last year on 30th March, 1998.

Sir, from the core of my heart I extend my gratitude to the electorate of Sivakasi parliamentary constituency who have enabled me to participate in the deliberations of this Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

On 13th October, when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn-in in the specious *maidan*, within the precincts of Rashtrapati Bhavan, laurels of greetings and congratulations were showered on him from all quarters, from all political parties. Sitting there at a distance, we heard the sound of fire crackers celebrating the joyous occasion. At

the same hour, the sound of movement of the military machine was threatening the ears of the people of Islamabad. While the glow of the flame of democracy was spreading in all directions from here, a military take over was in progress in the neighbouring country.

At that time, what I read in my college days from the book 'A Tale of Two Cities' by famous novelist Charles Dickens, based on Carlyle's great work French Revolution, crossed my mind. It reads:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of time; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, but we had nothing before us; we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going the other way."

In short, this period so far resembled that period that some of the noisiest authorities insisted on being received, for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

That crossed my mind. The very next day when I met hon. Prime Minister to express our jubilation and congratulations. When I pointed out the scenario in Pakistan to him, in his usual poetic style Shri Vajpayee said to me that what was happening in Pakistan was 'darkness at noon.' At the same time he felt so sad. He expressed his agony over the welfare and well being of the people of Pakistan. I felt so proud then of the leader of the National Democratic Alliance who stands tallest amongst the statesmen of the world today.

At the same time, I recall the day, the 17th April of this year, the dark Saturday in the history of the Lok Sabha, when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government was defeated in the confidence motion by a single vote, one vote and also a challengeable controversial vote. At that time, I felt a little bit sad, but he took it sportively. Then I recalled the words of a great poet who said:

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Yes, I remember the world of my friends from the other side that they will form a Government within 'five minutes', even 'within a minute'. In one sentence, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee stated what is the alternative you are going to give. You can overthrow the Government? What alternative are you going to provide? There were voices of pessimism that there would be a hung Parliament and there would be a hung Lok Sabha again. But those voices of despair, frustration and pessimism have been rejected by the people lock, stock and barrel and those voices have disappeared in thin air and in oblivion. The people have given a decisive

mandate for a stable Government. This Government will serve its full term of five years.

It will be very appropriate to quote the words of Mr. Winston Churchill about the election:-

"At the bottom of all tributes paid to democracy is the little man, walking into a little booth, with a little pencil, making a little mark, on a little piece of paper – no amount of rhetoric or voluminous discussion on democracy shall diminish the importance of this little man."

12.59 hrs.

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

People have given this mandate. Why were we so jubilant when we heard the Address delivered by the Hon. President? In this Address, the real India has been represented, the National Democratic Alliance. A collective manifesto has been placed before the people before the elections, that is, the manifesto of the National Democratic Alliance for a proud and prosperous India. That is the policy document of this country, as defined by the President. That is the policy document of this National Democratic Alliance, of this Government. That policy was also expressed by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru about the provincial autonomy, State autonomy.

In his Address in page 2 para 5, the President has said:-

"The participation of regional parties in managing the affairs of the country at the national level in a stable and coherent coalition augurs well for our democracy and federal polity."

I am happy to note that the "Agenda for a Proud, Prosperous India," which is the Government's common policy document, reaffirms its faith in the principles of Secularism, Social Justice, Federal Harmony, Probity, and Socio-economic Equity."

These are the basic and salient features of the Address.

As a true disciple of the founder of DMK Party, late lamented the great Anna, I feel elated to quote his words at this moment:-

"The preamble to the Constitution clearly states that the political sovereignty rests with the people. Then legal sovereignty is divided between the Federal Union and the constituent units. Why don't you take it that our scheme is to make the States still more effective sovereign units? Why don't you take it in that light?"

13.00 hrs.

"Sovereignty does not reside entirely in one particular place. We have a federal structure. The framers of the

Constitution wanted a federal structure and not a unitary structure because many political philosophers have pointed out that India is very vast. In fact, it has been described as a subcontinent—the mental health is so varied, the tradition so different, the history so varied—that there cannot be a steel-framed unitary structure. Here, we should take ourselves as the spearhead of the opposition to the unitary nature of the federal structure of this Constitution, lift it up to the highest political arena, allow it free play and make the federation become a real federation."

This is the beginning towards that goal. This is the write up towards that goal.

My friends, particularly, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Indrajit Gupta will be happy in their heart of hearts about the pronouncement of federal polity and federal harmony because no more are the days when a monolithic hegemony bulldozing the regional aspirations can have its political play. They also have to take lessons from this.

In the year 1974, the DMK Government at that time the Chief Minister was Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi—passed a unanimous Resolution on the floor of the State Assembly for State autonomy. Again, it was Shri Jyoti Basu, the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal who released the White Paper on State autonomy. That was reflected by Akali friends, that was reflected by the Telugu Desam and that was reflected by the National Conference. We have come together with a collective wisdom, a combined manifesto. Therefore, I felt very happy about this direction towards federalism.

When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee came to participate in the 89th birth anniversary of Arignar Anna, he delivered a historic speech on the sands of Marina. He stated that the Dravidian Movement sprang up for the cause of democracy in this country and the foremost leader Dr. Anna gave a clarion call for social justice to uplift the socially and educationally backward classes and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Now, when I hear the same voice, the same clarion call in the banks of the Ganges and in the banks of the Yamuna, as a disciple of Anna, I feel very happy. We are very happy when the voice of Periyar and the voice of Anna reverberate not only in the South but also in the East, in the West and in the North.

I would like to offer a bird's eye view on certain salient features of this Presidential Address: more thrust to be agriculture and agro-based small industries, creation of employment opportunities, assurance of health care, clean and potas drinking water even to the remote hamlets and villages, thrust to female literacy and primary education, a massive 'shelter for all' programme, to make India an information technology superpower, strengthening our infrastructure particularly in the power energy sector,

[Shri Vaiko]

modernisation and restructuring of India textiles, the promotion of science and technology, comprehensive electoral reforms, eradication of the canker of corruption, widening the scope of the Lokpal Bill to cover the office of the hon. Prime Minister and so on. We would get the credit—Atalji would get the credit—for implementing 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures. We will be the first great democracy in the whole world to implement 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and State Legislatures. Naturally, the credit will go to the Prime Minister.

I have gone through some of the amendments being moved by my esteemed friends. I would like to point out that the National Alliance's agenda is an 'agenda for a proud, prosperous India'. It has been emphatically mentioned by the President in this Address that this is based on the policy document of the National Democratic Alliance.

So, it is covering so many things in almost all the areas and all the spheres. I would like to tell them that for 45 long years or four-and-a-half decades, they were holding the reins of power, but they never thought a while to implement a project like the Sethu Samudram Canal which is pending for 138 years. It is the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who, when addressed the mammoth gathering at the Marina Sands, said that the long pending project of Sethu Samudram Canal Project would be implemented. That has been mentioned in this Agenda also.

Sir, it is my bounden duty to salute the martyrs who have shed their blood and who have laid down their lives in Kargil and Drass Sectors. When the Pokhran tests were conducted, people were raising hue and cry from the housetops, but with foresight, hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee anticipated the misadventure from our neighbour who was already possessing clandestinely nuclear arsenal and therefore, he ordered for conducting nuclear tests, thus making this country a nuclear weapon State. With the same spirit, when he undertook the trip from Amritsar to Lahore, the message of friendship and the message of peaceful coexistence was there. Then, the world realised that here is a man for peace and for friendship.

With the mask of extremists, the Ragular Army of Pakistan encroached upon our territory to usurp our territory. The Government, the Armed Forces and the people of India rose to the occasion to meet the challenge. I am proud of the Tamil youths from my State, Major Saravanan, Muhilan, Natarajan, Kamaraj, Saifullah, Abdul Sattar, Palani, Jayavelu and others who have joined the regiments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar—fighting for the territory at the lofty peaks of Himalayas, risking their lives and braving the cannon-fire and bullets, piercing the enemy

lives—and laid down their lives. I have to salute all the martyrs of this country, the soldiers and airmen, for their incomparable heroism and sacrifice.

Sir, we won the battlefield and won the diplomatic battle field also. On the diplomatic front, for the first time, India had secured a marvellous victory. The greatest achievement of our victory in this arena of diplomatic offensive is that for the first time, the whole world stood by us. The United States, Russia, Britain, France, even China had washed their hands off the erstwhile friend Pakistan. The remarkable achievement in this is that no member of the Organisation of Islamic Country, not even a single Muslim country supported Pakistan. The reasons are many.

We observed commendable restraint in not crossing the line of control. There was nothing wrong, had we crossed the line of control. That had happened throughout the world. Many countries have done this. But we observed commendable restraint in not crossing the line of control. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, one of the greatest leaders of the world was respected throughout the world as the 'Jewel of Asia'. The world respected him, but in our conflict with Pakistan at that time, the world was divided and many countries were not supporting us.

Madam Gandhi in her pinnacle of glory was a most respected leader of the world, more than Margaret Thatcher. The world respected her. But in the Bangladesh war, the whole world did not support India. That was the reality. For the first time, the whole world supported us and stood by us. That is because of the commendable approach and policy of the Government. On 17th April, millions and millions of people who were watching television and hearing AIR were shocked and become sad when they heard about the fall of the Vajpa, the Government. That is not the weakness of democracy, but it is the strength of democracy. Then, Atalji has become the household name in every hamlet, in every village, in every town of this country. Wherever the mosque is there, that is the Muslim countries, they have supported us and they have not supported Pakistan. Throughout the world church is there. They have also supported us.

At this juncture I will fail in my duty if I do not mention about the visit of Pope John Paul. This country is the cradle of civilization. In this country the first church was built in Kerala in the first century. The Hindu King donated the land which was referred to by the Prime Minister in this speech. When Islam came, we embraced it with all love and affection. Mosques were built. I still remember the words of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee which he uttered during the 13 day Government. In his speech he said 'We have not learnt secularism from anyone. We have learnt secularism from the first drop of our mother's milk'. Whenever the

churches were attacked and whenever the minorities were attacked, he was the first person to condemn that. Pope John Paul is going to visit this country. When he visited our country during 1986, he praised our culture, religion, civilization and faith. Likewise, Swami Vivekananda when he astonished the audience in Chicago called for mutual respect of all the religions.

Sir, the Secretary to Pope John Paul and President, Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, the Vatican City has sent a message to Hindu friends. He says,

"Dear Hindu friends,

As you celebrate the religious festival of Diwali, which symbolically suggests the victory of truth over untruth, light over darkness, life over death, good over evil, peace over conflict, I wish all of you abundant divine blessings and happiness throughout the new year which you begin according to your tradition. The popular Hindu festival of Diwali offers people from different religious traditions a joyful occasion to come together in a spirit of friendship and collaboration to reflect on the common origin and destiny shared by all, and to engage in constructive dialogue in order to address the many religious and social questions now facing the world".

So, this is the message from the Vatican city. Voices are raised here and there about the Pope's visit. I would make an appeal to all these people to whichever quarter they belong to, to resist from this and to stop making statements because the whole world is looking at us.

We have got the golden opportunity. Yes, the Goddess of nature has bestowed upon Atal Ji the golden opportunity to steer this country at the dawn of the third millennium, at the threshold of the 21st century, on the eve of the Golden Jubilee of republic of this country. We have got the potential to lead the world. Years back, there were two blocks the Capitalist Block and the Communist Block, one headed by the Soviet Union and the other by the US. Gone are those days. I hope, as a citizen of this dear land, Asia should lead the third millennium. If Asia has to lead the 21st century, naturally India has to lead the 21st century. That is there. That period, with all its glitter and shine, is coming. Therefore, whatever utterances may be made here, Hindu temples have built in New York, Washington, Paris and London. They are respected. For the past 10 years, at least for the decade, the churches all over the world have been preparing to celebrate the entry into the third millennium as also the birth of Jesus Christ.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Is it not painful that an effigy of Pope was burnt in the Capital?

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : No, it was not burnt.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Yes, it was burnt. It was reported in the newspapers. I totally agree with you but is it not painful?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Be careful in your work. It is not true...*(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. If he yields then only you can speak.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Sir, either that statement should not be allowed to go on record or he should be allowed to contradict it...*(Interruptions)* If the statement is not true, let him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat, Shri Thomas.

SHRI VAIKO : Nothing like that has happened. . . . *(Interruptions)* Let us all welcome Pope John Paul. He is coming here to conclude the Assembly of Bishops. He is coming here for a purpose. They have chosen India after much consideration and deep contemplation. He coming here to conclude the Assembly of Bishops and promulgate a document called Apostolic Exhortation. When Jesus shed his blood at the cross, that was the message of forbearance and forgiveness and love and non-violence.

Sir, this is not an occasion for discord. This is not an occasion to spread hatred or acrimony. This is an occasion which we all should welcome. The whole world is looking at us. I hope, my good friends who have occupied the Treasury Benches for the last 45 years, have learnt some lesson at least and I hope that they will prove themselves as an effective Opposition making constructive criticism and will prove that they can survive without power. They were so hasty, their thrust, hunger for power was so high, that they destabilised the Government.

That is their style. They have established not only the Central Government, but they have destabilised State Government 95 times. If they are deliberately determined to sit permanently in the opposition. I have no objection.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Vaiko, please address the Chair.

SHRI VAIKO: This is the trouble with them. They have to wait patiently...*(Interruptions)*

Even the other day have said that they are for the resurrection of Panchmarhi Declaration. They have told that they will try to bulldoze the regional parties. That is the monolithic hegemony of one party rule. But the country is not for that. The result is that they have got an all time low representation in the Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

I do not say you will be written off. You are a force. You have got a tradition. You have got an history. You have got a bad run. You may have got more percentage of votes.



[Shri Vaiko]

If you want to calculate the percentage of votes, how many seats you have contested? For the first time this time you had collaboration with some of the major parties in some of the States. Are you taking into account their percentage of votes also?...*(Interruptions)*

If I want, I can go. I will not take you. They have not learnt any lessons. Therefore, the voters, with all their wisdom have put them in the right place because they have destabilised the then Government. This Government will serve its full term. Therefore, I would appeal to my friends to give constructive criticism and also cooperation.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I have one criticism of the Prime Minister. He should have taken you in the Cabinet.

SHRI VAIKO: He wanted me. But I want to be in the Parliament, on the floor of the House. I am proud of him. The country is proud of him. The people are proud of him. The whole nation is proud of him.

Therefore, once again I would appeal to my friends to be patient for five years. At least try to come back if things are all right. But I do not think that opportunity will be given by Atalji to you. Therefore, I would request all the hon. Members of this House to support the motion moved by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

I commend the motion and conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That an address be presented to the President in the following terms :-

"That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on October 25, 1999."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members present in the House whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated may, if they desire, move their amendments by sending slips to the Table within fifteen minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officer at the Table immediately.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I have to make a submission. Three of my amendments have not been printed in the list. They do not find a mention here. I would

like to know as to what in the authority that decides about this.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): We have not received any dak yesterday or today.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I do not find any rules regarding the authority rejecting amendments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): One of my amendments has not been circulated and I do not know how to move it. The amendment is with respect to the fact that there is no condemnation of the Russian attack on Chechnya.

Sir, I request that I may be allowed to move this particular amendment also that there is no condemnation of the Russian attack on Chechnya in the Address given by the President. It is a very inhuman attack on the civilians in Chechnya and the House must take note of it. Unfortunately, the condemnation does not appear in the President's Address. I have given a notice of the amendment but I find that copies of the amendment have not been circulated.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your amendment was disallowed and you have already been intimated.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I was just now told. I request you to allow me. It was a very inhuman attack on civilians and hospitals.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your amendment refers to discourtesy to friendly foreign Government and hence it is disallowed.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no question of discourtesy. Civilians have been attacked and hospitals have been attacked. Are we to be a silent spectator of violation of all International agreements and human rights?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is disallowed on the basis of rules.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I may be allowed to move it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now, You may do it on other occasion. Shri Shivraj Patil may speak now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, with your permission, I would like to extend congratulations to the hon. Speaker who was elected to this august post by this House unanimously for the second time. With your permission, I would also like to extend congratulations to the Prime Minister and other Ministers who have formed this Government. With your permission, I would also like to congratulate all the Members who have been elected to this House, I am doing this because I am taking the floor for the first time in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha.

Sir, the President's Address touches upon many important issues. The issues on which it touches relate to security, removal of poverty, removal of unemployment, economic development, education, National Health Policy, agriculture, irrigation, water resources, infrastructure, Integrated Transport Policy, the new Telecom Policy, information technology, small scale industries, judicial reforms, WTO, science and technology, urban development, youth, internal security, riot-free and terrorism-free India with Zero Tolerance, Centre-State relations, Constitutional amendment, fixed period of Lok Sabha and other things, reservation for women, free education for girls, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes electoral reforms, corruption and foreign policy.

These are the points on which the Government, through this Address has come before this House. Now, what has been said by the Government on these points in broad outline cannot be objected to. It would be necessary for this House to consider all these points and then go into the details and say on what points in detail the House agrees and on what points in detail the House does not agree.

The first point which has been made by the Government relates to security.

Naturally, they have referred to the Kargil issue. All the members of this House, and all the citizens of this country are proud of the fact that the intruders have been thrown out by our gallant soldiers and officers. We would also like to join the Government and the others also in congratulating our soldiers and officers. There is no doubt about it. Let there not be any doubt at all that no body objected to the Government's efforts to throw the intruders out. At no point of time, no leader and no responsible citizen of this country objected to the efforts done by the Government to throw them out. There is no doubt about it. They have thrown out the intruders and we are very happy about it. We congratulate all those who are responsible for it. But the question remains—It has to be discussed while discussing the Address given by the President—as to how they entered the territory. What were we doing when they were entering this territory? If they were not allowed to come into the territory, there would not have been Kargil. Many other things would not have happened in the neighbouring country also. Therefore, we would like to know what kind of information was available to the Government... (Interruptions)

Why did the Government not take action in time? What prevented them from taking action in time? When this was happening, some Members of Parliament wanted to discuss this matter. The Lok Sabha was not in existence. The Rajya Sabha was in existence. We wanted to have a discussion in the Rajya Sabha. But even that discussion was not

allowed. Of course, the Government was not a full-fledged Government. It was a caretaker Government. Why did the Government not think that the Members are responsible enough to support the efforts made by our soldiers and by our Government also in throwing out the intruders from the territory? What prevented them to come to that conclusion? In the neighbouring country, when this was happening, there were demonstrations on the road. The matter was discussed in the National Assembly. When the first World War and the Second World War took place, the matters were discussed in the Parliament. If the Lok Sabha is not in existence, if the Rajya Sabha Members are not allowed to discuss a matter of this nature, what is the purpose of having the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha? The Government owes an explanation on this point. Why did they come to the conclusion that the Members were going to behave in an irresponsible manner to obstruct the activities of the Government? Who had said that they should not send the forces, should not use the Air Force, should not use the planes, should not use all the equipments which were at their disposal to throw the intruders out? Who had said that? Who had said that they should not spend money to throw the intruders out? Who had said that they should not spend money on an activity of this type? Who had said it? Which responsible officer, which responsible citizen and which responsible Party said this? Nobody has said this. Yet, when this was happening, the elected Members of the Rajya Sabha were not allowed to discuss it. The important point is that the Members of the Rajya Sabha are not nominated Members like the Members of the House of lords. The Members of the Rajya Sabha are elected by the elected representative of the State Legislatures. One of the reasons why the Rajya Sabha has been constituted in this fashion under the Constitution is to have the perpetual existence of the Rajya Sabha so that when occasions of this nature arise, the Members, the elected representatives in a democracy should be able to discuss these kinds of matter.

We would like to have an explanation on this point. Well, we are not criticising for all that has been achieved by the Government or the soldiers or the officers. But we, certainly, would like to have an explanation on this point so that in future—it should not happen—if it happens, there should be an occasion for the elected representative to discuss a matter of this nature. If you do not have faith and confidence in the elected representatives of the people, then in whom are you going to have faith and confidence?

Now, the matter of security has been mentioned. Well, we are indeed very happy that the Government feels that there should be 'zero tolerance' to terrorist activities. We are happy about it. While speaking in this House itself, in the 12th Lok Sabha, I had said that in the present times, it is not the open wars which are going to be more

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

troublesome, but the terrorist activities are going to be very troublesome and it is necessary for any country for that matter, or for India, to be very careful about terrorist activities. It is a sort of proxy war, It is a low intensity war for which people have developed the theories and according to their theories, if you spend Rs. 2,000 crore in a war of four or five days you can spend the same amount of money for seven or 8 years and you can go on creating problems to your neighbours and others. The information is given to them, training is given, equipment are given, plans are made by the experts and the low intensity war is being waged in some countries. It is waged here in India also and we have suffered due to that low intensity war. So, I had said last time that if we really want to have good security provided to our country, there is no doubt that we should modernise our defence forces, there is no doubt that there should be research and development to help the defence forces, there is no doubt that better intelligence should be available to them, there is no doubt that there should be a vision and our defence forces, the Government and the people of this country should know what is going to happen in future and they should be prepared for that.

But at the same time, the time has come when we have to pay enough attention to the terrorist activities which are perpetrated in our country and also in some other countries. I think that enough has not been done in this respect. I do think that enough attention has not been given to this aspect. If you want to stop the terrorist activities, specially the terrorist activities started by the neighbouring countries, we need a long-term plan. We need information, intelligence etc., and the equipments which are available with us should be used in a proper manner and to the maximum extent. If the equipment and the methods are not available, we should acquire them and use them.

Now, whenever the terrorist activities are started we are asking the defence forces to counter them. If it is necessary it should be done. No responsible person is going to say that we should not use the defence forces for this purpose, even when it is necessary. But it is not good to use the defence forces all the time to counter the terrorist activities. This fact has to be realized and it has become necessary to develop a police force specially for countering the terrorist activities. Have we paid attention to this aspect?

The State Governments have their police force and the Union Government is also having some police force at their disposal. But they do not have the equipments which are required for them. Take the case of some foreign countries like Germany or, for that matter, any other country.

Now, at the airport, you will find the BMPs. The armoured carriers are used by the police force to provide security to the people and to provide a facility to counter the terrorist activities at the airports and other places. It should be possible for us to provide something like that to the police force also in India. It is necessary that the communication facility, which is provided to the police force in a State and also at the Union level, should be a modern communication facility. The communication is at the very root of it. But we have not paid attention to it. The equipment that they have—the equipment for transporting the force, the equipment which are used as weapons by the police force—are also outdated, outmoded and obsolete. We are asking the police force to go and counter the terrorists who have the most modern equipments. Is it not a time when we should have a long-term vision for this purpose for the Union Government and also for the State Governments and to have a comprehensive plan for strengthening the police force that we have in the country so that they have the requisite quality of weapons, the transport facility, communication facility and the weapon system?

I do think that it is necessary. If we are spending some money on strengthening the defence forces, at the same time, it will be necessary to spend money on strengthening the police force also at the Union level and the State level. If we were not spending enough money on strengthening the police force at the Union level and the State level, we will not be in a position to counter the terrorist activity. To that extent, our security will remain weak. That has to be understood. Therefore, for that purpose, we shall have to take action.

The manifesto given by the Congress Party has mentioned many of these points. I am very happy that many of the points, which are mentioned in the Congress manifesto, do not find a mention in the manifesto of the BJP. They are mentioned in the Address given by the present Government. One of the things which has been mentioned in the manifesto is that the time has come when we shall have to move a Commission appointed for reforming the police force in the country at the Union level and the State level. This has not been clearly mentioned in the Address given here. But if it is necessary, we can certainly have a Commission appointed so that can have a short-term, a medium-term and a long-term plan for training, a plan for providing the equipment, a plan for providing the transport system, a plan for providing the communication system and a plan for countering the terrorist activities in the country.

While talking about the security, I would like to say that what is important to provide the security to the country is the understanding of the world situation and the internal

situation. The threat perception—internal and external—is one thing. But the second thing is to modernise the defence forces about which, I think, there appears some clarity in the mind of the Government. But the third most important thing is that we shall have to keep the morale of the defence forces very high. This requires a lot of tightrope walking and also a responsible behaviour on the part of the Government and those who are at the helm of affairs and those who are holding the charge. If they behave in an erratic manner, if they behave in a manner that the morale of the defence force is lowered, it is not going to be helpful. The time has come when the Government has to do some sort of soul searching on this point and the Government has to take a corrective action. Those who are working with the Government—any Government for that matter—are the citizens of India. They are holding important posts and positions. They have to be treated properly. They have to be treated in a manner in which they should be. If they are not treated in that manner, it does not enhance the moral of the defence forces. Once the morale of the defence forces is shattered, no amount of money that we will be spending on security will help you.

No amount of modern equipment will help us and that is why some sort of introspection, some sort of thinking about these points is necessary.

Sir, we have been talking about the electoral reforms and the Address speaks the electoral reforms also. I know that in the last four-five Lok Sabha we have discussed this matter in this House itself, and not for one hour or two hours, once it was discussed for more than ten hours continuously. After that Goswami Committee was appointed and that Committee gave a report. We all have been talking about the Goswami Committee Report, what has been said in that Report, and asking that the recommendations given by the Goswami Committee Report should be implemented.

Fortunately, some of the recommendations given by the Goswami Committee Report have been implemented, but not all the recommendations have been implement. If it is possible, we should implement all the recommendations given by Goswami Committee Report. But if you ask me whether I am satisfied with the Goswami Committee Report, I would say 'No'.

Goswami Committee Report is a compromise document. One Member wanted one thing, it was given, the second Member wanted some thing, it was given. it is a sort of a compromise document. The Goswami Committee Report is not going to meet the requirement of electoral reforms in our country. So, it is necessary that we should consider this issue of electoral reforms in great detail and we should then take some hard decisions and then we should try to see that the electoral reforms are made and to helps our democracy.

The two-three points which are raised with respect to electoral reforms are the money power, the muscle power and the criminalisation of politics. These are the three points which are generally discussed.

As far as the money power is concerned, I think it should be possible for the Government of India, for our country to see that money power does not dominate and money or funds are provided to the candidate or to the party in a fashion that the money power does not influence the results in the election. In the case of muscle power also it should be possible to take proper steps. But the issue of criminalisation is really very important and I do not think that there is an easy solution. It is easier said than done. It is not possible to have a law which can really free the electoral system from criminalisation. Against a candidate if a case is filed and if you do not allow him to contest the election, all the good candidates in the House will have case filed against them. This matter has to be very carefully looked into and we shall have to go into the details and come to the conclusion. Some of us who are lawyers know that the laws and courts are used not only to do justice but sometime to obstruct justice and sometimes to harass the people also. That is why this issue has to be very carefully looked into.

Now, I will come to the amendments to the Constitution. Constitutional Amendment also has been suggested. There are two-three points which are mentioned relating to the Constitutional Amendment. One of the points is that the Lok Sabha should have a term of five years and it should not be dissolved before the term is over. When we have fought three elections in three years and when we are sitting here, this appears to be very rosy proposal, but it is not free from defects.

If you have a Lok Sabha which can continue for five years and cannot be dissolved, the Executive may be accountable to the elected Members but the elected Members are not accountable to the people. Whatever they do, they will be allowed to continue in the House for five years. This is going from one extreme to the other extreme. On the one hand there should not be frequent elections; every year there should not be Parliament elections; there should be a reasonable stability provided to the tenure of the Members in the House as also the Executive. But at the same time if you are going from one extreme to the other extreme, it is not going to be useful.

13.51 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Most important element of democracy is accountability. If the Members are not asked to account for what they do in the House; what kind of policies they make; what kind of implementation they ask the Executive to do and

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

they do not account to their constituents, it is not a democracy. That is why, I do think that the idea of providing a reasonable stability to the Members of Parliament in the House is welcome but at the same time going from one extreme to the other extreme is also not correct. It is not democratic. Even the Executive should have a reasonable stability. But if the Executive cannot be removed at all; No-Confidence Motion cannot be moved at all, that is not correct. We are not democratic if we say that for five years whatever the Members they should be allowed to do; whatever the Executive wants to do, the Executive should be allowed to do. Going from one extreme to the other extreme is not correct. This is an issue which has to be very carefully looked into and we will have to come to a conclusion which is really useful to the democratic system and to the good governance in the country also. On the one hand there should be a good governance; on the other hand there should be full accountability.

My formula about this is that there should be a reasonable stability provided to the Executive as well as to the Members in the House and there should be absolute accountability of the Executive to the Legislature and the Members of the Legislature to the people. This is my formula. There are methods which we use to provide this kind of balance also. By amending the Constitution we can provide this. It is suggested that the positive No-Confidence Motion should be adopted by India so that there are no No-Confidence Motion which leave a void after the Confidence Motions are passed and the positions remains vacant. That kind of situation should not be there, and as in Germany we should have a positive No-Confidence Motion.

Well, I do think that it is something which can certainly be considered. There was a time when I myself had suggested this on the floor of this House. I would not object to it but one point which I would like to make with respect to this proposal is that it is not necessary to amend the Constitution to provide a positive No-Confidence Motion. The Confidence Motion is not provided in the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India does not speak about the Confidence Motion or No-Confidence Motion. It is only the Rules Book which speaks about No-Confidence Motion. So, it would be easier for us to have an amendment on this point but amendment on this point will be meaningless unless and until there is full consensus on this point. There would be so many other things which have not occurred to us, which may occur to others also and they would like to speak about those things. Unless and until those things are carefully examined by all parties and all parties agreed to it, it would be difficult to amend the rules also, leave aside the Constitution. There is no question of amending

the Constitution for having a positive No-Confidence Motion because it is to be provided in the Rules Book. These are the two points which I want to make on this issue.

Now I come to the Transport Policy. We, three, are sitting here. Our Deputy Leader, Shri Madhavrao Scindia, my good colleague and friend, Shri Pilot and myself are sitting here. It was suggested to us that we should have an integrated transport policy for India.

Instead of having a road transport policy or a shipping transport policy, or a railway transport policy or an aviation transport policy, it was suggested to us that the transport activity in India which is one of the most important infrastructural facilities provided for the economic development should be looked at in an integrated manner so that the policies which are evolved on these points are most cost-effective and useful. That is why, the railways, the roadways, the waterways, the airways, the ghatways and the ropeways should be taken into consideration and an integrated transport policy should be evolved.

If I remember correctly, we, three of us, sat once or twice and we had thought about it. But this could not be completed. We are very happy that the present Government is suggesting something of this nature for it is good.

Now if we evolve an integrated transport policy and if we allow all the resources which are available in the country to be used for providing the transport facility for the development of the country, it would be very useful. So, on this point, I think the cooperation can be extended by us. Of course, there will be areas on which there may be difference of opinion and we can go into them.

Then let me come to poverty alleviation. On poverty alleviation, I would like to say one thing. Mahatma Gandhiji suggested that the last man should be helped and every tear from every citizen's eyes should be wiped out. All those things are there. But those aspects should not be mentioned only and left at that. We should be very sincere about them. If we are not sincere about them and we are mentioning them only for cosmetic purposes, it is not going to help. We would be deceiving ourselves and we will be deceiving the people. If we are not really helping the last man, the destitute, the poor and we are making the policies which do not take into account as to how he should be helped, it would be very difficult.

Now, in this Address, there are certain things which have been mentioned. The issue of economy has been mentioned. They say that we shall have to reduce the expenditure which the Government incurs. How will the Government try to reduce the expenditure which it is going to incur? If you are going to reduce the expenditure which the Government is incurring for helping the poor man to buy his bread, by his medicine, buy his drinking water, in

what way that will be helpful? Now, a philosophy has been propounded to reduce the subsidies in order to put the economy in good order. I think we shall have to see that the Government expenditure is reduced but the help given to the poor people should not be reduced. There is a difference between reducing the expenditure incurred by the Government and reducing the help given by the Government to the poor people. If the Government is spending Rs. 2 lakh on a project and if the Government can do it with Rs. 1 lakh, that is reducing the expenditure. But if a poor man is getting his bread, you know, at one rupee or one-and-a-half rupees and if you want to increase the price of bread to Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 and increase the money in Government coffers, it will not really be reducing the expenditure. There is a difference between reducing the subsidy and reducing the Government's expenditure. It has to be very carefully examined. What we want, what the country wants and what the world also wants is that the expenditure incurred by the Government in providing the facilities to the people should be reduced by adopting proper methods and means so that there is no burden on the citizen. But to say or to show that we are reducing the expenditure. If we are reducing the help given to the poor, that is not going to be helpful. I would like to distinguish these two things very clearly; one reducing the actual expenditure on administration and the other reducing the subsidies which are given to the poor people.

14.00 hrs.

If there is a misuse, let us do away with that. Now, let us have a look at it. Nobody is going to say that you do not do that, but blindly if you are going to reduce the help which is given to the poor people, it is not going to be helpful.

Then, I come to Science and Technology. Well, Science and Technology is really at the root of economic development. Without developing Science and Technology, it would be very difficult for us to compete with the world or to meet all our requirements or reduce the expenditure which the Government or any other person incurs in producing things. But this issue has to be very carefully examined. What has been mentioned in the Address, I think, is not sufficient and it is not satisfactory also. What is stated in the Address is that there should be coordination between different departments. We have seven or eight Science Departments like Atomic Energy, Space Department, Electronics Department, Genetic Engineering Department, Ocean Development Department, CSIR and ICMR etc. There should be coordination, but that alone is not enough. Now, at the Government level there is coordination. The Prime Minister sits in the Committee and tries to coordinate the activities of all these departments, and the Secretaries meet to coordinate all these departments, but that is not sufficient. What is most important for the

development of Science and Technology in the country is this. It is only the Union Government which is spending the money on the development of Science and Technology. Let it be very carefully examined. The State Government are not spending, public sector undertakings are not spending...

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Patil, are you going to complete it now or do you want to continue on 28th October because at 2 o'clock we want to start the discussion under rule 193?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If I have the time, then I would like to speak again.

MR. SPEAKER: You can continue on 28th, that is, day after tomorrow.

Hon. Members, as decided in the meeting with the Leaders of Parties/Groups in Lok Sabha held on 25th October, 1999, the discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which commenced today, would now be resumed on 28th October, 1999 to facilitate the discussion under Rule 193 regarding increase in the price of diesel and passing of some important Government Bills.

I hope the House agrees.

#### Text of Amendments

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): I beg to move :-

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to find a political solution to the insurgency problem in Assam and North-East Region." (1)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of a bridge over Brahmaputra river at Bogibil, Dibrugarh, foundation for which was laid by the former Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda." (2)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for the improvement and modernisation of North-Eastern Coal field at Mergheritha in Assam." (3)

[Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to develop Tourism in Assam and North-East Region." (4)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to set up new Power Projects in Assam and North-East Region to harness the abundant water resources thereon." (5)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the projects to be started for the self-employment of the youth in Assam and North-East Region." (6)

That at end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the preventive measures taken to stop the erosion of hundreds of acres of cultivable land every year by floods caused by Brahmaputra and other rivers in Assam." (7)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures taken to improve the National Highway of Upper Assam." (8)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps taken to tackle the problem of flood at the national level." (9)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up of new industries for the development of Assam and North-East region." (10)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the setting up of the Assam Gas-Cracker Project, foundation for which was laid by

the former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao." (11)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the upgradation of the oldest Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh to the level of Post Graduate Institution." (12)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for the amendment of the Plantation Labour Act, 1951." (13)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for the improvement of Air Services in Assam and North-East Region." (14)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : I beg to move :

That at end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the causes and cure of persistent backwardness of certain areas like Orissa even after 52 years of Independence despite the presence of abundant natural and human resources." (15)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any effective scheme for the reduction of heavy debt burden of backward States such as Orissa, Bihar and U.P." (16)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the upward revision of royalty on coal which has been overdue since long." (17)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mentioned in the Address about the laying of new railway lines and conversion of quite old narrow gauge railway line from Rupsa to Bangriposi and from Naupara to

Gunupur via Paralakhmundi to broad gauge in the state of Orissa." (18)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the programme for the development of Paradeep Port in order to bring it at par with other ports like Mumbai, Chennai and Kandla." (19)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the establishment of an Oil Refinery at Paradeep." (20)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concrete and time bound programme for construction and full fledged functioning of East Coast Railway zone at Bhubaneswar and the notification of area of the East Coast Railway zone comprising the entire Railway route in the State of Orissa." (21)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the conversion of Biju Patanaik Airport at Bhubaneswar into an International Airport within a time frame of five years." (22)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the development of the tourist sports in Orissa with a view to attracting domestic and foreign tourists round the year." (23)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time bound programme for the development of National Highway No. 203, from Bhubaneswar to Puri." (24)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the acceptance of the

recommendations of the Backward Classes Commission on the inclusion of "JATS AND OTHERS" in the category of other Backward Classes." (40)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to check the extremist activities in the North Eastern States that are on increase." (41)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for improving our relations with neighbouring countries like Pakistan, China, etc." (42)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of the proposal for ring railway facility for Nagpur." (43)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recommendation of 100 years old Santra market railway bridge at Nagpur." (44)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for initiating steps to improve power shortage in the country." (45)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to stop the import of sugar." (46)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of more godowns to stock the excess foodgrains in the country." (47)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the laying of new railway lines to connect the remote areas of the country." (48)



[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to link all the villages with railway line." (49)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about an effective storm warning mechanism to save the people from cyclones which take heavy toll of human lives in various States every year." (50)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the atrocities on women in the country." (51)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check the increasing number of rape of the minor girls in the country." (52)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to put ban on child labour in the county." (53)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to provide insurance cover to the farmers whose crops were destroyed due to cyclones, floods and droughts throughout the country." (54)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to improve weavers' plight in the country." (55)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the introduction of new modern technology in weaving sector." (56)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about Conversion of Sonegaon (Nagpur) airport into international airport." (172)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing potable water to all the villages in the country." (173)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing houses to the weaker sections and down-trodden people of this country." (174)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing employment to all the educated un-employed youth in the country." (175)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing unemployment allowance to the youth of this country." (176)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing basic need of clothing, shelter and employment to the large sections of our society." (177)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about in introducing new technology for agricultural development in the country." (178)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about in increasing the Agriculture production in the country." (179)

That at the end of the mention, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the price rise that is affecting the common people in the country." (180)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the edible seeds production in the country." (181)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about introducing new technology in sugar production in the country". (182)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing assistance and help to the cane growers in the country." (183)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing assistance and timely help to the cotton growers who were forced to commit suicide in many parts of the country due to drought and famine." (184)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulating a concrete proposal and programmes for the poor cotton growers in the country." (185)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about development of villages in the rural area so that people do not migrate from villages to cities." (186)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing metalled roads in the remote areas in the country." (187)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about developing the National Highways in the country." (188)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing free and compulsory education to the large sections of the society in the country." (189)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about introducing new pattern of education to the common people." (190)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about improving literacy rate in the country." (191)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the large-scale drop-outs in schools in the primary and middle classes in the country." (192)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing each village with a primary or a middle school." (193)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing Health Care Centres in each and every village in the country." (194)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing atleast one industry in every village of the country." (195)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing sports facilities in every village in the country." (196)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementing the family planning programmes in each and every village of the country." (197)

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the growth of population in the country." (198)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about improving the industrial production in the country." (199)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about achieving the annual exports targets." (200)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing employment to atleast one member of each family." (201)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the increasing number of infiltrators into India." (202)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the ISI increasing activity in the country." (203)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about modernising our defence forces." (204)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about formulating programmes, plans and actions to forcast the cyclone and floods which damage the crops and property worth crores of Rupees every years." (205)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about settling the boundary disputes between the various States in the country." (206)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about settling the water disputes between the various States in the country." (207)

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the increasing attacks on minorities and Christians which are on the increase during the last 2/3 years." (208)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking various steps to check the rail accidents in the country." (209)

That at the end of the mention, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the extremist activities in various parts of the country." (210)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing minimum wages to the labour class in the country." (211)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking welfare measures for the agricultural labourers in the country." (212)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing sufficient facilities to the war widows and ex-soldiers in the country." (213)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a national Pension and Welfare Policy for the senior citizens and for the infirm, destitute and handicapped." (62)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the imbalance in the development of various regions in the country and the need for an action plan for the balanced development of all regions of the country." (63)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the pressing need for a comprehensive plan for the educational and economic development of the minorities." (64)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for speedy implementation of the recommendations of the Gujral Committee on Protection of Urdu." (65)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concern over, and the need to check the damage being caused to communal harmony and amity in the country through irresponsible propaganda against the centres of Islamic learning, minority institutions and minority personalities under the pretext of their being centre/agents for ISI and Pakistani activities in our country." (66)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for immediate measures to stop the communal campaign unleashed on the eve of proposed visit of Pope to India." (67)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for just and fair schemes for providing compensation to, and rehabilitation of the victims of violence, particularly the victims of communal riots." (68)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for proportionate

reservations in Parliament, State Legislatures, local bodies, Government services and educational institutions for the minorities, particularly the Muslims." (69)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any timebound programme for solving the unemployment problem and to give 'unemployment allowance' to the unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges in the country." (70)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about including the 'Right to Work' in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right." (71)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about including the 'Right to Shelter' in the constitution, as a Fundamental Right." (72)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for free and compulsory education upto at least the tenth standard and for making it a Fundamental right in the Constitution." (73)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of free ration and other essential commodities to persons living below the poverty line." (74)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for effective industrial policy to check migration from rural areas to urban areas." (75)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for urgent judicial reforms procedure to secure speedy justice." (76)

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the introduction in our electoral system of the method of proportionate representation without any threshold." (77)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for ensuring voting rights to the Indian citizens working abroad." (78)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a timebound scheme for implementing the Sarkaria Commission report on Centre-State relations." (79)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the decline in the value of rupee against dollar." (80)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the people and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation." (81)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about action for protection of the places of worship of the minorities." (82)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to get the court cases concerning Babri Masjid expedite and decided early." (83)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the need to increase Central

investment in, and for the overall development of Kerala." (84)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up a separate Secondary Switching Area (telecommunication) for the district Malappuram with its headquarters in Tiru in Kerala." (85)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up a separate zone/sub-zone for railways in Kerala with its headquarters at Tirur." (86)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the mounting unemployment in Kerala and the need for an action-plan to increase adequately the employment opportunities in the State." (87)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for expeditious development of the Fishing harbour at Ponnani in Malapuram district of Kerala." (88)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for a bridge across the river Bharathapuzha for connecting Ponnani and Tirur Malapuram district of Kerala." (89)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the pressing need to increase the post and telegraph facilities in the Malappuram district of Kerala in view of the growing need for the same." (90)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to take steps for stopping atrocities committed on members of the S.C., S.T. and weaker sections of society." (92)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to roll back the steep hike in diesel prices." (277)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a crash plan for alleviation of poverty." (278)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to strengthen and to improve the functioning of the Minorities Financial Development Corporation." (279)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for appropriate legislation to ban exit polls during elections." (280)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the any positive approach to the problems of working journalists whose wages have not been revised for the past ten years." (93)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the recent threats posed by some organisations in connections with the visit of pope." (94)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the any concrete programme for the small and marginal farmers cultivating rubber." (95)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the coconut farmers who are facing acute hardships." (96)

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the unprecedented rise in the prices of all essential commodities due to the recent hike in diesel prices and the failure of the government in taking urgent steps to remove the difficulties of the people." (97)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the government to protect the constitutional rights of the minorities and in taking initiative to constitute a permanent Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the welfare of the minorities." (98)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the government to prevent atrocities against the Christian missionaries and nuns who have been doing devoted service for the upliftment of the poor." (99)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to set up a Sperate Ministry for Fisheries." (100)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the government in providing adequate financial assistance to states like Kerala to undertake anti-Sea-erosion work." (101)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for the full implementation of the Police Commission reports." (102)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : I beg to move :-

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's determination to ameliorate the lot of slum dwellers and the malnourished." (109)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to strengthen the Public Distribution System, particularly for the poor." (110)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's desire to do anything meaningful for dignified rehabilitation and employment, as instead of mere welfare of the physically handicapped." (111)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fall in prices of Rubber, Coconut Spices and Gram in Kerala." (136)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the atrocities against Christian Minorities in different parts of India." (137)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the specific time bound programmes for eradicating unemployment problem in India." (138)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the problems faced by the Coir, Beedi, handloom and cashew workers in Kerala." (139)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific programmes for

meeting the problems relating to inadequate railway facilities in Kerala." (140)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any programme for boosting Central Investment in Kerala." (141)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific steps proposed to be taken to resolve the long standing Cauvery Water dispute." (142)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any programme for rehabilitation of the Gulf returnees." (143)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the plight of Industrial workers who have lost their jobs due to liberalisation policies." (144)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any specific programme to contain the alarming growth of population." (145)

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram) : I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the holding a public debate on comprehensive electoral reforms." (229)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the time frame within which the Government proposes to fulfil promises made in its agenda." (230)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Sethu Samudram project

about which a commitment had been made earlier." (231)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken for converting into broad gauge railway track from Tirrichurapalli to Manmadurai." (232)

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to make the administration corruption free, accountable, transparent and more effective." (261)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time-bound scheme for bringing of poor people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes above the poverty line." (262)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time-bound scheme to link the district headquarters, state capitals and all major and industrial commercial cities and every village in the country with telecommunication network." (263)

That at end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a scheme at the national level for setting up hospitals equipped with modern medical facilities in the rural areas of the country with in a radius of 10-kilometres." (264)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implimentation of a time bound scheme to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of power to raise the standard of living as well as industrial growth rate in the country." (265)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the scheme to promote cottage industries in the rural areas of the country." (266)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to set up latest technological training centres at block level for imparting training to unemployed youth so that they could set up their own units." (267)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for construction of stadiums at block level for creating awareness among the youth towards sports on the country." (268)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps to be taken at the national level for the maintenance of the existing primary schools and raising the standard as well as expansion of education." (269)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to provide the profit from the export of Agro-based products to the producers at the national level." (270)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the implementation of a time-bound scheme at national level to store the available surplus water in the country." (271)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to make the country free from the flood and drought." (272)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme for ensuring



[Shri J.S. Brar]

participation of local representatives in the implementation of developmental schemes." (273)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementing a time bound scheme for the all round development of scheduled castes, tribes and backward classes of the country." (274)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a time-bound scheme for making the agricultural sector of the country profitable and bringing the agricultural production at par with that of the developed countries of the world." (275)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the any scheme for setting up public convenience system in each village of the country." (276)

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital): I beg to move:-

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the disproportionate rise in the Consumer Price Index compared to the change in the whole-sale price index of essential commodities." (353)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rising number of big and small industries falling sick in public, private, cooperative and joint sectors and remedial measures thereto." (354)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps that have been taken by the Central Government on requests made by many State Governments to enable them to

pay salaries and basic allowances to their employees teachers, employees of the local bodies and to meet other unavoidable expenditure." (355)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the fact that the Central Government have not implemented the accepted recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission on additional devolution of Central Taxes and Duties to the States." (356)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the increasing power and energy crisis in economically backward States like Uttar Pradesh and urgent steps to set up (a) Naptha-based power stations for which Naptha has already been allocated since a long time but remains unutilized; (b) Gas-based Power Station at Aonla, Babrala, Shahjahanpur and Jagadishpur at approved location where gas based Fertilizer units are already working; and (c) Arranging institutional financial guarantees and counter guarantees etc., for financing the above and also the part by constructing Maneri Bhali, Vishnuprayag, Rosa, Lukhwar Vyasi Anpara Third Power Projects etc." (357)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to make public sector units viable by taking such measures as timely completion of projects and utilising their full capacity and providing necessary funds for their revival." (358)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to revamp and extend the Public Distribution System which is essential for checking price rise and ensuring availability of daily necessities to the people." (359)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing regional imbalances and the steps to correct them." (360)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any proposal to formulate a National Pension Scheme for old and disabled people in the country." (361)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in the urban land price, particularly, in the metropolitan cities and need to take effective measures to put an end to speculation in land prices." (362)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any scheme to effectively check the floods and drought which occur every year in different parts of the country." (363)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the mal-practices in the implementation of various poverty alleviation, rural development and employment generation programmes." (364)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to ameliorate the condition of slum dwellers in view of the growing number of slums in the country." (365)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that the package for jawans who fell martyrs at Kargil will be uniformly implemented for those soldiers also who laid their lives fighting in the Kupwara, Punch, Kashmir Valley and other sectors and will also cover para military forces like the Assam Rifles and supporting forces." (366)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to reopen the closed down spinning mills of the National Textiles Corporation and the State Textile Corporations

including the Jaspur, Kashipur, Jhansi, Meerut, Sandila Spinning Mills to help hundreds of thousand of skilled workers." (367)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the problems of millions of cane-growers, cotton and tobacco farmers of the country and assure them of implementing packages to help them." (368)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : I beg to move :-

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking the steep hike in the prices of fruites and vegetable due to truckers nationwide strike protesting against the rise in diesel prices by the Government." (421)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to remove backwardness of the State of Bihar." (422)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about releasing the amount as recommended by the 10th Finance Commission for Panchayati Raj in Bihar." (423)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the maintenance and development of the national highways in Bihar." (424)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the price based royalty for coal in place of weight based one, as recommended by the Government Committee." (425)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the modernisation of Sindri and Barauni fertiliser plants." (426)

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check the growing menace of poverty, unemployment, disparity and price rise in the country." (427)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the threats posed to the security of the country due to unrealistic foreign policy adopted by the Government." (428)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government with regard to fulfilment of the hopes and aspirations of the poor people." (429)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the businessmen and the multinational companies minting money at the expense of common man." (430)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the deteriorating economic situation in the country leading to the closure of public sector undertakings." (431)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the improvement in cattle breeding and also checking spread of diseases among them." (432)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about checking diseases like Hepatitis-B, T.B., H.I.V. and Kidney and heart ailments in the country and providing timely medical facilities for them." (433)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the scheme for the development of primary, secondary and higher education." (434)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making arrangements for augmenting the production of foodgrains, pulses, oils in proportion to the increasing population of country." (435)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about meeting the shortage of cold storage for storing potatoes and onions in the country." (436)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures for checking price rise of potatoes, onions, oils, pulses and other essential commodities in the country." (437)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures of pulling the country out of the crisis of deficit financing, unearthing black money and preventing tax-evasion." (438)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about effective measures to check hoarding, blackmarketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (439)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the revival of loan facilities from R.E.C. for electrification of all the villages in Bihar." (440)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about completing the work of electrification of all villages of district Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali in Bihar by granting REC loan to Bihar Electricity Board." (441)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking Hathidah and Fatuhan in the northern and southern Bihar by a transmission line." (442)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about implementing the hydroelectric projects of Koyalkaron, Kadram, Kanhar and Shankh." (443)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about augmenting the capacity of Muzaffarpur, Kahalgaon, Barh, North Karnpura, Tenughat, Navinagar Thermal Power Stations." (444)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about a scheme for draining out the water from water-logged fields (chauras) of Bihar." (445)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the scheme to save Bihar State from the fury of floods of rivers like Gandak, Kosi, Vagmati and Ganges consequent upon the signing of Indo-Nepal treaty." (446)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the funds sanctioned for saving the people from the devastation caused by the floods and for providing relief to the flood victims in Bihar." (447)

That at the end to the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking all the villages of Bihar by road." (448)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the construction of 'pucca' houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and weaker sections in Bihar." (449)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the installation of handpumps for providing potable water in the 'Mohallas' of poor people in Bihar." (450)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the completion of the work of the houses which are under construction and are yet to be completed under Indira Avas Yojana in Bihar." (451)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about declaring the Patna-Hazipur-Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi-Mithamor road as national highway." (452)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing transportation facility in Bihar for fruits and vegetables such as potato, onion, tomato, banana, mango, lady fingers, 'parwal', etc. to industrial cities and abroad by air cargo and A.C. rail coaches for the benefit of the farmers." (453)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address developing Vaishali as an international tourist spot." (454)

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing basic facilities in schools of Bihar." (455)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing telephone facility in all villages of the country particularly in all villages of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Vaishali districts of Bihar." (456)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check rampant corruption in the country." (457)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to check child labour and prostitution." (458)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the development schemes for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (459)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about issuing red cards to the poor people in Bihar and other parts of the country under which foodgrains is provided at half rate to the people living below poverty line." (460)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the specific plan for providing employment to educated unemployed youth in the country." (461)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to protect the Constitutional rights of the minorities." (462)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in prices of essential and life saving drugs." (463)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for amending the Essential Commodities Act." (464)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about banning the entry of private sector, indigenous or foreign, in the Insurance Sector." (465)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the eradication of illiteracy from the country." (466)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to control widespread land erosion in Murshidabad, Nadia, Hooghly and Bardhaman districts of West Bengal." (467)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about equal rights and wages etc. for the women." (468)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about steps taken to protect women's health and child care in the country." (469)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formulation of a National policy on youth." (470)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing corruption in the administrative machinery at various levels and the effective measures to eradicate the same." (471)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formulation of a policy to remove regional imbalances and have uniform development of all the regions in the country." (472)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the revival of sick industrial units in the public sector and rehabilitation of the displaced workers." (473)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing remunerative prices to the farmer for their agricultural produce in consonance with the rising costs of the inputs." (474)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities thus making them beyond the reach of the common man." (475)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to strengthen the Public Distribution System for providing essential commodities to the poorer sections living in the remote areas." (476)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about formulating a time-bound programme to provide employment opportunities in the rural areas so as to prevent exodus of educated youth to the urban areas, seeking job opportunities." (477)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the steps taken to check unabated brain-drain of doctors, scientists, technicians and experts." (478)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the growing unemployment in the country and the need to provide unemployment allowance to all unemployed educated youths so as to mitigate their hardship." (479)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the closure of 90 collieries of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. thus rendering 1 lakh workers out of job." (480)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about reduction in custom duties and increase in excise duties to benefit steel and other industries." (481)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for a legislation to provide minimum wages to agricultural workers." (482)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to monitor effective implementation of land reforms in the country." (483)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about formulation of a scheme for all round development of under development districts in the State." (484)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the repair of existing national highways and construction of new national highways in Eastern Zone." (485)

[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about steps for implementing the programmes effectively to safeguard the interests of the minorities in the country." (486)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for constructing more dwelling units for the economically weaker sections of society in the country." (487)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about introduction of an integrated Crop Insurance Scheme to save the poor farmer community from natural calamities." (488)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for a comprehensive Legislation to provide pension for the most neglected rural labourers who are not in a position to take out their livelihood." (489)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for affective measures to provide Compulsory Primary Education." (490)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about measures taken for expanding facilities of cold storage for marketing of farm produce particularly vegetables, fruits etc. in order to enable the farmer to get suitable remunerative price." (491)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for distribution of barren land to the local farmers to grow trees." (492)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about providing vocational courses to the rural unemployed youth and women for enabling them self-reliant." (493)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for measures to encourage constructions of Highways and ports." (494)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for reduction in the price of electricity for the use of consumers." (495)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for protecting the role of NGOs in building the infrastructure in the rural areas and providing employment opportunities." (496)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures taken to curb atrocities on Dalits." (497)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about bringing suitable legislation for protection, welfare and all round development of minorities." (498)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about a comprehensive plan to provide basic needs of food, clothing and shelter to the poor people in the country." (499)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address shows no concern about the measures to check the growing menace of the poverty, unemployment, disparity and price rise in the country." (500)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for the deteriorating economic situation in the country leading to closure of public sector undertaking." (501)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for improvement in cattle breeding and also to checking spread of diseases among them." (502)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measure taken to control of the diseases like Hepatitis-B, T.B, H.I.V. and kidney and heart ailments and various poverty related diseases in the country and also providing timely medical facilities for them." (503)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for promoting of primary, secondary and higher education." (504)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about steps taken for augmenting the production of foodgrains, pulses, oil in proportion to the increasing population of the country." (505)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures taken for checking for price rise of vegetables, oils, pulses and other essential commodities in the country." (506)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures taken to pull out the country out of the crisis of deficit financing, black money and taxevasion." (507)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures taken to check hoarding,

black marketing, profiteering and adulteration etc." (508)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for a scheme to save various States from the fury of floods and the loss incurred by the people and the State Government." (509)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking all the villages by approach roads." (510)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for construction of pucca houses for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities and weaker sections in the country." (511)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for the installation of handpumps for providing potable water for the poor people in all States." (512)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the steps taken to prevent about national loss due to recurrent of floods and droughts in the country and the need for effective steps to be taken to control the menace." (513)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures taken to check rampant corruption in the country." (514)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures taken to check child labour and prostitution." (515)



[Shri Bāsudeb Acharia]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for development scheme for farmers, labourers, youth and women." (516)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the growing incidence of sickness among people and general deterioration of the health of the people in the country." (517)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the miserable performance of India in international sports and game in spite of larger population than many other countries." (518)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for augmenting investments in the field of science and technology in public and private sectors." (519)

14.02 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

##### **Increase in the Price of Diesel**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : So, now we will take up the item no.12, that is, discussion under Rule 193. Shri Shankersinh Laxmanainh Vaghela.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA (Kapadvanj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I congratulate the hon'ble Prime Minister and his government for the mandate N.D.A. got in the 13th Lok Sabha. . . (*Interruptions*)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : He has old ties with them.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : I am destined to be in the opposition. I would like to quote from your speeches delivered by you when you were in the opposition party. I would also like to quote what the hon'ble Prime Minister had said at that time. Things like Diesel are used by the farmers and consumers and it is also used in the industrial

production. Diesel is also used as fuel in buses in which general passengers travel. This Government was yet to be properly installed, but it chose to increase the price of diesel by 35 percent. Before this government, there was no such government in the country which increased the price of diesel by 35 percent at a time. They made a commitment to the people that prices of commodities and rate of inflation would not increase but they increased the price of diesel even before formation of the government. Administrative prices have been increased before commencement of Parliament Session and presentation of budget. you have always opposed this thing. Then why did you increase the price of diesel overnight?

I would like to quote from the speech of hon'ble Prime Minister delivered on July 10, 1996.

[*English*]

This is regarding the question of propriety of pre-Budget-hike in administered prices of petroleum products.

[*Translation*]

A journalist had dialed you around mid night. I had also received a phone call from my journalist friend. You said:

[*English*]

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise an important matter which is related to the dignity of the House and glory of democracy. The Eleventh Lok Sabha has been constituted recently.

Sir, now the 13th Lok Sabha has been constituted recently. Again I quote:

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 11th Lok Sabha has recently been constituted. It is the first day of the first session."

Today is the first day of the real business, Sir. It mentions railways.

"The trains cannot run today."

[*Translation*]

Further the hon'ble Prime Minister had stated:

"It was around midnight when I received a phone call from a journalist that the prices of petrol have been hiked. The prices of LPG are being increased by 30 per cent, that of naphtha by 20 per cent..."

All details are given here.

[*Translation*]

Mention of all M.Ps was made in what you had stated.

[*English*]

"In all, a burden of nine thousand and seven hundred crore rupees has been imposed in the people of the

country merely through a Government order." If the Government had waited till 10th, if this you had waited till today. It had put up the proposal today, heavens would not have fallen. We were hoping that since this is the new Government, it would function in a different manner."

But this Government is not so new. This is a second-time Government, an experienced Government. You further said, and I quote:

"But only the faces have changed, the nature of the ruling party has not changed. Sir, people have changed but the style of functioning remains the same here also. Who had advised them to impose such a burden even when the session had been summoned? To impose such a heavy burden, is a different issue altogether. I am raising a question of propriety and I fail to comprehend how the M.Ps such as Shri Indrajit Gupta, Somnath Chatterjee, Ramoowaliaji..."

All the details are given here. Again, he said, and I quote:

"However, today the ruling party has changed. Those who were sitting on the opposition Benches have moved on to treasury benches."

Those who were sitting on the Opposition Benches at that time are now sitting on the Treasury Benches. Now they have every right to do so...*(Interruptions)*. This is the reality.

*[Translation]*

I was not here at that time, I would like to request you to kindly recall the words uttered in their speeches by the hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Jaswant Singhji and Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi. What was stated by Dr. Joshi to Shri Jaswant Singh who was the then Finance Minister. A first class 'Shloka' was recited by Dr. Joshi about 'Ghee'.

"Yavatah jeevet Sukham jeevet,  
Rinam Krutwa ghrutam peevet,  
bhasma bhutasya dehsys punargamam kutah."

Dr. Joshi made his speech during discussion under rule 193 on the same subject i.e. rise in prices of petroleum and diesel.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : When was this speech made?

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : On July 11, 1996. I do not want to waste the time of the House by going into details what Dr. Joshi had told to the then Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh but he had mentioned price rise in his speech. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Petroleum Minister are present here. If your conscience

allows, please recall your speeches which you had delivered when you, were in the Opposition... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Had they been conscientious they would not have come to that side.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are saying that there has been price rise in the international market and it has gone upto \$ 163 from \$ 124. if there had been price rise upto Rs. 2 per liter it would had been bearable for the people but this price rise is more than rupees four which has hit the common man hard. Therefore, I would request to kindly reduce it, this hike should be less then two rupees. Do not burden everybody with price hike as high as rupees four.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the Kargil intrusion, hon'ble Finance Minister had said that the countrymen would have to be ready to bear the burden of heavy taxes. Till then general elections had not been announced. Later on the denied that he had never said so. Is he going to impose heavy taxes on the public? Can he not wait till the budget? What for he wants the public to be ready?

I do not want to raise the Kargil issue as it is a separate issue and it will be discussed when it comes before the House. At that the Finance Minister had cautioned about burden of heavy taxes, than how did he allow the rise in price of diesel before the budget? There was overnight price hike. It is there in your note that price of diesel was \$ 3210 per metric tonne in February, 1999 which rise to \$ 7020 per metric tonne in September, 1999. I want to know whether there was no rise in price of diesel in March and May? If prices were on the rise than why did you hike the prices when your goverment got the status of a caretaker government? Why did you not hike price during July, August or September? You did not do it because elections were before you and you wanted votes in the elections. You fetched the public votes in return you hiked price of diesel. Even in listening, the hon'ble Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Sir, this is a matter of such great national importance and the hon. Prime Minister is going out...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, when we could listen to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address, the hon. Prime Minister should be present and listen to this. It is a question of the common man who is hurt and he is the right person to be here...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The concerned Minister, Shri Ram Naik is here.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, I am not holding on that. My feeling is that the hon. Prime Minister should have been here....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : The Prime Minister can listen to the speeches made in this House while sitting in his room also.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is right. But we cannot see his reaction....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : If you want him to see your face, that can also be seen by him on the television....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We had gone through the poems of the poet but we want to see whether he associates his feeling with those of the common man or not....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : You are right. Shri Vaghelaji is quoting from his speeches and he has rightly defended....*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Look towards your right hand side. It is the duty of the leader of the Opposition as well to remain in the House....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it true or not that when price hike was made effective, the Prime Minister might have been consulted. These are the bitter facts. I have quoted only a few extracts from the speech of the Prime Minister so far. I would dwell further on the kind of speeches delivered. However, the Prime Minister should have given an assurance that the Members are free to express their views and that after the completion of the discussion under Rule 193, he will assure the House and the people of the country that the price of L.P.G. or Kerosene or Petrol will not be hiked and it would have been better if he had considered the prospect of rolling back the present hike from four rupees to two rupees but the truth is always bitter. Price has been hiked overnight, after the election, after having secured the votes of the people. At midnight, a burden was imposed on the people. They are aware of it and their fury will be apparent in the next election. Right now, no elections are scheduled. It might be a source of income for you. Prices have gone up in the international market and that is why the Government has had to resort to this jugglery of figures to meet gap. Thus five thousand crore rupees have been generated by the Government. It has resorted to the price hike to make both ends meet. This jugglery of price rise is a cruel joke for the people. The price rise has been termed as a saving but its implications are felt by the common man, the farmer having no bullocks but tractors to plough his fields and the

farmer doing mechanised farming. Diesel is required for running tractors. The Government should think about the plight of the poor farmer who has taken to mechanised farming. He has no bullocks. Tractors serve as bullocks carts, as well as vehicles. All his purposes are served by tractors and tractors run on diesel. The Government has imposed a burden of four rupees on that farmer. It has not taken this step to make both ends meet. Four or five poor farmers take a tractor on loan in partnership. Those poor farmers are repenting today that they voted for B.J.P. or N.D.A. Sir, not only farmers but the consumers, the common man, the passengers and particularly the bus passengers are also disturbed. The B.J.P. M.Ps elected Delhi should be ashamed of themselves. They have not been inducted in the Council of Ministers. I can understand that. The Delhi Government has increased the fares of State transport buses. Has Shrimati Sheila Dixit or the Congress Government increased the fares or is it because the Central Government has hiked the price of diesel by four rupees. The impact of this price rise will be felt in all the States irrespective of the party affiliation of the ruling State Government. The State transport and the passengers are bound to be affected. The Government of Gujarat has also hiked the price of diesel recently. All the buses run on diesel throughout the country and the poor common man who has to travel from his village to the Tehsil or District Headquarter or city by bus due to non-availability of rail facility is directly hit because of increase in the bus fares. Though the common man has not been targeted directly but ultimately it is poor passenger who has been hit by the hike in price of diesel....*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : The Congress has increased the bus fares by 100% in Delhi. Please say something in that regard also....*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Roll back the price of diesel. Don't you feel ashamed having hiked the price of diesel....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Would such a situation have arisen in many states if you had not hiked the price of diesel which means that the Government itself has set the ball rolling....*(Interruptions)* This will not only result in an increase in price of agricultural products but will also give rise to inflation. Not only that, crores of people and especially poor people travel by buses. I don't think that any Member of Parliament, MLA or I.A.S. or I.P.S. officer or well-to-do person travels by bus. If you ever happen to travel by bus, you will come to know how overcrowded the buses are. As the poor people have to go to work, they have to travel in such buses. Thus the bus passengers and the poor villagers have been affected by the hike in price of diesel. The Government has hit him so hard that he is feeling the pinch. That is not all. It is now the turn of the Railway Minister. Railway engines also

run on diesel. Let us see what their Railway Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee comes up with in next few days. If fares are not increased, how will the additional burden be borne? Now the Rail passengers are facing the threat of increase in fares. Do you wish to continue as Minister or not? If so, the burden of price of diesel will have to be distributed and shared. As I understand it, our transport industry is providing service in hilly areas and such areas where there is no Railway facility or Railway tracks. The goods and the luggage is transported by the private transport operators in such areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, that industry has become sick, in addition to that, the Government has hiked the price of diesel. You could ask them to raise their charges accordingly and divert the burden partially on the consumers but consumers might refuse to pay such hefty price for hiring the truck. So if the hiring charges of the trucks are increased, the consumers won't use the truck service which will ultimately harm the truck industry. The Government has directed the State Government to impose ESMA in case they refuse to comply. You believe in humanism. Our Prime Minister is a humanist, so how can you talk about imposing ESMA. The Government has given orders to shoot and arrest people. What is happening? Can the country be governed in such a manner? The Government has increased the prices of various commodities. It has hiked the price of diesel. Therefore, those people also have the right to go on strike and hike the charges. How will the system, function? Today, the prices of all the commodities are rising. The prices of vegetable are rising. The prices of all the things are rising. The Festival of Diwali is very close. Merchandise is to be transported by trucks but the consignments are locked up due to strike by truck operators. Now the tempo owners have also joined the strike.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon Hon'ble Minister to initiate talks with the truck operators and find a way out. The MPs, Ministers and the influential people are seated in this House. Senior persons are assembled here. I request you to invite the truck operators. The Members of all the parties such as D.M.K., Telegu Desam, Janata Dal are present here. The Members of all these parties won't side with the Government on the issue of hike in price of diesel. The Loktantrik party of Shri Om Prakash Chautala appealed to the farmers to seek votes and he has won also. Has this Government not imposed back-breaking burden on the farmers by hiking the price of diesel? This matter is very important.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I expect from the Government to let bygones be bygones. You are also against the administered prices. If you are against it, the hike in the price of diesel may kindly be withdrawn. This is an insult to the House, the Parliament, the democracy

and the common man who voted for you. This is an insult to the Prime Minister and his entire team which had opposed the administered prices. The budget is to be presented and the House will meet again. Please roll back the hike in price of diesel through which a burden of crores of rupees has been imposed on the poor man. Please do not wait for nine months.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody is aware that the common man suffers due to hike in price of diesel. Instead the Government should increase the production in the country itself. O.N.G.C. should be made more active and private entrepreneurs may also be involved. More sources should be found out and more and more efforts should be made to increase the production of oil in our own country because there is no lack oil resources in our country. Oil is found in abundance in Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, and Rajasthan. Drilling should be undertaken in these states. Wherever heavy investment is required, the Government should invest heavily and it will reap heavy returns also. The States should be given their share not in cash or quality but in quantity. When the states get more share, they will increase the production and then there will be no shortage of oil in our country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The time allotted for this discussion is two hours and you have taken 25 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to conclude. Through you, I would once again request that the issue of hike in the price of diesel is a very important issue. I urge upon the Government to withdraw the hike in price of diesel. Such an assurance should be given in the House. People are apprehensive that as the Government has hiked the price of diesel, it could hike the price of the allied petroleum products as well in the near future. With these words, I conclude and am grateful to you for having given me time to speak and also for having drawn attention towards hike in the price of diesel.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite important and significant as well that one of the major discussions, that this House is at the moment in, related to an extraordinary decision which had been taken on the 3rd of October this year when this Government was not in existence in its new avatar. It was taken by the earlier Government with the same Prime Minister and the same Finance Minister. The extraordinary situation of deciding to increase the price of diesel at such a rate has really not only created a serious problem but also today there is near deadlock so far as the transport of goods in the country is concerned.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, I could not have imagined—having had the opportunity of being a Member of this House and seeing the functioning of many Governments in the past—that on the last date of polling in this country when a new Government was to come within a week or ten days, a decision of this nature is being taken by a caretaker Government. If Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was so sure that he was coming back to power, then propriety and morality demanded that he should have waited for the next House to be constituted, the next Government to be formed and then he should have discussed it with the Opposition leaders and taken them into confidence. All the tall promises about the poor and the vulnerable sections of the community were through to the winds. They arrogated unto themselves a power which no caretaker Government, I believe, in the past would have done. If they were not sure about coming back to power, then they should have waited for the next Government to come in. They should have done either of these two things.

Now, the whole explanation has been given by my good friend, Shri Ram Naik. In fact, he has to support something indefensible. He has given certain figures and I am only depending on them for the purpose of my submission here. We have been told of hard decision being taken. I think, the hon. Finance Minister, who is the idol of the CII, FICCI and ASSOCHAM—they have recommended his name to be the Finance Minister—has been saying on the television, even before the new Government was constituted, even before this House assembled.

[Translation]

There will be no review.

[English]

This is the attitude. The Prime Minister, of course, has to go by the decision of the Finance Minister who has the blessings of the FICCI and the CII.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Is it the CIA or the CII?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No, it is the CII. Therefore, their mind was adamant that there will be no consideration. The Government taken a politically immoral decision, apart from it being economically unjustified for the country, and then it takes an attitude that at no point they would re-consider this matter. What sort of a Government is this? It is so insensitive to public misery and public opinion and they seem to be totally unconcerned.

Truck operators are on strike and prices of essential commodities are rising. Obviously, it is now spreading all over the country. The West Bengal truck operators who kept their decision in abeyance till the Pujas were over have also joined the strike. Now the entire country is facing

problems. Truck operator's strike is going to have its effect on everything including the public sector organisation like the Railways, as rightly pointed out by Shri Vaghela. And this Government says, 'Nothing doing'.

Sir, the Minister has been good enough, objective enough, to mention certain decisions which were taken on 1st September, 1997 which say that the basic selling price of diesel would be fixed on the principle of import parity and shall be revised at intervals of every 30 to 60 days. I would like to know from the Government whether was any such exercise done. Sir, we have got certain publications, and I believe you have also got them, which say that the price rise was Rs. 3210 in February, 1999 when the earlier Government—under the same Prime Minister, with the same Finance Minister but not the same Petroleum Minister though, was in power. Then there was a revision. In March-April there was another revision. Then, Sir, price become Rs. 4800 in April. In April there was no revision done. Why not? Why was it not revised when it went up to Rs. 4940? It was because they knew that they would have to face the election that were yet to come. In June, there was an increase but no revision was done. There should have been a gradual increase so that the Government had the opportunity to look into its effect on the market and on the people.

Sir, if you kindly go through the chart they have given, you will find that from September, 1997, till April 1999, the price really increased by a few paise and there have been six or seven continuous revisions. In Mumbai from Rs. 11.53, it went upto Rs. 12.13. That means an increase of seventy paise over a period of two and a half years. Now they wait, they wait in April, they wait in May, they wait in June, and they wait in July. In July it went up to Rs. 5730 from Rs. 3210. Why did they not do it then, if they were so much concerned with the decision of September, 1997? When the parity method was already in operation, why did they not implement it? Why did they do it in August when it went up to Rs. 6250?

Sir, everybody knows the importance of the 3rd of October. That was the last day of polling. This is a Government which deliberately kept things back from the people of this country. They kept back from them this decision that they were going to take. What else is it but political chicanery playing with the people of this country and misusing the authority of the Government? There is no explanation given anywhere by anybody as to why they had not revised the price between February and August during which prices had doubled.

Sir, if the matter of governance is a matter of *ipse dixit*, if the matter of governance is left only for the purpose of electoral politics, today the country is facing the serious problem of an increase of Rs. 4 per litre of diesel which

is of vital necessity for the country's economy. Sir, they say that hard decisions will have to be taken. These decisions are hard on the common people of this country. How many rich people, affluent people, wealthy people are concerned with this increase of Rs. 4? None. It is the *kisan* who is concerned; it is the ordinary commuter who is concerned. These are the common people. I was listening to all the tall talk about 'for the poor' and all that made in the Address of hon. Rashtrapatiiji which was prepared by the Government.

Not one word is mentioned about it. no apology is tendered to the people of this country that on the day the polling ended, we did that and we are forced to do this for these reasons. Now it is very easy to say that "Well, what can we do?" A decision was taken in September, 1997 which they did not implement. Excise duty, the railway freight and other things are in their control. If they are really concerned about the people, they could have taken away excise duty. What about the Railway freight? You are totally unconcerned for the common people of this country. If saying something and doing something else is the hallmark of the Governmental functioning, then let us know that Shri Shankersinh Vaghela has read out. We are not surprised because sitting on the Right makes all the difference as power goes to the head. That is why, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is put up as the embodiment of all the political sagacity in this country, all the political morality of this country. What sort of sagacity and what sort of morality was exhibited? When he was there, he strongly opposed it. He accused the Government of immorality, of impropriety. Is there no impropriety on the Government side?

According to us, it is a misfortune of this country that they have come to power. But we are accepting the people's verdict and we have wished them well. This is the mandate. I am accepting the mandate. There is no question of it. But you must govern and govern for the people about whom you are shedding at moment crocodile tears. Therefore, diesel is not a matter which can be ignored or that. People can do with or without it. It is not such an item. It is not an item of luxury. Therefore, our very serious demand is, the country is agitated and the common people are agitated. There is a deadlock in the country which has to be resolved that it should be withdrawn. Let them hold consultations. Let there be proper discussion and debate. Let us know what can be done. The Prime Minister talks of consensus politics. Is this the way consensus politics is developed in this country? I told Shri Madan Lal Khurana that day "You have not got the Ministry. You have my regrets and you have my sympathies. I cannot help you". At least, you are now on the street. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Shri Madan Lal Khurana were holding their hands together in opposing bus fare. Now they are on the street opposing the bus fare increase. The diesel price has increased and it has a cascading effect, immediate effect, on the transport.

Which Government wants that the bus fare should be raised? I know we are facing the problem in West Bengal and in the States where we are in power. People get annoyed because they find the State Government near them. They get annoyed with the State Government as the State Government are forced to increase the fare because the taxiwallas will not run and the buswallas will not run and nobody will run their vehicles unless they are allowed higher fare. Now they are instigating the people to go to the street to protest against the bus fare hike although it is all entirely caused by the diesel price hike here.

Sir, the threat is big. I have not heard it from any Minister up till now but I find bureaucrats saying that ESMA may be utilised; or, misutilised, for that matter. I would like to know from the Government whether they are going to apply ESMA here and what is going to happen and whether they are at all thinking of any subsidy just to somehow minimize the rigours of it.

Never in the past has there been such a steep hike in one stroke. In Delhi from Rs. 10.37, it has gone up to Rs. 13.91; in Calcutta, from Rs. 10.52 to Rs. 14.20; in Mumbai, from Rs.12.23 to Rs. 16.54. Shri Ram Naik is here. Now, he will not be using it for his Railways but he is now responsible. Shri Ram Naik, do not be a cipher there, but assert yourself...(Interruptions)...I appreciate it. Have I not appreciated it at the beginning? Then, in Chennai, it has gone up from Rs.11.27 to Rs 15.24. There has been never in the past such a steep increase. This shows the political immorality. This is anti-people, anti-kisan, anti-everybody and anti-development of this country and we strongly demand that this should be immediately withdrawn. Let the Government take up a responsible attitude discussing with the Opposition, lay the cards on the table and let us find out what can be done in this respect.

Nobody is irresponsible enough to say that the country's economy should be ruined. But what is the country if the people's economies are ruined? We are told that we have surplus of \$ 33 billion as our foreign exchange reserves. It is very good but how much is the fleeing money? For what purpose do we have all this foreign exchange?

There is an obsession for privatisation and an obsession for passing on to the consumer all the liabilities. This is why, this Government, by the very first action of supporting the previous Government's decision, has discredited itself. This is nothing but a declaration of war on the common people of this country. Shri Ram Naik, you have to shoulder this, you have to explain this. I think, the people of this country will take their decision. We wish them to govern well but not misgovern and if they do that we will have to oppose and we shall oppose to the best of our ability. I want to tell the Government that the people of this country will never accept such decisions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the hike in the price of diesel. This is definitely a tough issue for the Government. However, we will have to observe this in the context of events encompassing last fifty years as to how this country was being run all these years. Our Government remained in power for 1½ years and after that, it was toppled and this need not be discussed here as to who deserves the credit for toppling it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, everybody is pained at such a steep hike in the price of diesel. We also feel the pinch. It is not as if the Members of the ruling party do not feel the pain. However, the situation that has been created in the country in the last 50 years needs to be improved. Take a look at any sector and you will find that the worse condition in which the economy of the country was handed over to our Government was beyond our imagination. We have tried our best to improve the economy during the last one year. Hon'ble Shri Somnath has opined that this Government is an immoral Government. He has harped on the point of immorality repeatedly. This decision is immoral and such decisions deal a blow to the people especially the people belonging to weaker sections and the common man. The point of concern here is that while dwelling on the point of immorality, he stated that the price of diesel was not hiked before the election and that the situation was observed carefully during elections and the price revision which should have been made during this period of 30 to 60 days was not made at that time. Sir, the Government was prepared to do all that work quite promptly, had we not been compelled to face elections. We would have continued with our work and would have been able to send positive message amongst people... (Interruptions) However you brought the country to the verge of election before we could take up reformation work. Democracy was to be established and the point that is being reiterated that this Government if functioning on immoral basis, was required to be addressed first.

Sir, we came to power. Hon'ble Finance Minister is present here and Shri Ram Naik is also present. On one hand, there is this particular issue and we will definitely compensate for it in the next five years. On behalf of the Government, members sharing similar viewpoint feel in the same way. There are these big undertakings. In such circumstances, politicians have politicized the issue and misled the people by posing as well-wishers of common man. Now time has come to make the countrymen aware of the true position. The prices have increased at international level in last six months. I fail to understand as to why the Members seated in the House are opposing it. When a farmer is in debt, now that farmer might be from Rajasthan or from Gujarat growing sugarcane, the fact is

that when he is indebted, he commits suicide. I would ask if we want suicides to continue in our country? Do you want such a big democratic to run in losses? No other country in the world has the kind of resources that are available in India, but the resources have not been utilised due to which the country has remained backward during the last fifty years. We are proud of the fact that our country has abundant resources. The situation you have created in last fifty years needs to be remedied. This Government has decided to rectify it and make our country the topmost country in the world.

While raising this issue, a general grouse is being heard. I would like to point out that their party is also in power in some of the states. The prices of diesel has been hiked there also. The State Government is in charge of excise duty, Octroi and Sales tax and if you are so distressed... (Interruptions) I do understand it. I am speaking without going into the notes... (Interruptions) Sales tax is levied by State Government. As you have abundant resources in West Bengal, why don't you check the price of diesel by utilising the additional resources and get the strike called off.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Thank you for your confession!

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : You are in power in Rajasthan, West Bengal and Delhi. I ask you, how will this country function? If the price of diesel has been hiked, even the other parties have failed to maintain normal situation. Due to their misgovernance, the people have elected B.J.P. members from all the seven seats of Delhi. That is why they took out their hire on the people of Delhi by increasing the fares of DTC buses following the hike in price of diesel. We will have to think as to how decisions will have to be taken to run the country. The time has come to lead the country on the right path so as to make it the leading country in the world. We have faith in our leadership and will definitely be able to soften the blow dealt to the people in the near future. We are confident of it and the cabinet Members would go into this issue of hike in the coming days... (Interruptions) It won't be rolled back... (Interruptions) I am certain that the Government is surely contemplating some measures to adjust this hike.

Sir, the Hon'ble Member has said that the Government is not in favour of giving concession. I would like to inform you that the price of diesel was lowered twice last years. The Government has kept this in view and whenever required and when our financial position has been favourable, the price of diesel has been rolled back on two occasions earlier also. Hence, I would like to submit that

this decision has been taken in view of position prevailing throughout the world and also because of rise in international prices. I believe that people throughout the country understand it and under our leadership, we will take the initiative in near future to find a way out to compensate for such a decision and make the country prosperous.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Members have expressed their views. The fact is that this is not an issue of figures and statistics and this is also not the issue as to who is right. In a democracy, circumstances and conditions are kept in mind while formulating policies. This is the right as well as the duty of the elected Government. However if it were as easy to formulate policies keeping in mind the circumstances and conditions, there would have been no need to hold discussion in the House. In that case, policy could have been formulated in Tel Bhavan itself. These policies could easily have been formulated there and there would have been to hold discussion in Parliament. The feelings of the Members were quite evident today. We are talking about the sentiments of the people. I have not risen to blame the Government. I am pleased that our colleague admitted the fact, though with some hesitation. We are expressing our true feelings. The Members of B.J.P. as well as other parties seated here also feel that this burden is too heavy to bear. Just now Shri Somnath and Shri Vaghela also said that if price had been increased in phases, the additional burden could have been tolerated but this hike of four rupees was made in one go. If you talk to a farmer, you will come to know that all agricultural operations are being undertaken with the help of diesel. The position of power supply is very bad in all the States. The Members from U.P. are present in the House. They may be knowing about the position of power supply in the State. Though our party is ruling in Rajasthan, we are also not being able to provide adequate power. Today all the farmers are compelled to depend on diesel to grow crops and all agricultural operations are being carried out with the help of diesel. That diesel has been made dearer by four rupees and some paise or three and ninety paise in some states.

Sir, I have been a Member of this House for quite some time now but such a big hike never been made. Our Government had also hiked the prices and at that time all of us persuaded the Government to roll back the prices because this was an issue affecting the common man.

We spoke against it despite being a part of the Council of Ministers. In such matters, true feelings must come to the fore and today I would like to make an appeal from the core of my heart that people in the villages are highly agitated on this issue. Had you hiked the price before the elections, we would not have objected. In that case, we

would have seen your courage and also your performance in the elections. You lost in three states due to increase in price of onion. Had you increased the price of diesel before elections, you would have lost throughout the country. You should go along with the feelings of the people. It has been pointed out that the taxes have been increased in the States as well. That is true. Import duty has been raised by 30 percent. As per my information, the Central excise duty is 16%, sales tax is 14% and there is turn around and some other expenses as well. We will also follow it up with our State Government. You try to make beginning with the centre and we will also put pressure on our Governments. But when you speak like this that you will not change then how can State Governments take the initiative. The burden which is falling on common man today is very difficult for all of us to bear. We do not want to prove by giving data. We also feel that this is related to international prices but in order to bear this, this gradual pressure should have been exerted. This is the job of a democratic Government and this spirit is added to policies of democracy. Democracy becomes strong. This is how democracy functions. Those who have deviated from this spirit whether it is you or we, have to face the consequences. I would have been happy if Prime Minister would have been here because then we would have narrated our painful experiences. In his election speech Prime Minister has said that we will associate ourselves with common masses in their agony and today Prime Minister has said that they will not roll back in any case. The Parliament has been constituted. You could have debated this issue here. May be two, two and a half or three rupees could have increased.

It would have been a different matter if prices were raised after taking everybody in confidence. You have straight away increased the prices. Our Finance Minister as well as our Prime Minister has assured that the prices will not be increased. In democracy Parliament is supreme. Before any debate in Parliament you said that prices will not be taken back. Our brothers have said correctly. You people held us responsible that we are non-democratic. When you were in opposition you have delivered speeches to us. Shri Ram Naik you used to pull our legs. Why are you sitting quite today. After listening you, we used to consider what you have said. When we were unable to speak here. We used to speak outside that Government should do something about it. You please reduce this burden. We know that Government is newly constituted and you are also helpless, there is international pressure also. But reduce this burden after getting the views of all. We will co-operate you. We will also ask the people to share this burden with Government. I rise to appeal you for reducing this burden. These are our sentiments and this is true. These are the sentiments of M.Ps from both sides.



[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

Hon'ble Prime Minister wherever you are listening I want to tell you to reduce the pain of masses and their burden. Your heart is heart of poet. Whenever you see pain your pen starts, why your pen has stopped today. I will talk about hon'ble, Shri Yashwant Sinha you announced the support price of paddy. And collection of paddy has not taken place. I have just returned after visiting two States, there no one is buying paddy. Thousands of quintals of paddy is lying in markets. No Government agency is procuring that. They are giving it to commission agents. In your P.R. you have announced rupees 520/- and ruppees 490/- but actually it is being sold at rupees. 300 quintal. Everybody knows that this is wrong. Wherever there are depots of paddy they should procure it. We appeal you to improve this situation so that paddy is bought.

About diesel prices I hope that after feeling the spirit of House and of all members, Government will take the decision at the earliest and do not remain adamant about it. On this matter we shall request you that it would be better if a decision is taken at the earliest.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : You talked about paddy. Then let me tell you that to fixing of support prices of paddy this year till end of September 5 million tonnes of paddy has been procured which is highest in such a small span of time.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This would have happened in whole country. Not even single agency has procured in Bulandsahar. I am telling you the name of district. In Pampat, Karnal, Samalka, Kaithal, Babarpur also procurement agency has not purchased the paddy. You can get this matter investigatred. This has increased the suffering of people. You should take into account the problems of the people.

14.59 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Award of Swarnajayanti Fellowships for Young Scientists

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCINECE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : Our civilizational traditions have always attached the highest importance to the pursuit of scientific inquiry into meaning and truth. In a fitting tribute to this rich tradition, the government had launched the Swarnajayanti Fellowships Scheme on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our independence. The objective is to encourage young scientist to undertake basic

research in frontier areas of science and technology and achieve standards of excellence, which are comparable with the best in the world.

15.00 hrs.

Outstanding Indian young scientists, in the age group of 30-40 years, with a proven track record are eligible for these fellowships. The selected candidates are given an attractive fellowship amount of Rs. 25,000/- per month and support to a research programme in the frontier areas of science, engineering or medicine for a maximum period of five years. The support under the project covers grants for equipment, manpower, contingencies, consumable, travel including international travel and administrative and infrastructural support.

The programme has been widely disseminated to a large number of scientists within the country and abroad. A stringent procedure for screening the applications has been adopted. This includes Expert Committees in six subject disciplines, viz. Life Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, a National Core Committee and an Empowered Committee of Secretaries.

The entire process of the section of the candidate for the Swarnajayanti fellowships has now been completed and I am happy to announce on the Floor of the House the names of the six Young Scientists who have been selected for the Swarnajayanti fellowships. They are :

1. Dr. Debajyoti Choudhury, Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad.
2. Dr. D. Prasad, Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics, Allahabad.
3. Dr. V.V. Ranade, National Chemical Laboratroy, Pune.
4. Dr. N. Kumar Sivarajan, Indian Institute of Science, Banglore.
5. Dr. S. Umapathy, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.
6. Dr. R. Varadarajan, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

I wish to congratulate all these Young Scientists for receiving the Swarnajayanti Fellowships and would like the House to join me in supporting this initiative for the Swarnajayanti Fellowships for the Young Scientists in the years to come so that many more Young Scientists could join the programme and contribute towards making Indian Science Internationally competitive.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8/99]

15.03 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193—*Contd.***Increase In The Price of Diesel***[English]*

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the beginning of the Session itself is a very unpleasant task to discuss about price rise particularly of petroleum products like-diesel. The tendency is to increase the prices of all commodities because of transportation. How best we could see that the price will not be there by the increase of the diesel price is to be worked out.

It is a fact that the price of the crude oil in the International market has shown an increasing tendency from February 1999 onwards till date. The increase in the crude oil price is more than a hundred per cent during these nine months. It is obvious that the price has to be increased. But the decision to increase the price has come maybe at a very wrong time, in the beginning of the session itself. But we have to bear this increase since there is a huge deficit in the Oil Pool Account. The country should not go to a difficult stage tomorrow by not increasing the price. It is obvious that we have to import large quantities of crude oil and the oil companies also cannot afford this increase in the price of crude oil. The Government has to take a decision to increase the price. But how to ensure that this will not have a tendency of inflation in the prices of essential commodities of day-to-day consumption? The increase in the diesel price is more than 30 per cent.

15.05 hrs.

*[SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE in the Chair]*

More than 30 per cent rise will also affect the transportation facilities. This is the cause of our worry. How best this matter has to be looked into has to be decided by the Government itself. It is true that there are customs duty and excise duty. There is also an element of sales tax and octrol. The last two are the subjects of the State Governments and the first two are the subjects of the Union Government. Once the price of one commodity is increased, the prices of all other items will also go up. This is a matter of concern. There is a report in the Press also that the prices of kerosene and cooking gas are likely to be increased because of the withdrawal of the subsidy. I earnestly request the Government not to resort to such things as they will affect the poor very badly.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is also extending the cooking gas facility to the poorest of the poor, the white card holders and those who are living on subsidy. It is a matter of pride that we are extending this cooking gas facility to thanks of poor families and kerosene is the major item consumed by the poor people. When price rise of

these two items into account, I am afraid that the poor people will be greatly burdened. I request the Government not to resort to such things in the near future.

There should be some rationalisation in the price of all petroleum products instead of increasing on diesel price alone. There are some administered goods like petrol, diesel and other products. It is only this time that the increase is occurred in diesel price exclusively. It greatly affects the transportation of essential goods all over the country. This will also have an impact on rail and road transport. This also affects the common man's transport, namely, rail and road for which diesel is the major fuel. But very few options are left as to whether to increase the prices or do away with the petroleum products. We cannot do away with the petroleum products. So, we have to increase the prices but this increase has been done at one time instead of making it at frequent intervals. This has been mentioned earlier also. At least in future, if there would be any price increase of essential commodities—a majority of them are petroleum products—it should be done periodically. You should not do it at one time like 40 or 30 or 100 per cent. It will affect the pocket of the salaried people and the common man. This because a very heavy burden. If it is done at intervals, the life of the common man is adjusted by itself. It is a sad story this time that they have to bear the brunt of this increase. The Government should think on the lines of reducing the burden of the common man and see to it that the cost of rail and road transport will not increase. Tomorrow they should not come and ask for an increase in the cost of rail transport.

As regards road transport, some States are contemplating an increase. In Andhra Pradesh, the Government has not increased the road transport charges. So far, these are some of the major factors which have to be taken into consideration. But unfortunately, this increase in diesel price has come at a time when we are going through very difficult situation. Some people believe that this is to cover up some of the losses incurred due to Kargil war and other things.

I am sure, it is not the reason for the increase in the price of diesel. The Government has not taxed us. We are happy that we have not been taxed for Kargil expenses. We have been left out. The Government is graceful enough in that regard. But, at the same time, how best we can come to the rescue of the common man is to be looked into by our hon. Petroleum Minister. Shri Ram Naik is here. I am happy to note that at least some of the striking truckers have already resumed work. They have started moving the goods. I am sure, the others, who are on strike, will also realise that it is essential that we have to bear the expenses. I am sure, the Government will at the earliest

[Shri M.V.V.S. Murthi]

start negotiations with them so that all of them will resume their duty and the essential commodities are lifted from one place to the other place.

The present price of vegetables, edible oils and other things have already skyrocketed. Vegetables are not available to the common man because of the strike by the transport vehicle owners and operators. So, this has also to be taken care of at the earliest. I hope all the striking operators will resume duty realising the situation. The Government should spare no efforts in opening dialogue with them instead of telling that it will not reduce the price of diesel. The Government should explain to them the realities as to why it cannot do this and why we should bear the price increase. The Government should also explain them that they should resume normalcy in moving goods so that people will not have the burden of the high prices of vegetables etc.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Sir, I thank you very much for having given this opportunity to me.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on price rise in the price of diesel. Sir, Government is accountable for the sufferings of the people. People are disturbed and are feeling pinch of price rise of diesel. The previous Government raised the prices of diesel at the time when last phase of Lok Sabha elections was over. Perhaps they were not sure that they will be elected to power. That's why they increased the diesel prices by Rs. 4/- on the midnight of 3rd October. By doing so they have betrayed the people of the country. Had they morale courage, they should have increased the prices at the time when prices were increasing in the international market. Had they done so, then they would have been on opposition.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra has analysed the effects of price rise of diesel on the Society while discussion on Motion of thanks on President's Address was going on. He stated that there will be an increase of 2 paise per Kilometer. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that an increase of approx. Rs. 4/- per litre in the diesel prices has been made and on an average in our country buses ply from 3-4 km. per litre. Hence, this price rise has put an additional burden of Rs.1 to 1.25 per km. on trucks and buses operators. This price rise has not only affected the transport sector but has affected the entire public life. Just now, our brother Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy has presented before the House a very touching and true picture of suicides committed by the farmers. They should have paid attention towards the fact

that the hike in diesel prices has broken the backbone of farmers.

We are talking about support price and Shri Yashwant Sinha has just now mentioned about the procurement of paddy on support price. In this context, I would like to challenge through the House that if a survey is conducted in Gorakhpur, Maharajanj, Padrauna and Basti Districts of Eastern Utter Pradesh, it would be found that till date even one kg of paddy has not been procured by the Government on support price.

Earlier also these people were in the Government. I would like the related data of the previous years to be presented on the table of the House. In previous years also paddy has not been procured on support price. I get elected from district Maharajanj which is in abundance of paddy, and I cannot describe in the House, the humiliation which paddy growers have to face during last days. Today increase in diesel price has broken the backbone of farmers and poor people. The Government claim that they have hiked the prices of diesel by 40% because there was an increase of 40% in the prices of diesel in international market. Sir, harvesting of Kharif Crop is going on and Rabi Crop is being sown. Farmer has to use diesel extensively while transporting his crop from fields to godowns and from godowns to market. Price hike in diesel has worsened the condition of farmer. Today in the name of ESMA, the truck operators are being threatened to be put into jail so as to force them to withdraw the strike. I would like to tell the Government that truck operators should not be threatened like this. If all the truck and bus operators decide to go into jails, then there would be no jail to accomodate them. Once the people resort to the path of agitation it will become difficult for the Government to run the administration. Therefore, such threats should be avoided. Government should understand the distress and pain of the truck operators and farmers. It should understand the problems and agony of the common man and roll back the increased prices of diesel immediately. A meeting of the leaders of all parties should be held to formulate a clear policy to solve this problem.

Through you, I would like to state that the hike in diesel price has affected every women from all sectors of society, whether it is rich or poor in the village. I am not hesitant to state that it has affected poor people more than the rich. Government is in favour of rich, and by increasing the prices of diesel it has show the same. However, its ill-effects are coming before the nation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, railway fare will also be increased. I have read in the newspapers the statement given by Shri Ram Naik that the prices of kerosene and L.P.G. are also going to be -increased. Definitely, our daily...  
(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I have not said anything about kerosene....(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : I have read in the newspapers about price rise in LPG and kerosene. May be newspapers have published wrong statement... (*Interruptions*) You have mentioned about curtailment in subsidy. I would like to say that the hike in prices of diesel has shown increasing trend in the price of all other commodities and this increase in prices will affect both poor and rich people. The subject of price rise of diesel is not a subject which could be unattended. Very humbly, I would like to submit you should have waited for the mandate if your intention was clear. It would have been a democratic step on your part if you would have taken suggestions from all the parties regarding diesel issue after getting clear mandate. But you decided to hike the prices of diesel on the October, 3rd. Such a step under such an environment has brought you in ambience of doubt.

Through you, I demand that the Government should immediately roll back the increased prices of diesel. Price rise of diesel has perturbed everyone. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was a very difficult decision for the Government to increase the prices of diesel. Discussion is going on in and outside the House about the circumstances under which Government was forced to take such a hard decision. It has been made clear in the notes sent to all the Members on behalf of Shri Ram Naik that due to increase in the prices of international oil market and because of grave situation of oil pool deficit account Government have to take such a difficult decision. Definitely, this situation is of grave concern for all the State Government and for all the parties. In this difficult situation we should rise above the party politics and cooperate with other to find a solution to this problem. These thoughts have been expressed from all fronts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Shri Pilot has impartially suggested to hold a discussion in the Parliament to solve the issue. I appreciate his sentiments, but out of 50 years of our independence, the country has been ruled by the Congress Party for 45 years however, during that period he never thought like this and now being in opposition he likes to give suggestion impartially and says that the matter may be solved in the Parliament. It is good and I appreciate it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Prices of crude oil has been increased from \$ 124 to \$ 163 in the international market. According to Government, the diesel prices have been increased by 30 percent i.e. Rs. 4 per liter. I am surprised to see that we criticise the Government's decision to hike

the diesel prices but we ignore the 100% increase made by the Delhi State Government in the D.T.C. fare. Actually, increase in the D.T.C. fare should have been in proportion to the price hike in diesel price i.e. 30% but the same not been done rather the fare has been increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 which is just double. Through you, I would like to ask the Government that there should be some control over it and this fact should be taken into account as to why instead of 30% the bus fare has been increased by 100%. It should not have been done.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to make a submission to the government that it should reconsider its harsh decision of hike in diesel price which has been done by cumulatively adding import duty, excise duty, Sales tax etc and which is going to make the poor farmers suffer badly. I am of the view that the Government should draft a policy to provide relief to the farmers from the onslaught of price-rise but I would also like to clarify that the game of politics which is being played by the State Governments is not a right thing. If the State Government keep on indulging in this kind of politics and the oil pool deficit goes on increasing then the farmer and the common man in the country will continue to suffer. Therefore my submission is that the State Governments should not play political gimmick and should seek solution by rising above party politics.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Nagmani has said right now, I also want to tell him that the situation in Delhi is no different than that in Bihar. There too, the District Magistrate has increased the fares by 100 percent for an increase of 30 percent in diesel price. We should think over the hard and harsh decision taken by the Government to abridge the oil pool deficit. And we would like to appeal and submit before the Government and enhort it to reconsider its decision in order to provide relief to the common man, farmer and the labourer who have been badly affected due to it, and to provide relief to them it may be submitted that the hike in diesel price should be reduced from Rs. four as has been the case right now. As we have been appealing to the Central Government, we should also see that the politics of increasing the fares by 100 percent instead of thirty percent, which is being played by the State Government should be stopped forthwith.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of the villages neither know the counting nor do they understand this arithmetics that fares have been increased by 100 percent due to the oil-pool deficit. Sir, through you we would like to submit to the Central Government and State Governments, especially of Delhi and Bihar where the fares have been increase by 100 percent that the proper adjustment should be made in the fare increase so that a proper policy could be pursued in this regard.

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

Sir, through you we would like to submit that the Government should reconsider its decision of hike in the price of diesel. Besides, there should not be any hike in the prices of kerosene which is used by the common man. As has been mentioned by hon'ble Members, the villagers light their lamps with kerosene. So I demand that there should not be a further hike in its price in future. With these words I conclude my speech and express my gratitude to you.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the N.D.A. Government to immediately withdraw the hike in diesel prices because it is not only directly affecting the farmers but also the common man. When you have increased the prices of diesel, it is not only natural that transporters too will increase their freight and fares. When the fares increase it will give rise to the prices of all commodities and the people who earn rupees 40 to 50 per day through sheer hard labour are going to be the worst hit due to this hike. To earn their living they have to travel two to twenty kilometres by means of buses and other vehicles. Whatever will be left with them out of their earnings after paying out for fares, will not be sufficient to buy the foodstuffs because the hike in diesel price will directly affect the prices of foodstuffs which make it very difficult for them to buy the foodstuffs.

Through you, I would like to tell the government that before this your government lasted for 13 months and when you raised the prices of articles during that period, it resulted in the loss of power for your party in the four states in which elections took place. I would like to tell you announced the hike a prices on the night of 3rd. If you had hiked the prices during elections, you would not have been in power, would have been seen sitting in the opposition benches instead. There is no denying the fact that a N.D.A. coalition government led by B.J.P. is in power and it is often said about B.J.P. that it is a party of the business-class.

The way you have increased, the diesel prices manifold, there seems to be a conspiracy behind it. The common public often say that you have increased the prices of diesel on the night of 3rd, soon after the elections were over in order to benefit the big and rich persons of business community with the support of whom you had contested the elections. I think that it will harm the poors and farmers but it is not going to harm big businessmen. When you talk about economic system and say that we have to check the fiscal deficit then my only request to you is that there are several items of luxury in our country which have nothing to do with the common man or the farmers and these items can be taxed. Instead of effecting a hike in

the price of diesel, if you had imposed multiple taxes on these items of luxury then you could have compensated that deficit from that side. I am of the view that if you remain adamant for the time being, you might feel that you won't suffer any loss but if the elections are held once again before the expiry of five years term then you will suffer badly and then you will not be seen in power, you will be in the Opposition.

Therefore, hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the people sitting in the treasury benches that are many allies of the N.D.A. Government which are perturbed over the issue of price hike as the people in their Constituencies have been provoking them to oppose this move. There are many allies of the B.J.P. in N.D.A. Government, which are quite willing to express their mild opposition to the move of hike in diesel prices but on the other hand they are saying that the Government had to make this decision keeping in view the hike in diesel prices in the international market. The Government should also tell as to when did the hike in diesel prices take place in international market. Why didn't you increase the prices of diesel as soon as the hike in international market took place? You increased the prices on the night, when the elections were over. I feel that this decision of the Government is politically motivated and to benefit the business class and harm the interests of farmers and common man.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you. I would like to submit one again to the B.J.P. led N.D.A. Government and its constituents that they should pressurise the Government and the Prime Minister to withdraw the hike in diesel prices, otherwise alongwith B.J.P., its allies will find it very difficult to get elected once again. I feel that you will surely pay attention to what I have said. With these words, without taking further time. I thank you for giving me the chance to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the All India Anna DMK, I would like to place a few facts and appeal to the House to direct the Government to withdraw the diesel hike raised on the 5th October.

At the outset I would like to state that on the 5th October, the care-taker Government headed by the Prime Minister was functioning.

Whether a caretaker can take such a major policy decision has to be viewed seriously by the House. The Minister who made statement hiking the diesel price has been voted out of office. On 5th September, we faced the general elections. On 5th October, the diesel price hike was announced by the Minister, that is, on the eve of counting. Sixth was the counting day.

We all know that electoral promises are not enforceable in law. You can make any promise to the people to get votes with sugarcoated words. After the people have cast their votes or their votes are in the ballot boxes, the people have to abide by the decision of the Government. I would like to state at this juncture that when Shri Charan Singh was the Caretaker Prime Minister, it was challenged before the Calcutta High Court in the year 1980 whether the Caretaker Prime Minister can function as a full-fledged Prime Minister. I could see that after the fall of Shri Vajpayee's Government, he was functioning as a full-fledged Prime Minister. Prior to that, I think, he was functioning as the caretaker Prime Minister.

I quote a case. Mr. Chairman, you know it is the case of Calcutta High Court. It is AIR 1980 Calcutta High Court, page 85, Madan Murari Verma Vs. Charan Singh. Their Lordships have held :

"There is no Constitutional precedent as to how far the advice of the Prime Minister and his Cabinet is binding on the President in a situation where the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers had never obtained and had never proven their majority in the House of People and after their resignations have been accepted and after the dissolution of the House they were asked to continue in office till alternative arrangements are made. There is no mention of any caretaker Government as such, in our Constitution or in the Constitutional law, but such an extraordinary situation calls for a caretaker Government and, therefore, the Prime Minister and his Council of Ministers can in such a situation only carry on day to day administration..."

The diesel price hike is not a day to day administration affair. It is a policy matter. The then Caretaker Government had no Constitutional power to hike the diesel price. It should have hiked it when it was in office with full-fledged majority. After having lost the majority, they should not have hiked the diesel price.

My friend has just now said that the operators have started operating their locomotives. Throughout India, all the locomotives, motors, vehicles, lorries and trucks went on strike. They are not operating. If they have been operating, why should there be a hike in the price of essential commodities? Today, it is published in all the newspapers that the prices of vegetables have gone up; the prices of eatables have gone up; and the prices of essential commodities have gone up. Why? It is because of the strike. What for? It is because of the hike in the diesel price. I appeal, Mr. Chairman, through you, to the Central Government to withdraw the hike in the diesel price with an observation that it has no popular mandate.

Had we, the present House, gone in for this hike, then the deliberation is just and proper. But the Caretaker Government without the Constitutional power, without any Constitutional exercise, has raised the diesel price all of a sudden, that too after the elections.

I do not like to use any tough language. If an individual cheats a person after promising, then he is liable for cheating. But here the whole country was cheated by the then caretaker Government. The people have cast their votes believing that BJP may reduce the price because the Minister has circulated a note to all the Members that this was hiked as early as in 1997. Why did they keep quiet? Is it not a political dishonesty? Is it not a constitutional dishonesty? Is it not a constitutional impropriety? It is the constitutional duty of the Government to withdraw the hike as they had no power at that particular point of time on 5th October. There were so many policy decisions taken by the Government. I have not gone into all those things. But this is an essential commodity which the people conserve daily. The bus fares and other fares have gone up after the 5th October. Particularly in Tamil Nadu, the bus fares have been hiked and they have been double there. The Chief Minister had promised that he would hike the bus fares only after 2001. Now, the Central Government has hiked that the diesel price with the result that the people of Tamil Nadu had been suffering for the last one month by paying extra money. So, this constitutional impropriety and constitutional dishonesty is committed on behalf of the Government by an erstwhile petroleum Minister, who has been voted out of office by my friends, Shri Selvaganapathy, who is sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*... We, the Members, did not contribute anything for hiking the price of diesel. We were not party to it. We have not been consulted. We are yet to be consulted. Now, we are deliberating on somebody's mistake. We are deliberating on somebody's conduct. On 5th October why should the Minister, who knew well that he would be defeated, raise the cost of diesel?

So, I appeal to you to direct the Government to withdraw the hike in the interest of the country, in the interest of the poor people and in the interest of the farmers. The farmer is the largest consumer of diesel. He cannot bear the 35 per cent hike. The Supreme Court has also issued a notice to the government of Delhi that no new diesel car will be registered hereafter in Delhi.

So, I appeal to you to withdraw the diesel price hike and save the people.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on .6th early in the morning, when I was about to go to the counting centre, I was informed that price of diesel have been increased. Shri Naval Kishoreji

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

was saying that the price has been increased by 30% but it has been increased by 40%. No Government has ever taken such an anti-people, anti-farmer and anti-poor step as this Government has done by raising the diesel prices. I would like to raise this issue in the House. The Government could not secure the vote of the House and subsequently the government fell. The Hon'ble Prime Minister went to the President to tender his resignation. The President accepted the resignation and asked him to do the routine work in the form of care-taker government. There is a convention that when the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Caretaker Government can take up only routine work. But this Government claimed from the very beginning that it is a full-fledged Government and it would do whatever it wishes. It was an unbridled government with no accountability to Parliament and therefore they got the right to work arbitrarily and take anti-people steps. The Government should clarify under what circumstances they have increased the prices of diesel when the Lok Sabha had been dissolved and the government was functioning as a care-taker government? It was supposed to do only the routine work. I would like to tell that if Lok Sabha would not have been dissolved and the government would have been in full majority then they have full right to increase the price but now when the entire country was facing elections and waiting for a verdict, why did not they wait for the next government to take charge? Through exit-poll they propagated that they would come to power and on the basis of that they hiked the prices and they presumed that the people have approved this hike. I would like to ask why did not they wait for the next government to assume charge? Is there any Minister in the government who can tell as to what is the propriety in increasing diesel prices? Never before has there been a forty percent increase in the price of diesel. But this government has increased the prices by 40%. The farmers use diesel in every activity of farming, be it operation of pumpsets or running of tractors. The Government has increased the prices by one and a half times. Due to this, the fare of buses have increased and there is nationwide strike of truck operators. In Delhi, the prices of fruits and vegetables have doubled. Even then the government justifies this hike by saying that it has been done in keeping with the international price line. The Government is misleading the House by giving wrong facts. They have given figures of last six months and stated that the price increased from 2500 to 3400 dollars and then it rose to 5000 dollars. Result of poll was not declared. In my village, there is a saying "Bhel Byah Mor Karab ki". They got freedom to hike diesel prices. It is an anti-people step. The prices should not increase. Therefore, I would urge that the Government should immediately roll back the hike in diesel prices. Lohia

had said that awakened community does not wait for 5 years. Last time too they were claiming to rule for 5 years but were stripped of power within 13 months. Similarly, you be alert and cautious because this time you will be forced to relinquish power in five months. This hike in diesel prices is a blow to farmers and the poor. The prices of essential commodities would sky rocket everywhere, particularly in the villages and the government would not be able to contain the price rise. We know whose rights you are protecting?

The Government is the protector of hoarders, Black-marketeers and profiteers. Therefore, they enjoy escalating the prices. Last year too prices were increased. This issue was debated in the House and we asked them to prove if they were not protectors of hoarders and profiteers. The Government have achieved power with their support and therefore it is protecting their interests. This government is anti-farmer and anti-people. The government should roll back the hike in diesel prices or else people will launch agitation and all the opposition Members will unitedly force them to quit. With these words, I thank you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Prabhunath Singh to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Prabhunath Singh. Nothing else should be recorded.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Silence please. Please do not interrupt. I have called Shri Prabhunath Singh. Shri Prabhunath Singh, you may begin.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire House is concerned about the recent hike in diesel prices. This hike has been discussed even in the villages of our country. Through the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government have clarified the reasons for this hike but it seems that the Government has resorted to this step under compelling circumstances. It is said that all such matters are politicised in the House. Just now Shri Rajesh Pilot was speaking. I agree with him in toto barring few points. The poor people of the country particularly the medium farmers and the labour class have been facing more difficulties as a result of this hike. This issue is being politicised and some political parties are instigating the transporters strike so that prices of some commodities could be increased.

I would like to appeal to the Members of the Opposition that they should keep up the pressure on the Government

\*Not recorded.

to reduce the diesel price but they should not draw political mileage out of it so that common masses are not put to hardship. We were listening to the speech of Shri Raghuvansh Prasad. He was saying that previous government was only there for 13 months and within 5 months they would also remove this government. Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji, when you pulled the government in 13 months your number was reduced to only 7 and the number of the Congress Party members came down to 112 from 140. If you remove this government in 5 months your number will become nil and the congress will get only 12 seats. So, do not repeat the mistake. People have reposed faith in this government and if the government commits any mistake then it is correct to pressurize it. We also agree with this. We were also concerned about the recent hike diesel prices. Hon'ble Finance Minister Sir, in the Cabinet there is one very honest Minister called Shri Nitish Kumar. When he was Minister of Railways at that time accidents were on the increase as a result of which he had to resign and after that incidents of accidents stopped. Co-incidentally, he has been given charge of another Ministry in the present Cabinet and then you hiked the prices of diesel as a result of which all the transporters went on strike. Again he is being blamed. When he became the Minister of Railways at that time he had to resign. Now, when he has become the Minister of Surface Transport you have hiked the prices of diesel. I can only request that prices of diesel may be reduced. Reduction in the prices of diesel will not affect the working of his Department, but it will provide relief to the poor people. We are alliance partners and, therefore, even if you bring wrong Bill we are bound to support it. I am saying this in public interest because the people have to face a lot of hardship as a result of steep hike in diesel prices. Therefore, the diesel prices should be reduced in public interest. The government should also pay attention towards Bihar. A Member who was saying that they will form government in one minute, is now sitting idle in Bihar.

The common masses inhabit the villages. The Government should reduce the hike in diesel prices keeping in view the sentiments of farmers and workers. You please think about Nitish Kumarji also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri V.M. Sudheeran.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Now, you please speak about reducing the prices of diesel... *(Interruptions)* Now you have risen to support the prices of diesel.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called Shri Sudheeran.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : When he calls my name, I have to respond... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have spoken very well. Why are you spoiling it?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, the decision of the Government to hike the prices of diesel has thrown the people into deep miseries and untold difficulties. Sir, as all of us remember and as the hon. Chairman and my esteemed friend Shri Pandian rightly put, this decision was taken by the Caretaker Government just before the counting of ballots. This reflects the Government's arrogant disregard for the propriety, the democratic and conventions. The Caretaker Government did not care even to wait for the sweeping decision till the new Government took over. I am sorry to hear from the Prime Minister that he ruled out any rolling back in the price of diesel. Sir, I am again sorry to say that it is though- less as well as shocking. I would like to join my friend Shri Pandian in saying that it is a clear case of cheating the people who voted him to power. No Government so far dared to burden the people with such an unprecedented hike. After doing this much, the official interpretation has come out that the direct impact of the hike would be only 0.86 percentage. I am grateful to Shri Ram Naik for having sent us the document containing the details. Shri Ram Naik, as a person, is a gentleman and a man of *pucca* sense. Shri Ram Naik has referred that the direct impact of the hike would be 8.86 percentage, but what would be the indirect impact?

16.00 hrs.

You seem to be mum on that. I would say that this is the greatest joke of the year. Those with a normal sense know very well that the Government is going to be the first casualty of this decision. All of us know that the Government is the largest operator of vehicles. Therefore, the administrative expenditure of the Central and State Governments and other semi-Governmental agencies will be galloping into several fold. The more the Government falls in a financial crisis, the more will be the inclination to transfer the burden to people by additional taxation. The more the Government is in crisis of their own creation, the more will be their selfish attempt tax the people for a bailing out.

Look at the case of the Railways. The Railways will have to bear an additional burden of around Rs. 700 crore which will lead to a hike in the passenger fare and freight charges. The present exercise for raising additional income is not only unproductive, but is also counter-productive, and it reverses all our attempts for development. Your short-sighted adhocism is eating up even the meagre earning of our common people because the brunt of the burden will ultimately have to be borne by the people.

The hike in diesel prices is no solution at all because a substantial chunk of it would be swallowed up by the intermediary interests and agencies. The chain reaction has already shown the catastrophic effect in the daily life of



[Shri V.M. Sudheeran]

the poor millions. The prices of essential commodities and vegetables have gone up to dizzy heights. My own State, Kerala, is the worst sufferer because it depends heavily on other States for almost all of its daily requirements. Being a consumer State, I know that the burdens of the people have been multiplied.

The Government's mishandling of the strike of the truck operators has compounded the agony of the people. In the President's Address, para 11 says:

"During the current year, the Indian economy is expected to grow over six per cent. Inflation, as measured by the Wholesale Price Index, is around two per cent".

It is an irony that the very same Government, which claims that the inflation is decelerating, is actually leading the country to an unprecedented chaos in our economy and the common man's family budget.

I would like to point out that the present system of hiking of prices of diesel or petroleum products has a basic flaw in it. It is basically unscientific because it leads to nothing but more complications in the economy and the life of the people. This system bypasses Parliament. Decisions are taken somewhere by somebody else without taking Parliament into confidence. I would like to suggest to the Government to resort to the system in which the oil pool account is made a part and parcel of the whole budget. As all of us are very well aware, in that system, the proposals are presented in Parliament and an opportunity is provided to examine the proposal and the *pros* and *cons* of it threadbare. I say so not just for asserting the right of Parliament, but to point out the unscientific and irrational nature of the exercise. Though you shift the burden from one limb to the other, the real problem remains unresolved. Whichever method you adopt, it has to be imaginative enough to leave the common man the least affected. The Government have to find an alternate and a rational method for generating more income.

I would suggest that the Government take recourse to practising stringent austerity and economic measures by cutting wasteful Governmental expenditure. I urge upon the Government to take steps against tax evaders and unearth blackmoney. Practical and imaginative methods to reduce consumption of petroleum products has to be evolved. Steps have to be taken to slash down the establishment expenditure of the oil companies by better financial management. Indigenous production of petroleum products has urgently to be increased.

Sir, the oil pool deficit has been chasing us as a result of our own negligence in tapping the vast resources. We are not masters. We are only servants. We have no right

to penalise the people who vote us to power and positions. Therefore, I request the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Minister for Petroleum, Shri Ram Naik to open their eyes and see the miseries of the people and withdraw the decision to hike the price of diesel and leave the entire matter to a Parliamentary Committee.

Sir, the whole matter could be referred to the scrutiny and recommendation of a Parliamentary Committee Constituted for the purpose with a timeframe. I strogly oppose the decision of the Government and I hope that without further delay the Government will gracefully withdraw this anti-people, anti-farmer and anti-democratic decision.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole country is watching us as discussion is being held on hike price of diesel. Though I am from treasury benches but the issue of price hike of diesel relates to common man. I come from Marthwad a region of Maharashtra where mostly people are engaged in Agriculture. Thus rural economy is directly related to diesel. Our small farmers who use tractor, spray pump, truck and tempo will be badly affected by the price hike of diesel.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that price of diesel has increased on international level and thus price of diesel has been hiked by Rs. 4 per litre. Even then in view of the problems being faced by small farmers and common man, due to price hike of diesel, the Government is requested to maintain balance in price of diesel to relieve the common man of this burden.

The price of diesel have increased in international market which has increased the deficit of oil-pool. The villagers who use tempo, truck, spray pump and tractor are being adversely affected by it. Therefore being in rulling paarty, I appeal to the hon'ble Minister to roll back the price of diesel while maintaining balance with international market.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman, hike in the price of diesel to the extent of 35 per cent at the midnight of 5th of October by the caretaker Government is a fraud committed on the people of our country. I say so because the Government had waited for more than eight months to take that decision and to announce the steep hike in diesel price .

The papers circulated by the Petroleum Minister, Shri Ram Naik state that international price of diesel started increasing from February, 1999. It was Rs. 3210 per metric tonne and it increased to Rs. 7020 per metric tonne. When

the price increased in the month of February, then again in the month of March, why was the domestic sale price of diesel not adjusted? In the month of April, the price was adjusted by a marginal reduction but in the same year the excise duty was increased in the Budget by one rupee per litre. So what was reduced was absorbed by the increase in the excise duty of one rupee per litre. So, in effect, there was no reduction in the domestic sale price of diesel when there was a reduction in the international price of diesel.

The argument being advanced by the Government is that if the domestic sale price of diesel is not increased following the increase in the international price of diesel, the deficit by the end of this year would be increased to Rs. 10,000 crore and hence the steep hike is essential. The amount that is generated by hike of about 40 per cent would be Rs. 6000 crore. Even after this 40 per cent increase, there will still be a deficit which would amount to not less than Rs. 4500 crore by the end of this year.

Why was this Oil Pool created? It was created in 1975 to ensure equal prices of petroleum products throughout the country.

This Oil Pool was created and it generated surplus up to 1993 and the Minister of Finance appropriated Rs. 8,900 crore from the surplus which was generated in the Oil Pool Account upto 1993. (*Interruptions*) The Ministry is in a continuous process.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) The blame is in you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Blame is also continuous because when United Front Government was there and when they also increased, we opposed it by sitting on that side. You could remember, Shri Ram Naik, we never supported the anti-people action taken by any Government, whichever Government. When there was deficit and there is deficit, why the Minister of Finance should not transfer that amount with interest? I have also worked out that amount and it is not less than Rs. 20,000 crore, Shri Yashwant Sinha. If we add the amount which was surplus up to 1993, even 5 per cent interest which has been reduced, the amount would be not less than Rs. 20,000 crore. If that amount is transferred to Oil Pool Account, then there should not be any deficit in the Oil Pool Account and Government need not increase the price of diesel and as a result of increase of price of diesel, there has been cascading effect on all the commodities. All the vegetables in Delhi itself, in the Capital today, the price are double of what was one month ago. Why I say that it has committed a fraud on the people of our country is because they chose that particular date to announce the decision which was taken much earlier, at least 15 days before the election was held. Then why the decision was taken 15 days before the election? Why was not that announced before the

election? Why they waited for the election, before the counting, before the result? Why could they not wait for a week? Heavens would not have fallen if the Caretaker Government would have waited for the new Government to come to take such a vital decision by the new Government and when the Parliament was also being convened and summoned, why was this not brought before Parliament also? There should be some transparency in the action of the Government. What was the rationale behind it? Why was the result announced. Why such a decision was taken? Why the price of diesel was hiked? What is the impact of the increase in diesel prices? Not only the price of the essential commodities—I am not holding brief for the truck operators here—they have gone on strike and because of that, what is the impact on the prices of essential commodities? What will happen to the railway freight? We have been clamouring for years together. Shri Ram Naik will be knowing because he was also in charge of railways that in 1951-52, railways used to carry 80 per cent of freight traffic. Now it has come down to 25 per cent only.

The bulk of the freight traffic is being carried by the road. The Railways have adopted a policy to increase its market share and if the market share of the Railways, particularly of freight traffic, is increased to ten per cent, there will be a reduction in the consumption of diesel. The share of Railways is only nine per cent. With nine per cent share, the Railways is carrying 425 million tonnes. As there is a low investment in the railway development, we must demand and suggest that there must be more investment for railway development, particularly for electrification.

I have a number of suggestions. These are suggestions on how this problem could be resolved. I will suggest both short-term and long-term measures. As regards short-term measures, Shri Ram Naik, what is required is rationalisation of our natural gas prices. There is no rationality in the natural gas prices. There should be tax on luxury cars of 1,000 cc and above, on private diesel vehicles and on captive diesel generators used by industry. Then, there should be a reduction of customs duty on crude by 15 per cent. Shri Yashwant Sinha, this is my suggestion to you. If you reduce the customs duty to some extent, there will be an impact on the prices of diesel and other petroleum products.

As regards long-term measures, as I have already said, the return of oil pool account, the surplus of Rs. 8,900 crore, including the interest, will come up to Rs. 20,000 crore on inter-Departmental rates. There should be rationalisation of excise and customs duties so that a part of duties collected can go towards the oil pool account. Another problem is that our indigenous production is being reduced. In the earlier days, in 1979-80, it was 37 per cent. It went up to 70 per cent in 1984-85. It has now come down to 42 per cent. There has been a low investment

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

for exploration. As a result, we are gradually depending on import of crude and our oil pool account deficit is increasing after year. So, I will suggest that the Government should invest more for the development of oilfields, for more exploration. We should depend on our indigenous crude. Indigenous crude production should be increased. It was 70 per cent in the year 1984-85. We should reach that level so that we can reduce our dependence on import of crude.

Sir, as this decision is the most undemocratic decision taken by this Government when it was a caretaker Government. I demand—as almost all sections of this House demanded—that there should be a review of the decision. Gulf cess was imposed in the year 1990, but still it is continuing when the Gulf war was over eight or nine years back. So, that can be withdraw. I also demand that the decision to increase the price of diesel to the extent of 35 per cent be withdrawn. The Government should also convene a meeting of leaders of all the political parties to discuss how this problem could be resolved. So, I demand that the decision to increase the price of diesel which was taken on the 5th October be withdrawn.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, an important issue is being discussed in the House. Price of diesel has been increased and our friends on the other side are worried about it. Our friend Shri Raghuvansh strongly supported the price structure of diesel decided earlier to determine the price of diesel. I think this decision was taken up on 1.9.98 and you were Minister of State in that Government. At that time Shri Inder Kumar Gujral Government was in power and your party was supporting the government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot mention your name but Achariaji and our other Communist friends. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We opposed that.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : At that time you were their ally.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We opposed that.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : You might have opposed but your argument could not prevail. A decision was taken at that time. In June the Oil pool deficit was about Rs. 18,200 crore and Inder Kumar Gujral Government decided to determine the price of diesel on the basis of price crude oil to reduce this deficit. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that the price of diesel was reduced twice during the tenure of the Government of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee. No other Government has reduced the price of diesel earlier. I am referring to 2.9.97... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : You please quote international prices of that time.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : I will also quote that, price of diesel was Rs. 11.53 in Mumbai whereas on 9.1.99 it was Rs. 10.04. Had the price of diesel been not rolled back twice earlier by Rs. 1½ each time, then perhaps today these would have been hiked by Rs. 1 or 1½ on the basis of this Government system, price of diesel....(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What was international price at that time. Please quote that.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Only 2.75 rupees have been increased on basic price of diesel. Price of diesel was Rs. 6.88 in diesel refineries on 20.4.99 and today it is Rs. 9.93. It means that actually price of diesel has increased by Rs. 2.75. In several States our ally parties are in power, communist party and Congress party are also in power in several States but structure of Sales tax and octroi is different due to which price of diesel differs in various metropolitan cities. Today price of diesel is Rs. 13.91 in Delhi, 14.20 rupees in Calcutta, 16.54 rupees in Mumbai and 15.24 rupees in Chennai. I demand that Union Government should issue guidelines to the State Governments that uniform tax structure for diesel should be created so that price of diesel may not differ from state to state. The Union Government has increased Rs. 2.75 but people of Mumbai are paying Rs. 4 additional for it. Union Government should ask State Government to do so.

Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi was asking me to quote the price prevailing at that time. In February price of crude oil was Rs. 3210 and today price of crude oil is Rs. 7070. It is increase of 119 per cent whereas the Government has hiked the price of diesel by 35 or 38 per cent. I would like to say to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi that their party is in power in Delhi...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please tell us the international price prevailing at that time when Atalji's Government reduce the price of diesel.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : That detail is also with you. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Minister will reply to that.

(Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : I would like to say to my friends from Congress Party that they are in do as today. Why their Government has hiked 100 per cent bus fare in Delhi when price of diesel has been hiked by only 38 per cent. Had they increased the bus fare by 40%, I would have agreed that they are the supporters of the poor people. Our friends from the Congress are exploiting the poor people and our Vaghelaji is also among them. Vaghelaji

used to sit with us, but these days he has changed party. These days when people convert to other religion, they eat a lot of onions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan) : Once Ram Viasji used to sit here, he has gone there. Have you purchased him?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKARSINH VAGHELA (Kapadvanj) : You may get it withdrawn...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Vaghelaji has converted to other religion, and when a person is converted to other religion he eats a lot of onions. Now a days Vaghelaji too is eating a lot of onions...*(Interruptions)* I would like to tell my friends, that today they are saying that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government is a caretaker Government. I would like to ask Raghuvansh Babu that when Indra Kumar Gujral's Government was in power...*(Interruptions)* then Raghuvansh Babu was a Minister. The Lok Sabha was dissolved on 4th December, 1997. On that time the caretaker Government was that of Shri Inder Kumar Gujral. He appointed ambassadors and governors. And now when Shri Atalji's Government was toppled by one vote, and four I.A.S. officers were transferred, our friends are creating an uproar over it saying how caretaker Government can make transfers, how they can take decisions. While remaining in the caretaker government they can appoint ambassadors and governors, but we cannot even transfer four officers.

These people are under clouds and as such they have got no moral right to oppose this decision, because their involvement is also there in this decision and at that time they were also the supporters of the party...*(Interruptions)* I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the rate of kerosene in the shop under the Public Distribution System is Rs. 2.93 per litre, but in states the poor are not getting kerosene at the rate of Rs. 2.93. The poor are not getting kerosene at less than Rs. 5 per litre. Today, the rate of kerosene is so less, that it is being used for adulteration. The kerosene is being adulterated in petrol, the kerosene is being adulterated in diesel, therefore, the price of kerosene should also be raised. I would like to demand from the Government, that adulteration should be stopped. Adulteration is a very bad thing...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government, have resolved to bring kerosene subsidy to 33% in the year 2001-2002. The decision should be taken in this regard. The adulteration in petrol and diesel is due to variation in prices. Keeping this in view, the price of kerosene should be raised and the State Governments, who are running the Public Distribution System, should be pressurised to make available kerosene on appropriate price. The State Governments are not handling it properly.

I am speaking in support of the Government's decision. Oil-pool deficit had reached Rs. 5000 crore and the Government has taken the right decision. Sometimes to cure ailment, a bitter medicine has to be given. The entire country should think in this regard. The Government cannot mint money to run its day to day business. Some arrangement should be introduced according to the tax structure to reduce the fiscal deficit. The oil-pool deficit should be reduced and, therefore, I am speaking in favour of this hike and this hike should be maintained.

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on diesel price hike is being held over here. We were aware that very time when this government was constituted, that the steps taken by them will not be in favour of the people because this Government is a government of horders, profiteers and capitalists. It will be wrong, if we expect anything from them. Our friends have many things, that they have done this and done that. They have hiked the prices even before the formation of the government. About their next move, it may be said :

"Ibtada-e-isq hai, rota hai kya,  
Aage-aage dekhiye, hota hai kya.

You have to bear the brunt. This Government and Shri Sinha who is present here, can raise the prices of steel, he can do likewise about telephones etc. This is nothing. What will you do, you are becoming millionaire. What is the justification of price-hike? They have taken pity on you. You must have read the note, it is written in the note that the prices should have been raised by 94%, but we have raised it by 40% only. This is the pity they have taken on us that have raised it by 40%, now see they will further raise it. Therefore, I would like to ask as to what is the pattern of price hike? If prices are raised, they take effect from that very night. When any other decision is taken, it comes into effect after 10 days or 20 days, but price hike takes effect from that very night. The person who has got one lakh litres of diesel in store, gets sudden profit of Rs. 3-4 lakh. Have they ever checked, why this much of profit is allowed? They benefit them with lakhs of rupees in a night and get commission in turn.

16.39 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...*(Interruptions)* Officers might be getting this commission, but it is given. As regards, diesel-petrol pulps, do you know that get petrol pumps after giving lakhs of rupees in bribe. They earn profit out of it, that is why they give, otherwise who will give Rs. 10 lakh or 20 lakh to get a petrol pump. If the corruption at this level is checked, there will be no need to hike the prices. But this government will not do so. Today I would like to submit that all places will be affected by this but Punjab will be the worst affected. Shri

[Shri Bhan Singh Bhaura]

Sinha, Punjab is an agriculture-based state. The farmers of this state given 50% rice and 7% wheat to the central pool of India. Punjab has got 6 lakh 10 thousand tubewells and one-third of India's tractors. i.e. 10 lakh 90 thousand tractors. Therefore, diesel price hike will affect the farmers and people of Punjab the most our landlord Chief Minister has raised sales tax from 4% to 8% and has levied additional 50 paise on diesel. The Central Government has not asked him about this hike. The Chief Minister of Punjab has been given full freedom to rob the people. The recent elections have revealed his popularity among the people. The Central Government have increased the price of diesel to celebrate the victory, but the Chief Minister of Punjab has raised the price in grief of defeat. All people are condemning the price hike of diesel, the people on the other side have also said, that it is not appropriate. In the last they too say, that it should be seen as to how this burden could be reduced. The Government have the majority, they can do anything through it. The truck operators have gone on strike due to price hike of diesel, women are demonstrating, and in many parts of the country people are protesting against it. Keeping in view the sentiments of the people the Government should review it. But our Prime Minister has said that they will not review it. Shri Naik has said that we have shown mercy by raising it by this much only. It will affect the poor of the country, they should be saved.

Petrol pump owners sell diesel adulterated with kerosene, but your department cannot stop this, because your employees take money from them. Therefore, you should pay attention in this regard. I would like to suggest that a committee should be constituted for this and this committee should study the protests registered by the people and then it should take some decision. Otherwise, gradually this protest will increase and your celebrations will be short-lived.

In the end, I would like to request again, that this price hike should be reduced and I hope that the Government will surely consider it.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing the hike in price of diesel. The hike in price of diesel directly affects the people. More than 70 percent essential commodities are transported through roadways. Prices of essential commodities automatically increases due to increase in the price of diesel. The truck operators are on strike due to increase in price of diesel and as a result common people are facing hardship. Perhaps by today or tomorrow this strike may be withdrawn but the prices which increased during the strike will not come down.

Today on going to the vegetable market we find that there is two fold increase in the prices of vegetables. The prices of everything have just doubled. I do not know as to why our Petroleum Minister Shri Ram Naik has increased the prices and what are the circumstances through which our country is passing, what is the oilpool deficit what will be the circumstances through which we will have to pass. He has provided a categorical statement and document related to this to the hon'ble Members. There is apprehension that beside increase in the price of diesel the price of kerosene will also increase. Today this fear is prevailing in the minds of people. We are in the treasury benches, we have to run the administration of the country. Therefore, Government have to take some decisions in the interest of the country. The Government should take decisions but while taking such decision we should take care that the poor man, backward classes about whom we generally discuss here not be affected adversely. When we are in opposition we make hue and cry on price hike but on coming to power we can not do same thing. Every member has this experience and this is because of the political scenario which emerged after the last few elections. There is no way out except forming the coalition Government and due to era of coalition Governments every member got an opportunity to be in power. Therefore, it is responsibility of all of us to keep this discussion above politics because life of common man is becoming arduous. I think this issue should be discussed by rising above the party politics.

Sir, this issue is being discussed in the streets and at homes and common man is worried about it. I do not know how far it will affect the industries and businessmen but it will adversely affect the service class and wage earners. When we have taken reins of the country in our hands we should think about pleasure and pain of common man. Therefore, I think it will not be good to be adamant on any decision. Discussion is going on in the House as the decision already taken has a direct impact on people. I think the Government will reconsider it previous decision.

We can give some suggestions and it is necessary to consider them also. This matter is related to public. We have to face queries of our family members at home and Shri Ram Naik will also have to reply to the queries of his family members. Whether we are the member of Parliament or common men we are discussing the hardship being experienced by every household. I hope the Government will take steps to ameliorate difficulties of the common man and to make his life better.

\*SHRI RANEN BARMAN (Balurghat) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to speak in Bengali. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the important discussion

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

under 193 on hike in diesel price. Diesel is an essential commodity and the hike in its price has an over all impact on the prices of other essential commodities. There is a steep rise in prices of all other essential commodities because of the price hike of diesel. There is discontentment among the people because they have to face the burden in their day to day life Ours is an agricultural land. As it is the subsidy on fertilizer has been done away with. So there is an enormous rise in the prices of the fertilizer. So the farmers are at the receiving end and they are not able to profit. The people have been facing hardship because of the hike in diesel price. People feel that sudden rise of diesel price is totally unfair considering the hardship faced by the people, by each and every section of the society. I earnestly appeal to the Minister to roll back the price of diesel.

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that I am pained to state that this Government has no moral or ethical right to govern having betrayed the aspirations of the poor people who voted them to power just now... (Interruptions) Even before they could constitute the Government and sit in the Chair, they raised the diesel price by nearly forty per cent which is unheard of in the annals of the history in our price range. The price hike has come like a bolt from the blue. This act of the Government could not be better described as betrayal of the confidence recently reposed by the people of India in the elections.

Sir, the Government could not even wait for a day after the election. Voting was completed with all promises of heaven to the people.

The Government returned the compliments of the people by a stabbing at their back, on the very next day by hiking the price of diesel to dizzy heights. Just like a man who could not wait for a minute for bowel movement, this Government could not wait even for a day, after the election, the pressure to increase the price of diesel. The Government has given a wedding gift to the people, who voted them to power, with the increase of the price of diesel at one stroke. When the people kissed you at your bosom you have given a stab at their back. How far is it correct? The day on which you have claimed to sit in the chair of power, you are witnessing the strike of the truck operators.

The Government's action of increasing the price of diesel has got an spiralling effect in the sphere of economic activities, affecting the poor man's stomach. The prices of vegetable and perishable commodities have skyrocketed to more than 30 percent. If you go to the market, you can understand the situation. Now, potato is sold for Rs.12/- per kilogram, onion is sold at Rs. 15/- per kilogram, tomato is sold at Rs. 20/- per kilogram and so on and so forth.

We heard escort being given to the VIPs. But in Tamil Nadu, eggs are being escorted to the market by the police. This is the present situation in our country. So I pity the people who really relied on this Government which belied their hopes.

Sir, the farmers, as may other hon. friends have said, are the worst affected people with the steep increase of the price of diesel. The farmers are already driven out of their villages leaving their age-old profession seeking better pastures. I do not know how the so-called votaries for safeguarding the interests of farmers, are going to protect them from this increase of the price of diesel. I only look upon them for their benign reactions for this act of the Government of increasing the price of diesel which is affecting the farming community very much.

Sir, this Government was in power for 13 months and continued for six more months later, by grace. During the election process their hands were tied by the Code of Conduct of Election Commission. But now they plead innocence that they could not increase the price of diesel in spite of the international prices going up since February, 1999. I do not understand what is the rationale behind it. The hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik will have to inform us as to what is the rationale behind for not increasing the price of diesel right from February, 1999 onwards and for increasing it now very steeply at one stroke after the election. This Government has not taken the House of the People into confidence and also the people outside the increase of the price of diesel to such an extent. Is it not against all democratic principles and ethos of public life?

The Minister's argument is that the Government was bound by the Code of Conduct of the Election Commission and that they were not in a position to increase the price of diesel during the election process. I want to ask the Government and also the Minister as to whether they have increased or not the prices of other items and whether they have taken or not taken any other policy decision. Why do you try to take shelter with the argument that they were not able to increase it due to the Code of Conduct of the Election Commission?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have not said so.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : You have said it. I have read it in the newspapers.

I have to ask you only one question. You said that the deficit is about Rs. 5,000 crore. If it had not been hiked, it could go up to Rs. 10,000 crore. That is what you have said in the Press. Why did you not taper it right from the beginning and take the people into confidence and then say, "Here is a price hike which has come with the international price. So, I will be increasing the price right

[Shri M.O.H. Farook]

from the beginning." So, you could prepare the people mentally and physically. Is it not hypocrisy on the part of this Government? The Government was there and if they did the price increase this. I am sure that they would not have been sitting in the same place as they are now because the people could have realised the whole thing. What I would like to tell you is that now you are putting people in a very unrealistic situation. This Government has earlier been known as 'rollback Government'. Most of its decisions and policies, by nature of their association and coalition, in the past, were rolled back without whisper or murmur. I think, you will also roll back this idea and then try to reduce the diesel hike.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may also be given an opportunity to speak on this issue.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Obviously Lakshman will speak before Ram.

MR.SPEAKER : Ram and Lakshman.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise to oppose the hike made in price of diesel. The price hiked by the Government which lasted earlier for thirteen days and than thirteen months and no one knows how long the present one will survive, is nothing else but a betrayal with farmers and middle class people of the country who had voted it to power. The contention of the Government is that the price of diesel in the country has been increased because the price of diesel in the intiringhmal market has increased. I would like to quote a few lines from the newspaper "The Hindu". This very newspaper has always given much importance to them not us, says :

[English]

"The Government's decision to hike the price of high speed diesel oil by as much as 40 per cent just on the eve of the outcome of the elections to the Lok Sabha is wholly indefensible."

It further said :

"The increase in the international prices of HSD does not justify the present hike even if the Government could plead that it has taken this decision after waiting for six months. It has chosen to wait so long obviously because it had known that it would have been politically disastrous to have raised the price earlier instead of at a time when all the ballot-boxes had been safely removed for the counting of the votes."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, your Government which lasted for thirteen days took a decision to do away with administered pricing mechanism system. You decontrolled Naptha and Bitumen Parasil wax and linked H.S.D. with international pricing. It would have been better had you adhered to the policy adopted by the Congress supported united front Government and the Congress Government prior to that. By adhering to the policy adopted by them there would have been no need for you to increase the price of diesel five time within a span of thirteen months. You hiked the price of diesel not only once or twice but five time within a span of thirteen months. Had you adhered to that decision there would have been no need to hike the price of diesel. They had decided that the price of H.S.D. will be revised every month. If the price of diesel comes down in the international market then the price of diesel will be decreased in the domestic market and if there is increase in the price of diesel in the international market then it will be increased proportionately in the domestic market. This decision was already taken. You did not take care of the decision taken by the Congress supported United Front Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Had you been in power would you have increased price of diesel price or not?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : I am referring to support. We will see after coming to power...(Interruptions)

There is an additional burden of rupees 680 crores on railways but railways can bear this additional burden because its diesel consumption is only 7-8 percent. As far as other sectors are concerned, trucks are dependent on 70-80 percent diesel. I do not want to go into the details as the hon'ble Members who spoke prior to me have dealt with this issue at length. I only want to say that there will be unexpected hike in the price of diesel but you are not talking about production of Oil. You are talking about price rise and import of oil. There should have been discussion about production of oil. I want to know from the Government that why such discussion is not being held in the House. If we have a glance on the production chart of oil, we will find that 27.44 lakh tonnes crude oil was produced in August 1998 which slipped to 25.84 lakh tonnes in September 1999. What was the reason for decline in the production of crude oil? Whether it is not necessary to go into it and whether price hike is not linked with production? We could not increase our production from 27 lakh tonnes since August 1998. What is the reason for not increasing production? It is essential to go into it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the O.N.G.C. have taken a decision not to extract more than 1.5 million tonne crude oil every year from Bombay high as they had undertaken rehabilita-

tion work. Crude oil is not being produced at Bombay high for the last two years. On the other hand what decision you had taken? It is all right that you had framed exploration policy. You had framed a licensing policy in which you have decided to engage foreign companies in oil exploration by December 31, 1999. There is need to ponder over that which oil fields will be allotted to them for exploration. The Government, which talks of Swadeshi is going to give 'Neelam' the best oil well of Bombay High to a foreign company as new year gift.

[English]

This is going to happen.

[Translation]

If the Governemnt has decided to give this oil well to a foreign company then why it was closed down due to which the country has suffered a loss of 165.5 MT oil. It is a serious matter and inquiry should be conducted into it.

Mr. Speaker, sir, it may considered that oil pool deficit is Rs. 5000 crore but this increase in price of diesel will provide revènuè worth Rs. 6600 crore. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister of Petroleum that it would have been better if this Rs. 6600 crore were collected from industrialists who have cornered the wealth of nation. Out of the total of Rs. 6600 crore Rs. 6000 crore could be collected from Mumbai only and thus farmers could be spared of this price hike.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Will this also be applicable in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : It should be done throughout the country. You have not tightened our grip on big industrialist who have cornered the wealth of the country. It is a wrong decision. Now the Government is getting Rs. 6600 crore to make good of the deficit of Rs. 5000 crore. With this difference of Rs. 1600 crore the price of diesel can be reduced to save the farmer from this burden. The Government has released an instalment of 5 percent of D.A. for Centarl Government employees. I am not against it, but it has caused a burden of Rs. 1300 crore which could have been stopped. This burden of 5000 crore could be reduced by 1300 crore if the decision of payment of D.A. was postponed. Last time when your Government was in power an announcement was made to provide credit cards to farmers but so far it could not be done. This credit card was proposed to be given for purchasing fertiliser and seeds, now credit cards should also be provided to farmers to purchase diesel because farmers would be unable to pay for diesel. It is a serious issue and attention should be paid towards it. While concluding I would like to raise two more points. What will be the effect of this price hike of diesel on backward states whether it is Madhya Pradesh,

Orissa or Bihar. For example Madhya Pradesh is the largest State from area point of view. Most of the power plants of the State are located in Eastern Madhya Pradesh and due to excessive T. and D. losses the power supply is quite less and that also at a very low voltage in the Western Madhya Pradesh and thus farmers of Western Madhya Pradesh mostly depend on diesel. What will happen to them if price of diesel is hiked by Rs. 4.30 per litre. I, therefore, request you to increase the price at the most by 2 rupees per litre, so that farmers could be relieved of this burden. Otherwise, against this price hike of diesel we will protest in and outside the Parliament. We shall continue to stage demonstration till this price hike is rolled back by 2 rupees.

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, price of diesel has been hiked in our predominantly an agricultural country just a day after the election, which has affected the farmers of the country. The hon'ble members have done the job of conveying the sentiments of those farmers in this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price hike of diesel would not have been so painful had the prices been hiked gradually in phases. Discussion on this sudden hike has revealed the sentiments of the hon'ble members and leaders who have also given some suggestions in this regard. In view of the problems of farmers in this agricultural country and adverse impact of this price hike, the Government should roll back the price of diesel. The Government should respect the feelings of the House. Through hon'ble speaker I would like to give this suggestion to the Government and I especially thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, an important issue of price hike of diesel is being discussed in this House. We are ally to rulling party. We are in power today as a result of mandate given by middle class, farmers and labourers. I would like to make a humble submission to the hon'ble Minister that middle class, farmers and labourers are going to be burdened by this price hike. So this decision should be reconsidered and the price of diesel should be rolled back. The Government should not make it a prestige issue and respect the feelings of public. In view of the sentiments of public I request the hon'ble Minister to reconsider the issue. The funds blocked here and there in matters like Bofors and with big industrialists should be recovered to make up this deficit.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, power production is next to nil in Bihar. We do not get even 200 Megawatt power. Diesel is used in all our chores. Farmers and labourers use diesel in their work and we are going to be affected adversely by this price hike. I, therefore, request to roll back the price of diesel.



SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Remtek) : Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all I greet all the hon'ble members of this House. I have come here to learn. However, I would like to say something which is concerned with the common man. Hike in price of diesel is painful in itself. I think it is also very necessary to understand the reasons for hike in the price of diesel. This is not Marathi, English or Hindi, this is analytical equation. Equation has two sides, at the one end there is zero and on the other end there are figures. If figures are transpositioned there will be imbalance. I think similarly petroleum products have been categorised in two categories. First category has been devised by the Government for the benefit of common man and it includes Kerosene and L.P.G. and second category comprises high speed Diesel and Petrol. If prices of Kerosene and L.P.G. used by the common man are hiked it will directly affect the prices of Petrol and Diesel. There is no budgetary provision for providing subsidy by the Government. L.P.G. and Kerosene are provided to the common man at the beneficial and moderate price by making percentage increase in the prices of Petrol and Diesel. I also want to know as to why price of diesel has been increased but my another question is as to how it can be reduced. If all the members only make comments on the price rise and not give suggestions to reduce the price of diesel then how will it be possible to reduce the price of diesel...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Reduce import duty.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have an interesting second question. According to information available with me.

*[English]*

In 1990, the oil pool account was showing profit.

*[Translation]*

But it is amazing that during the seven years from 1990 to 1997 the oil pool account suffered a loss of Rs. 18,200 crores. In 1990 the oil pool account was showing profit it means the value of diesel and petrol which was fixed.

*[English]*

That is on the basis of import value.

*[Translation]*

When in 1990 this account was showing profit then how did it suffer a loss of Rs. 18,200 crores within seven years, this is my question.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the second thing which I want to say is that a commission was set up in 1997 when Shri I.K. Gujral was the Prime Minister to produce some statistics on import value and separate taxes of states on the basis of which value of petroleum products was to be decided

but within seven years oil pool account suffered a loss of more than Rs. 18,000 crores. In 1997 when rates were revised at that time deficit was more than Rs. 18 thousand crores. Why was it not compensated at that time, this is a point to be pondered over.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, secondly, the prices of petroleum products will continue to increase in the international market and their is no possibility of their coming down. That is why everybody has said that the prices should be reduced. Therefore, I have a suggestion to give. A study group should be constituted for this purpose which will study the prices of petroleum products from time to time in order to determine subsidy therefore in the budget and to suggest prices of these products accordingly. If the trend of price rise continues like this, will we fix the price of diesel at Rs. 100 per liter ? obviously we will not do this. Therefore, a study group should be constituted for determining the prices of diesel and petrol.

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

SHRI TILAKDHARI PRASAD SINGH (Kodarma) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a debate is going on in the House on the issue of hike in price of diesel. I would like to say the manner in which the Government have increased the price of diesel and the procedure adopted therefore is not proper. It is suspicious. The election results were to be declared, the new Government was to be formed but on the night of three, when farmers, labourers and middle class people were listening to the news on Radio and watching news bulletin on television and a curiosity was in their minds for the election results, they had to listen to the news of increase in the price of diesel. I only want to urge upon the Government that everybody knows that hike in price of diesel has its impact on farmers. Therefore, price of diesel should be brought down. Season of Rabi crops is approaching and diesel will be needed by the farmers in Tractors and Pumpssets. The labourers are also facing hardship due to the increase in the price of diesel as they have to go to their works by bus. Therefore, I would like to say that the burden imposed on farmers and labourers should be reduced by effecting a cut in the price of diesel.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister Shri Ram Naik will try to give good reply to this debates but I would like to say that the sentiment of the public is the sentiment of the members of the Lok Sabha. Let the hon. Minister speak or not but he must reduce the price of diesel. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally diesel is an inflammable item but when price of diesel is increased it becomes high by inflammable.

Sir, 25 hon'ble members have participated in the discussion on hike in price of diesel and expressed their views in this regard. I would like to thank them all. I would also like to thank those hon'ble members who listened to this discussion. I would like to assure the hon'ble members that we will consider seriously all the valueable and basic suggestions given in the House and also try to take suitable action accordingly.

I have listened to your views patiently and now I would also like that the hon'ble member will also listen to me patiently and attentively for which I would like to thank the hon'ble members in advance....(Interruptions) I had circulated a note the hon'ble members in order to ensure that the debate becomes meaningful and factual. It appears to me that several hon'ble members had gone through it and they intend to work together for the next five years on the basis of mutual sharing of information and accordingly efforts will be made in this direction. I hope that we will get co-operation of all because the very first debate is on the price rise and hence the coming...(Interruptions) You will get it if you listen to it till the end.

I must say one thing in the beginning because while initiating the debate hon'ble Shri Shankarsinh Vaghelaji referred to the debate of July 10, 1996. That debate is with me also and I thought that I must know as to what transpired at that time and, as such, I should also have a look at that. Whatever you have said is generally correct because you had said it on the basis of facts. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji had also spoken. I feel that we should not adopt double standard in the discussion. If we had taken a decision it, is wrong but if the same decision was taken by you, it is termed as good. This type of double standard is adopted which does pinch. I have to tell you something on this subject but at the same time I would like that there should be no untoward interruptions, cross talks and other similar things during the course of discussion.

It is a fact that the amount of crude oil or diesel which should be produced in our country is not produced and its natural Corollary is that we import seventy percent of our oil consumption from foreign countries and crude oil is essential to import. The need of the country should surely be met and many of you among the hon'ble members had said and which is true that it is vehicular necessity. Whether be it truck and other vehicles to be driven on road, be it the running of trains, aeroplane in the sky and running of steamer in the water, everywhere diesel is the motive power. Therefore, if the country is to be guided to the path of economic and industrial development then nowhere and at no time there should be shortage of diesel supply and to attain this motive only two solutions can be sought, that is, a long term policy should be drafted on the basis of

which the optimum utilisation of all the resources of diesel available in the country could be ensured. The first thing which I would like to say is that the pace of exploration in those area should be accelerated where the sites have recently been located so that the crude oil and diesel could be produced in the country itself. But till this is achieved, we have to import crude oil from abroad and it is in this context that we should look into this problem. Now we have to import but the prices of oil in the international market are not stable and this problem has been considered and taken very seriously by the Government and as has been mentioned by many hon'ble Members. till June, 1997 the country's oil pool deficit has gone upto Rs. 18200 crores. This deficit of Rs. 18200 crores did not amount in a year. When the Congress Government was in power in 1996, a study group was constituted to study the implications of the reconstruction of oil industry.

I can say so that the Congress thought of constituting such a committee and did so. Then the congress lost the power and United Front Government took over the reins of power and decided that a parity should be maintained between the crude oil and diesel prices in the country and those in the international market. The decision to maintain the parity was taken by the United Front Government at that time. And things so happened that the job of implementing that decision fell on our shoulders. United Front Government took that decision after the committee considered over it and as our Government has come in power we have been trying to implement that decision. I feel that it is an issue involving all three parties and in such debates or subjects a consensus should be evolved and we shall try to promote the policy of consensus.

At present most important and serious issue is about bringing parity in respect of import price. How much politics is to be played in it; everybody has got his own way of functioning. But a statement of an important spokesman of congress has been published in "The Times of India" dated 24th October. In his statement he has referred to the views of various eminent personalities. In this context, I would like to quote the spokesman of congress on economic issues.

*[English]*

He says and I quote :

"There is no economic or social cause for a diesel subsidy. The only social case for a subsidy is kerosene. Everytime international prices of diesel go down, they should be decreased here; everytime prices go up, our prices should be increased. It is essential to link diesel prices to the international market. The decision to do away with the subsidy was taken by the U.F. Government in late 1997 based on the report of committee constituted by the congress".

[Shri Ram Naik]

[Translation]

In that the last sentence is of more importance.

[English]

"It is the height of intellectual hypocrisy to oppose the increase in prices".

[Translation]

This is being said by a congress member well versed in this subject....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA : Price-rise took place in February, 1999. Why did you wait till now?

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am coming to that point...

[Translation]

I have listened to you. You too should listen to us.

Faces of some hon'ble members have expressed doubt as to who was the Congress member whom I have quoted. He is Shri Jairam Ramesh, Secretary, Economic Affairs Department Congress Party. This is a statement given by a knowledgeable person. If you want you can reconsider it, but I have presented before you the today's situation. Now the question arises as to what happened between September 1997 and October 1999 and the hon'ble members have asked for information regarding that. I have provided it in the form of a note but if a brief analysis is to be made then I can say that between September 1997 to October 1999 the prices have changed nine times. Out of nine times when the prices were changed, six times the prices were reduced. Six times prices were reduced and three times these were increased....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : How much was it reduced and how much increased ?....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I have given you the statement....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : When the prices were reduced, at that time international prices were rising.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : All these mistakes are the legacy of your Government....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have said that we have committed the mistake. I doubt that your thoughts are going wayward.

But I wanted to say that when the prices were decreasing in the international market, the prices of diesel pool account were reduced and when increased, these were hiked. This has been a step towards maintaining parity....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him. He is not yielding.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : This is what I have circulated in the statement. I do not want to go much in the figures only because then, we go away from the feelings.

[Translation]

It is a subject of your choice, it was so said, therefore, I want to say that what happened to the prices which increased between February 1999 to September 1999 and why weren't the prices increased in the meantime. This kind of subject was also brought up.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Consider the mercy appeal.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That will be done in the last. Mercy is done in the last. The crude oil price was Rs. 3210 in February 1999 and shot up to Rs. 7020 in September. It means that these increased by 119 percent. Similarly the prices of diesel increased by 94 percent. One thing which has been stated is that we did not effect any price hike after February but it is not a fact, price revision has taken place in April. Then the question arises as to what did we do between May and September. If this is given a thought, then many hon'ble members feel that only elections took place in between. If we had increased the prices during elections what would have happened. Many of the hon'ble Members said that it will affect the results of the elections and this kind of thinking is quite natural. When the elections are over then the reasons for defeat and victory are analysed. But I would like to say that if you put aside the burden of elections from your mind, you will recollect that during May, June, July our country was fighting against Pakistan over Kargil and when a war is going on....(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Election can be held at that time.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Elections are to be held due to Constitutional Compulsions and you should not be in a hurry to make statement, because congress said so, otherwise we were ready for the elections....(Interruptions). We wanted to have the elections at the earliest, but your people insisted that elections should be held later on....(Interruptions) During war time, it is important that prices are kept stable. It is very necessary to keep the prices stable during wartime. If you look at the previous wars of the country you will find that the prices have escalated during each war. Only Kargil war has proved the exception. The traders didn't increase the prices the industrialist did not increase it either and the blackmarketeers and hoarders too did not....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Now when the question of Kargil has arisen, tell us what do you want to do Kargil can be discussed later on. The debate over Kargil can take place tomorrow. Now tell us to what do you want to say in this regard ? Do you want to say something or not ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : We want to give you the analysis of what happened inbetween...(Interruptions) Atleast, you listen to our views.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We walk out of the House against it.

17.39 hrs.

*Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other Hon'ble members then left the House*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of the Minister.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Raguvansh Prasad Singh, Let the Minister give reply, you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Raguvansh Pasad Singh, let him complete.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You can ask me the questions afterwards.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Suresh, what is this, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : When country faces foreign aggression it is necessary to keep the prices stable. In order to keep the moral of the people high. I want to thank all country men for keeping the prices stable during the war. I think one of the important reasons for prices remaining stable was not increasing the oil pool account at the that time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What happened after that?

SHRI RAM NAIK : What happened after that, that you came to know on 6th October.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : This is not correct.

\*Not recorded.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Is it the proper way of asking questions?

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want to know what happened in August?

SHRI RAM NAIK : I want to tell that only. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said after the foreign aggression the prices of oil in foreign countries were increasing steeply due to which market was becoming volatile. Prices had never increased with such a speed earlier. Therefore, it was thought that some observation should be done when market is becoming volatile. Since we were making observation, prices were not increased at that time. This is the thing....(Interruptions) You may accept it or not but I am telling you the position.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You took two months in making observation?

SHRI RAM NAIK : When we have raised the prices now you are unhappy and you would have been unhappy any way at that time also if we had increased the prices then I have told the position till September. Now you come to oil pool account. When earlier decision was taken in June 1997 at that time there was deficit of rupees 18200 crore. I do not want to go in into the discussion as to who was at the helm of affairs at that time. But when the Govt. of Shri Vajpayee came to power in March 1998, deficit at that time stood at rupees 14156 crore in next days when efforts were made to reduce it.

[English]

As on 31st March, 1999 after which the increase started, the deficit was just Rs. 3,408 crore.

[Translation]

It means that we have reduced deficit of about rupees 11000 crores in one year. I believe that the House should view it as an achievement. A thought was given to it in October when deficit reached Rs. 5200 crores due to increase in prices. If we had waited in this matter going by the speed at which prices were increasing till the end of March the deficit would have reached Rs. 10000 crore. According to my estimate if prices increase from October to March next then oil pool account deficit would reach Rs. 3900 crore. The fact is that we do not feel happy while increasing prices nor we want create problems for people knowingly. But we did not have any option and hence prices were increased. If there would have been any option we would have given thought to that.

Therefore, we have taken this harsh step in helplessness. This may be called a hard decision. If that be so this is the first hard decision which have taken after coming into office of the new Govt.

SHRI PRIYA RAJAN DASMUNSI : It is not infact that a meeting was held in the month of August about this. At that time suggestion was given that in order to reduce the oil pool deficit prices of diesel should be increased. But keeping in view the elections.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Das Munsii, he has not completed his reply yet.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : The questions is all right but I have to say this much that I was not in all the cabinet at that time. Therefore, I do not know, but I will tell you after getting information.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If you do not have information then ask Shri Yashwant Sinhaji.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I want to give information to the House about the strike which is going on.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : All members of the House have appealed you, similarly all parties have also appealed to you. Tell us about that. You may tell about strike afterwards.

SHRI RAM NAIK : People are facing problems due to strike...*(Interruptions)* All India Motor transport Congress has given a call for strike...*(Interruptions)* Congress is the name of the organisation and it may be possible that someone might be associate with it. But I do not want to go into politics when they said that they were going on strike on 21st October, we held Secretary level talks. The Minister of Surface Transport Shri Nitish Kumar and myself held discussion for two and half hours with Transport Congress office bearers. We told them that these are facts and on these facts we can have talks. We know that transporters are facing many types of problems in sales tax, Octroi duty, cess etc. We shall discuss these problems independently and find a way out to these problems. This is what we conveyed to them. At that time they had one point programme-roll back. We said that this we could not do. But they resorted to strike. Still we are continuing with the secretary level exchange of views. Today also I want to tell the House that this problem is such that we can solve it through dialogue. It would be better if they withdraw the strike to create a healthy environment. -

DR. RAGUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : You roll back the price hike right now.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You first reduce the prices.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Why are you supporting him so strongly. There are two views among them about the strike.

Generally the news is that small truck operators, tempo operators have not given support to this big strike. But we do not think this type of division is proper. Therefore, we are appealing that they should withdraw the strike. We have called them to the negotiation table earlier also. We are ready for talks.

I want to give information about very important thing to the House. In the past six times the prices of diesel were reduced but at no time big transporters or others passed on the benefit to the people. Similarly, when excise duty is reduced, industrialist do not pass on the benefit to the people. According to Shri Yashwant Sinha punitive action would be taken against such people. Benefit was not passed on to the people in six instances. We have given suggestions that big contractors having long term contracts keep escalation clause in the contract, on the basis of escalation clause wherever there are contracts we can give the benefit of escalation. We have given direction to all state Governments and all PSU's that if there is no escalation clause in contracts even then on the basis of increase. . .

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Minister read the last page, what is written there?

SHRI RAM NAIK : On last page it is written that the burden of increased price of diesel will fall on the common man. If we do not do this, we shall not be able to import as much crude as we want. And if we fail to import that much crude it will affect industries. With the end in view, as I said in the beginning we shall have to formulate plan for increasing the production within the country. Having said that, I have written on the last page that next week there is festival of Deepawali. Farmers too require fertilizers and their problem is very important. Diesel is needed in the areas where there is no electricity. All essential services must run. It should be ensured that common man is not put to hardship. We shall consider seriously all the suggestions which the hon. members have given on these points...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Since the Government has not withdrawn the hike in prices of diesel, I alongwith my party members am walking out from the House in protest.

17.51 hrs.

*At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other Honble members left the House.*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we are walking out in protest.

17.51 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. members left the House.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : On one hand, it is being said that the issue will be considered seriously and on the other hand, Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have stated that the hike won't be rolled back. Please state clearly the intentions of the Government..(Interruptions) We seek an assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that this burden will be lightened. We won't be satisfied with anything else...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, you have also been a Minister. Such important issues have to be considered by the Council of Ministers. All the suggestions will be forwarded to the Council and will be considered seriously. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Please try to lower it..(Interruptions) Kindly give an assurance that the price will be lowered..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am giving an assurance that it will be considered..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : All the members of the House have demanded that the price should be brought down...(Interruptions) Please give an assurance of lowering the price in view of the sentiments of the Members. The extent to which it can be lowered may be given consideration to.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Hon'ble Finance Minister is reacting to the suggestion even before the Petroleum Minister...(Interruptions) Sir, we have made our point truthfully, in a very simple manner and rising above party politics and we have requested the Government to pay heed to the sentiments of the countrymen and function in a democratic manner, but instead our sentiments have been hurt and the Government is noncommittal about reducing the burden imposed on farmers. It is being stated that price won't be rolled back and that it would only be considered. They are playing fraud with the common man and the farmers. 60% of the total budget concerns the farmers...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Ram Naik ji, please think about it....(Interruptions) Please say that you will lower the price...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Please give an assurance that the price will surely be reduced. We are prepared to accept that..(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Kindly accord this much respect to the House..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Please give an assurance that price will be brought down.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : In all earnestness and with all sincerity at my command, I had assured what I can do

on that spot here that these issues will be taken up seriously and that I will take them to the Cabinet seriously. That is what I can assure...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : As you are not giving an assurance, we will oppose it both within and outside the House. With this we also stage a walk out from the House.

17.56 hrs.

Shri Rajesh Pilot and some other hon. Members then left the House.

17.56½ hrs.

### REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the people Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

17.56¼ hrs.

### STATEMENT RE: REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table explanatory statement (Hindi and English Versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 11/99]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 11.00 a.m. 27th October, 1999.

17.57 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, October 27, 1999/  
Kartika 5, 1921 (Saka).