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Friday, December 22, 1989

Pausa 1, 1911 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES **(English Version)**

First Session
(Ninth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 22, 1989/Pausa 1, 1911
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

State Funding of Election Expenses

*1. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the election laws to provide for State funding of elections; and

(b) if so, whether this proposal is likely to be implemented before the next Assembly elections?

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: Maiden answer!

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): I hope there will be no supplementaries to the question.

(a) Government is examining seriously the question of State funding of elections to reduce influence of money power. Details, however, have not yet been worked out;

(b) No, Sir. This is unlikely.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to ask the first question of the Ninth Lok Sabha. Sir, I listened attentively to the reply given by the hon. Minister. It is regretful that the seriousness shown by the National Front, of which he is a partner, in its manifesto about the electoral reforms or in the statements made by the Hon. Prime Minister regarding the State funding of elections is not reflected in his reply. All that he has said is that it is under consideration. But State Assembly elections are likely to be held after three months. Therefore, I would like to know whether he would be able to say something about the position in that case? Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping this point in view, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, who represents Assam Gana Parishad, whether a time-limit will be fixed in this regard by the Government, the existence of which is at the mercy of a number of parties. I am eager to know it because we doubt the stability of this Government. So, I would like to know whether any time-limit will be fixed regarding the final decision and what would be its modus operandi and whether other parties of this House will also be consulted in the matter?

[English]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: We have made a commitment in our manifesto that we will implement the long pending proposals for public financing of elections to reduce money power. But at the same time the hon. member should realise that what they have not been able to do in 42 years cannot be done in four days. Therefore, we must be given some time.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You

were part of us for 36 years out of those 42 years.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Therefore, I know the difficulty and I can assure him that if I could have carried it, I would have been very happy because my election is coming (*Interruptions*) Therefore, if I were to see this through, I would be the first person to be helped. But the point is that this is a question to which we have very seriously addressed ourselves. This question has been on the agenda from 1972. In fact, in the Joint Committee of Parliament for amendment of the Election Law in 1972, the report was that it should be accepted as a general principle that all election expenses should be a legitimate charge on public funds. Then in 1988 when we discussed the amendment to the Representation of the People Act many Members also suggested that there should be State funding. After all, in a country like ours, in a complex situation where so many candidates are there, it is not possible to go for whole State funding. Some limited State funding should be there. Now, I have stressed that the Election Commission has to make some study on it. I am now interacting with the Election Commission. I am also writing to the former Chief Election Commissioners, Mr. S.L. Shakdher, Mr. K.V.J. Sundaram, Mr. R.K. Trivedi, about their comments. I will also be interacting with the leaders of the opposition and the members of the opposition on this matter. After this interaction we will definitely try to come forth with a proposal. But you will appreciate that the Assembly elections will be taking place in February. Even if we try to do it as expeditiously as possible, obviously, it is not possible to do it before February. Therefore, my answer is not that we are not serious. We are definitely extremely serious for this proposal and as expeditiously as possible we will come before the House, after this interaction, with some positive proposals.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Not only the question of checking the misuse of money power is there, but stopping the misuse of

muscle power is also related with the electoral reforms. We have seen all that happened in the recent elections, in some parts of the country particularly in Rohtak, Bagpat...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the Minister is competent to reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: The way some people resorted to booth capturing and got elected and occupied important places in the Government, we are afraid whether use of money power and muscle power would be checked because most of the hon. Members sitting on that side have been elected through money power and muscle power. A number of suggestions have been received from time to time on the electoral reforms and several committees were appointed in the past, such as the L.P. Singh Committee and the committee appointed in 1977 on the behest of Shri Jaiprakash Narain to go into the matter. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether another committee is proposed to be appointed for the electoral reforms or some other method is going to be adopted?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This question relates to the State funding of elections. I am prepared to answer because there is a specific question as Question No. 3 which deals with the question of booth capturing and muscle power. If you want me to answer this, I am prepared to answer. But I think, it would be fair if I answer it when that question comes up.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that the first question in the question hour of the first session of the new Lok Sabha is related to the electoral reforms. I am particularly happy because this question has been raised by a friend from the

Congress. It is only when one sits in the opposition that one can feel how painful it is to see malpractices in the elections. This is one question, but there are two aspects of it. One is related to money power and funding. The other dimension is that the electoral reforms should be introduced before the Assembly Elections. I fully agree with the reply of the hon. Minister that such an important proposal and important decision like State funding cannot be finalised in such a short time and that a comprehensive law is needed for it. But keeping in view the importance of the Assembly elections, there are some small matters which can be decided through an executive order. I would like to know whether the Government will consider them?

From time to time, the Election Commission has put forward a number of proposals, which were never accepted by the previous Government. There are suggestions which can be implemented through an executive order. I would like to ask whether Government will consider implementing those proposals which can be implemented before the Assembly elections through an executive order? The Assembly elections should be fair and priority of holding elections should not be diluted. This aspect is also related to it.

[*English*]

SHRIDINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, my own feeling is that in the matter of electoral reforms, we should not approach piecemeal because that does not help. Therefore, we will like to have a comprehensive review of the whole situation and come forward with a package of deals because even on these decisions which we can take by way of executive order, there will be differences of opinion and, therefore, I feel that it will be difficult for us to carry out any reforms before the Assembly elections. But if the hon. Member has any specific suggestion in mind, he can put it across to us and we will consider that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, in

this august House—the Ninth Lok Sabha—except my good friend Dinesh Goswami, none of us, including yourself, Sir, is honest because everybody has spent more than the expenses allowed by the Election Commission...(*Interruptions*)

You may deny that but this is a reality...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sontosh Ji, this is the Question Hour. You put the question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: So, Sir, I would like to know whether, when he is considering about State funding, he will consider to increase the limit of expenditure by the candidates also because this is a very vital problem considering the number of voters and the number of booths that have increased? I agree with Advani Ji that this sort of things should be done before the next Assembly elections.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, I am in agreement with my hon. friend that the ceiling on election expense today, to some extent is unrealistic and needs a review. But, at the same time, there are other dimensions to it as to whether this ceiling on expense should be limited only to the expenditure incurred by a candidate or should also include expenses incurred by political parties...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, is it correct that he has spent more than that?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I have not spent. But definitely we are having a look into the whole matter and we would like that the ceiling expense should not be so unrealistic that the Members, while entering the House, should commit a fraud on the Constitution.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister said in his reply that there would not be piecemeal approach to the work of electoral reforms, but they would come forward with a pack-

age-deal and he spelt out a detailed programme in this regard. The package-deal will take long time. In my opinion it will not be practicable to implement the reforms, if the Government keeps on considering all the aspects. Since the elections to the Legislative Assemblies are at hand, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister can set some time-limit? I think if the Assembly elections are held under the existing election laws, it will not be proper because it will amount to going back from commitment made to the people. So the proposals, which can be implemented before the ensuing Assembly elections, should be accepted and there should not be any problem in their implementation. The things, which can be done by many of package deal, should also not be delayed and a time-limit should be set for the purpose.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, I have never said that we will take a long time. I have only said that bringing a comprehensive Bill regarding electoral reforms will require some time because the consultations have to be there and it is not possible to bring such amendments before the next Assembly elections. Uptil now the two hon. Members, Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Malhotra, have not also spelt out about the amendments that we can carry out through executive orders. Therefore, if my friends have any suggestion, they can put it across to me and I can consider it. But I can't give an assurance today that I will carry it out unless I examine it thoroughly because this is a very serious matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would submit to the hon. Minister that one of the important reforms in this regard should be to provide identity cards to the voters. Bogus voting has become a malaise due to which the entire electoral exercise has been reduced to a mockery. To check this malpractice, it is necessary to provide identity cards bearing

photographs to the voters. Will the Government make an arrangement to issue identity cards carrying photographs to the voters before the Assembly elections?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This is another suggestion which has been mooted by the Election Commission. But you will appreciate that if we are to translate it into reality, the cost involved is not small. After all, we are dealing with millions of voters and the cost and the time-factor are there. Therefore, while we discuss with my friends on the Opposition and also amongst ourselves the question of electoral reforms this would be one subject which will be considered.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, electoral law clearly prohibits appeals to the voters in the name of caste and religion during the elections. But this time in the whole country and particularly in my constituency, photographs of Lord Rama were put up in all the booths. 'Tilak' was put on the forehead of the voters who went to cast their votes. Such things flout the provisions of Constitution and are dangerous for our country. In the name of Ram Shila Pujan and Ganga Jal... (*Interruptions*). I am asking a question about the malpractices that are there. What steps the Government is taking to stop things like collection of funds in the name of Ram Shila Pujan, Ganga Jal and appealing for votes by putting up the photographs of Lord Rama?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir what the hon. Member has said is definitely of great importance and I think we who are in political parties must address ourselves and nobody is above it because we can't forget that Ram appeared even in Allahabad elections. The person who was very popular in the Ramayana appeared in the Allahabad elections. (*Interruptions*) I am not trying to score a debating point. I know the objective of the

Member which he is trying to impress upon. These are the aberrations and we must have interaction and these malpractices cannot be removed only by law. Unless there is a determined effort by the political parties to do away these malpractices, they cannot be removed by law alone. This is the reason why we will inter-act amongst ourselves because these malpractices may affect somebody on that side and somebody on this side and ultimately it will affect the whole system.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though this question is related to State funding of election expenses, the question of muscle power has come and money also makes muscles. In this context, I want to know about what I heard some days ago that the Chief Election Commissioner has suggested that of those who will be proved to be involved in booth capturing and rigging the Ministers and the responsible M.Ps. will be debarred from contesting elections for 10 years. I want to know from the Minister whether in the package of electoral reforms this suggestion will be included or not.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Every suggestion that the Election Commission has made would be very seriously considered and on those suggestions I will interact with my friends of the Opposition and therefore, I can assure you that the comprehensive Bill that we intend to bring before the House at the earliest will include all these points.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question—Q. No. 3—Shri Surya Narayan Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI SAMRENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I put The question in your name?

MR. SPEAKER: The question was in my name, which stands deleted.

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: If you

allow me...

MR. SPEAKER: How can I allow?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, you are a very experienced Member of the House. That question, you know, is deleted. You know why.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Please allow a Calling Attention on that. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Surya Narayan Singh.

Booth Capturing and Rigging Incidents during Ninth Lok Sabha Elections

*3. **SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of booth capturing and rigging during the recent Lok Sabha elections held in November, 1989 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any proposals under consideration of Government to prevent booth capturing and rigging; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). According to the Election Commission, in the recent general elections to the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies of certain States, repoll had to be ordered due to booth capturing and other irregularities in as many as 1599 polling stations spread over different States. Though certain provisions exist in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a study is being made to see whether there are any more loopholes to be plugged for preventing booth capturing and rigging. In fact the efficacy of any law lies

in its proper enforcement. This matter would be discussed shortly with various political parties and suggestions are being obtained in this regard from other informed persons also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not given complete reply to my question. I do not know about the whole country but I know about Bihar where the Government had declared 15,500 booths as sensitive and highly sensitive. The Government had declared that it was committed to check booth capturing, but in practice it has been totally the other way round. Not only 70 people were killed in Bihar, but there was booth capturing also on a large scale. Two Government officials on duty and an independent candidate were also killed. These incidents took place on a large scale. It is a matter of concern that especially the influential leaders of Congress(I) in the state patronised gang of goondas, pressurised the Government officials, and indulged in booth capturing on a large scale.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: In Vidhya Panchayat of Bhojpur district alonge, 24 people were killed when they were returning after casting their votes. The dead included children of as small an age as 3 to 4 years. Even septuagenarians were also not spared. You are aware of the incidents that took place in Amethi. If this type of incidents take place in the constituencies of the former Prime Minister and the wife of the Chief Minister of Bihar, and if the Goonda elements capture booths under the protection of Government officials, how will it be possible to check booth capturing? Despite all commitments of the Government, these incidents took place on a large scale. The Assembly elections are at hand. I would like to know as to what effective steps Government is going to take to check booth-capturing?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, it is known to everyone; of course I did not have the opportunity of fighting the election and therefore I do not have any personal experience. Luckily, this phenomenon of booth capturing is unknown in my State. But, it has become known that this election has seen violence and booth capturing and this phenomenon is growing. When this Parliament agreed certain amendments in the Representation of the People Act were made, particularly for disqualification of persons convicted for the offence of booth capturing for six years. Then provision was also made that the Election Commission can postpone the polling and in extreme cases countermand the polling if the candidates are involved in booth capturing and other malpractices. It has been realised by everyone that these laws are not adequate enough to deal with the situation. In 1984, the Election Commission made about six recommendations and in the amendment to the Representation of the People Act which we carried out in 1988, we accepted only some of these recommendations. Therefore, we are examining these recommendations. As I said earlier, I will be interacting with my friends of all the Parties, the Chief Election Commissioner, the former Chief Election Commissioners and persons who are in the know of things to improve the situation. But my own feeling is that by law alone we cannot tackle this problem unless we all make a concerted effort, irrespective of the political parties to which we may belong to deal with this situation and our exercise must also be in that direction.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with what the hon. Minister has said. But it is not the law that matters, but as to how effective the law enforcing agency is. As regards the elections in Bihar, the Election Commission have pointed out that the administrative machinery is not competent enough to conduct peaceful poll in a democratic way. The Elec-

tion Commission have also pointed out that if the people at the helm of affairs in Bihar utilise the services of law enforcing agencies and the administrative machinery for capturing booths in violation of law, how is it possible to check this malpractice? Will the hon. Minister please deal with these points?

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, we made an amendment in the Representation of the People Act to the effect that in the election process, those who are dealing with it will be on deputation to the Election Commission. In some cases, there are reports that the administration also was not fully free. There are cases where action has been taken against some senior administrative officers. We will examine this aspect as to how we can deal with the situation. But, at the present moment, I have no concrete proposal.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is ready to introduce Identity Cards with photographs to stop the rigging. In the recent election, many MLAs and MPs have captured the booths and nobody was allowed to vote in those booths and sometimes the signature of the Presiding Officer was not there in the ballot papers, but we have not taken any account of it at that time. However, we have made a written complaint to the Presiding Officer. So, I would like to know what are the measures taken by the Government to stop the rigging.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I do not agree with the hon. Member that in the recent elections, most of the MLAs or MPs indulged in booth capturing. I must pay compliments to the people of India that in spite of the fact that there have been cases of electoral malpractices, the people of India have exercised their right of franchise without fear or favour. That is why, change of Government has taken place not only at the Centre but the States also.

It is also heartening to note that even in

a State like Bihar, people came forward to resist booth capturing in some places. I believe if the people decide to resist, these electoral malpractices can be met to a substantial extent by the people themselves. But we must give them the support through the law and through administrative machinery. As I said, what type of support we can give through law and administrative machinery is a matter which is in our deep concern because unless we do it, the democratic process will be at strain.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: You must introduce photo system also.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I have answered that question earlier. We are examining that proposal also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALOO PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the Congress rule, a circular was issued in respect of Bihar that in case more than 80 per cent votes were polled at any booth, it will be construed as booth capturing. No such provision or mention is there in the Act. This circular was issued in 1984 by the then Government of Bihar to serve their own interests. I want to know whether it will be taken as booth capturing if more than 80 per cent polling is reported anywhere? There is no such provision in the Act in this regard. No circular can violate the provisions of the Rules. Since this circular is defective, will the hon. Minister withdraw it? If not, it should be provided in the law that in case more than 80 per cent polling is reported from a polling station, it would be construed as booth capturing and this provision should be made applicable to the entire country. They had acquired this weapon just to suit their interests. I would like to know as to what the Government intends to do in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, Gwalior is a city which is very rich in history and culture. It is also very well-known because of the personality of a gentleman by

the name of Madan Lal Dharati Pakar. This gentleman specialises in lighting all elections for the last 15 or 20 years. If I remember rightly, he has fought every Presidential election including that against Mr. Giri, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, Mr. Giani Zail Singh and Mr. Venkataraman also. In the recent elections also, he filed his nomination papers, I believe against our leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi in Amethi, against Mr. V.P. Singh in Fatehpur and in Balia against Mr. Chandrasekhar and at various other places.

SHRI KALKA DAS: He contested against me also.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: He has also filed many times nomination papers against me also. As a matter of fact whenever I go on an election rally, he always welcomes me outside his house with a huge Mukut on his head and big Ghanta in his hand.

My question to the hon. Minister is, we are at present talking about booth capturing by the entry of unauthorised persons into the polling stations. All candidates are authorised to appoint their polling agents. The right of such non-serious candidates are sometimes misused. To ensure that authorised people entering into polling booths are prevented from committing malpractices and corrupt practices inside the polling booths, I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister whether he is considering measures that could be taken to prevent the entry of non-serious candidates into the electoral fray so that their misuse could be totally eliminated. The hon. Minister has been talking about legal and administrative measures. A suggestion I could give, for instance, is that in respect of any person who would like to contest the election, who does not belong to a recognised political party, may be some norms could be changed by which the proposers and seconders names should be much larger in number so that at least it is assured that there is some minimum support to that person. This sort of measure could be considered. I would like to have the Minister's comments on this as to how he is going

to prevent electoral malpractices which are conducted through numerous non-serious electoral competitors by the appointment of their authorised polling agents in the polling booths.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: This question of non-serious candidates has been indeed a serious problem in the electoral process and in the 1988 Amendment, this issue was also debated and various suggestions also were made. But it is very difficult to tackle this situation and ultimately I have not been able to come across any proposal in which there is total agreement. For example, one of the suggestions was to increase the security deposit. But the counter-argument was given that in that case we will only put premium to people who can spend more money. I would definitely like to have suggestions from my hon. friends because when there are ballot papers by 165 to 200 candidates, it becomes extremely difficult for the Election Commission and, in some cases, it becomes a farce. Therefore, I would like to have suggestions and definitely this will be taken into account whether to increase the number because in the Presidential and in the Vice-Presidential elections, a different kind of procedure has now been adopted. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I understand that it is a very wide subject and you people are deeply interested in it. Now we have to end it here. You can express your views while speaking on President's Address. Now I am calling the next question, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee to put the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You should have some

respect for the lady member.

Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, please put the question.

(Interruptions)

Spurt In Prices of Essential Commodities

*4. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the spurt in the prices of essential commodities during the last few months;

(b) if so, the month-wise, details of the fluctuation in the prices of essential commodities during the current year; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to control the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the annexure below.

(c) The price situation is being given the highest priority by the government and the monitoring mechanism is being strengthened. The steps taken/proposed to be taken to control rise in prices include removing imbalances in the demand and supply of essential commodities, mopping up excess liquidity in the economy and vigorous enforcement of existing laws against hoarding and profiteering.

ANNEXURE

Month-wise percentage variation on Wholesale Price Indices of Selected Commodities

DECEMBER 22, 1989

Commodities	March 1989	April 1989	May 1989	June 1989	July 1989	Aug. 1989	Sep. 1989	Oct. 1989	Nov. 1989
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rice	1.6	1.0	2.3	1.7	0.6	1.6	0.3	-1.0	-0.5
Wheat	-5.5	-8.6	-7.0	4.3	2.4	0.7	0.6	-1.6	1.1
Jowar	2.6	0.6	4.1	1.9	0.3	3.8	-6.3	-5.4	-3.6
Bajra	-3.4	3.3	2.9	1.3	Steady	1.4	-6.7	-0.5	3.8
Gram	-8.0	-14.0	1.4	7.9	Steady	9.3	7.8	-2.8	-3.8
Arhar	-2.3	3.3	9.7	10.1	0.2	0.9	3.5	-0.3	-6.0
Moong	-3.1	0.1	-0.3	-1.7	-1.5	-1.6	2.6	0.1	Steady
Masur	-6.6	-2.1	1.0	0.9	-1.0	5.4	5.8	-2.6	-0.2
Urad	-2.4	4.6	8.2	5.7	-0.2	2.9	5.1	-4.8	-3.1

Commodities	March 1989	April 1989	May 1989	June 1989	July 1989	Aug. 1989	Sep. 1989	Oct. 1989	Nov. 1989
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Potatoes	6.7	8.0	16.2	27.3	17.4	-0.7	-5.7	-3.7	-14.7
Onions	-10.9	-19.0	-12.0	4.9	11.4	12.1	18.9	21.7	16.5
Milk	-2.4	-0.4	9.2	-3.5	-1.5	-0.3	1.8	-0.9	-0.7
Fish	-2.6	-6.6	7.2	2.0	10.1	2.5	-1.0	-4.9	-2.3
Mutton	0.7	0.3	1.3	0.5	-0.1	0.7	0.9	-0.1	0.1
Chillies	2.7	-7.1	7.3	-6.5	-0.1	-2.1	-2.1	-5.9	-11.5
Tea	8.5	-4.2	12.7	3.9	4.4	7.7	23.5	3.7	-14.0
Coking Coal	No change								
Coke	No change								
Kerosene	No change								
Atta	2.7	-2.0	-8.1	4.3	3.4	5.1	2.6	-1.5	0.9

Commodities	March 1989	April 1989	May 1989	June 1989	July 1989	Aug. 1989	Sep. 1989	Oct. 1989	Nov. 1989
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sugar	1.3	1.9	3.7	-0.2	3.8	5.1	3.7	-4.7	-0.3
Gur	11.8	11.9	10.3	3.2	6.3	9.8	4.1	-4.9	-11.6
Vanaspati	-0.5	4.5	3.3	-1.4	-0.8	3.3	4.0	0.3	-0.8
Gingelly Oil	4.7	8.6	4.3	-1.9	-0.1	4.1	3.6	-4.8	-1.0
Mustard Oil	-5.7	-1.7	1.6	-3.4	-0.7	12.1	7.0	-3.7	0.7
Groundnut Oil	-0.7	8.1	5.7	1.6	1.8	5.2	7.7	-1.6	-0.7
Coconut Oil	-10.6	-5.1	-1.5	-0.9	-4.4	-0.2	0.5	-0.5	0.4
Cotton Coloth (Mills)	0.1	4.9	0.2	1.5	-0.2	1.8	2.1	-1.4	1.6
Laundry Soap	Steady	Steady	Steady	Steady	Steady	Steady	1.6	-1.4	1.6

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: As luck would have it, my first question in this Session is addressed to revered Finance Minister Shri Madhu Dandavate whose esteemed wife Mrs. Dandavate and I and many others here, have participated in the movement for bringing down the prices of essential commodities. Therefore, naturally the reply will have to be such that we can tell those people to be happy and I believe his wife and people like me and many others' wives here feel happy. I could understand that enough time has not yet passed for answering this question in detail. Even then, I would like to remind this to the hon. Minister. The measures that have been cited here are removing imbalances in the demand and supply of essential commodities, mopping up excess liquidity in the economy and vigorous enforcement of existing laws against hoarding and profiteering. What concrete steps are being taken in this regard? There is the annexure to the main reply and I am not going to deal with it. Had I dealt with this Annexure, he would have understood that this is nothing. The whole-sale price indices of certain commodities are very high. To curb this, what concrete steps are being contemplated? I want to know within what period of time it will be done so that we can tell something to the people that the Government is taking some measures in this regard.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that the very first question that is addressed to me is a question which is the highest priority of the new Government i.e. rise in prices. She has asked me to place before the House the correct position. But I can swear by the Gita that I will tell the truth to the House... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I have already presented a chart which gives the regular position of the increase in prices of the commodities. In addition to that, I have with me fortunately the latest position as on 20th December 1989. I am happy to say that the trend of lowering of prices, which has started, will continue and all the figures regarding important commodities like Sugar, Gur, Rice, Tea

etc. indicate that there is a downward trend... (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oil also...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I am only illustrating. The list is not exhaustive. Everything they say, I am not referring to. I am just trying to tell the House that already there is a down-ward-trend and if these prices are to be controlled, within a few months we will be able to control them. We are taking concrete steps. It is very necessary that the supply and demand management is to be streamlined. We are taking necessary steps. It is necessary that the Public Distribution System has to be streamlined and that is to be rationalised. We have already started the process. It is very necessary that the wholesale dealers, who are trying to resort to hoarding, must be forced to release the stocks so that the consumers will be able to have the proper access to all those commodities. The moment we gave the threat on the very first day of our Government assuming office that we shall not tolerate hoarding and the stocks will have to be released, you will appreciate that as far as commodities like sugar are concerned, lot of stocks were released and actually the prices have started coming down. There is also one more long-term measure which is very important.

Sir, all the economists have clearly accepted the fact that the parallel black money economy is largely responsible for the inflationary pressure of the economy. Inflation creates shortages, shortages generate black money, black money in turn also increases inflation. Therefore, it will be the endeavour of my Government to try various methods by which we will be able to control the black money. I will not spell out the details because the very person who are to be dealt with will know of the steps that we are like to take and within that period, they will try to circumvent it. More than that, certain long-term measures will become the part and parcel of our packages on Vote-on-Account and the Budget and I do not want to indulge in leakage of the Budget and become another Dalton who had to resign for leaking

the Budget. These are the concrete steps... (*Interruptions*) I referred to all of them. I wish to make it very clear that as far as certain agricultural commodities are concerned, when we find that due to extraneous factors the prices have gone up, there are only two measures: one is to have the proper demand and supply machinery and secondly whenever it is necessary in respect of certain sensitive commodities, when import becomes a must, although we will not resort to indiscriminate imports, we will try to have import in selective commodities so that we will be able to control the prices of the commodities. We are confident that we will be able to fulfil that exercise. Only one more thing, I would like to mention. When we try to have the selective imports of certain commodities, they will be selective in terms of the commodities and they will be selective at the point of time we import. We will try to import, if necessary, at the time when the international prices of commodities are the lowest and not when they are maximum as it was done by the previous Government.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: While wishing success to the future measures, may I ask whether the question of extending the public distribution system in rural areas at length is being contemplated?

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: One of the biggest complaints of the rural population has been that there has been a discrimination between the rural population and the urban population. The constant endeavour of my Government will be to see that the disparities between the rural and urban population is removed and the rural population is given the necessary advantage.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I am really glad that the bitter critic of the Finance Ministry particularly has become the Finance Minister of the Government of India today. Now here, may I ask the hon. Finance Minister, in view of the spurt in prices whether he is going to bring an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act to curb the hoarding and also to have deterrent punishment?

Secondly, I would like to know whether

he is going to demonetise Rs. 500 to Rs. 100 and whether he is going to curtail the money supply through the hoarders and also the blackmarketers.

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE: I would like to assure the former Finance Minister that apart from considering and re-examining whether the Essential Commodities Act has to be re-examined or amended, whatever powers are available under the existing laws and which had remained unused, we will first try to utilise and harness the powers which are there.

As regards the second point that has been raised, I am rather shocked and surprised that the former Finance Minister is asking me to declare on the Floor of the House months before the presentation of the Budget whether I will be resorting to demonetisation. If you announce that in advance, that will destroy the very psychological use of that. Therefore, I am not going to get into the trap. I do not know whether that is a clever move on the part of the previous Finance Minister to make me leak out the details and extract my resignation from the Finance Ministry.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTINAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ever since the hon. Minister of Finance assumed office, the prices of some essential commodities have started showing a downward trend. I would like to congratulate him for this. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee has sought to know specifically as to whether the prices of pulses will come down or not? What will be the approach of the Government towards the price of pulses and what effort it would make to bring down their prices? I would also like the hon. Minister of Finance to state the reasons as to why the prices of tea and sugar had shot up at the end of September 1989. Besides, I would like to point out that medicine is also one of the essential items of life. I would like to know the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to contain the prices of medicines which registered an upward trend in the recent past. I would like

to remind the hon. Minister that at the time when the Janata Party was in power at the centre. Palmolin oil was imported at the rate of Rs. 6.50 per kg. and sold at Rs. 8.25 to the people. Now the palmolin oil is selling at Rs. 16 per kilogram. Will the hon. Minister please let me know if there are any possibilities of reducing the price of this oil? The objective behind my putting this question is to know the reasons for increase in prices of medicines, edible oils, sugar and tea at the end of September.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: To some extent, I have given the reply to the question. But I would like to give a detailed reply. While dealing with the first question, I would like to submit that the production of sugar is reported to have fallen short of the target which prompted the Government at that time to resort to import. After taking a decision in this regard, import of sugar was made at a time when the price of sugar had risen in the international market.

As regards the Kuo Oil Deal. I would like to point out that when the former Government felt the need for importing this oil, it was imported from Singapore. Instead of striking a deal when the prices were low, they executed the deal at the highest rate. We will not commit such a mistake.

I would like to tell my hon. colleague that there could be two ways to bring down the prices of the commodities she has pointed out in her question. Firstly every effort needs to be made to give more incentives to producers and discourage import. Secondly, if the prices of these commodities do not come down because of fall in production, the Government will have to resort to import. You may recall that when Janta Party was in power in 1977, a number of States availed of the facility of rapeseed oil which was imported and distributed at a time when the prices of edible oils were not coming down. It was the Government of West Bengal which availed maximum benefits. They pasted posters in the country side telling the people not to purchase oil from the hoarders when the Government had large stocks of edible

oil available at cheaper rate. We are also thinking on these lines. I may also tell that it may not be proper to give complete details. We have mooted plans to check the rising trend in prices of tea consequent to fall in production. At a point of time the price of tea had gone up to Rs. 70 per kilogram, but now it has come down to Rs. 42 per kilogram. Similarly, I would like to assure this august House that the Government will strive for regulating the prices of commodities mentioned by the hon. Member.

AN HON. MEMBER: What are the reasons for price rise? This needs to be explained so that the people who speak on this issue may not rouse it time and again.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kundu.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the time, the hon. Members sitting on that side get your attention. I urge you to pay attention to this side also especially to Delhiites.

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to compliment you, the new Government and particularly Prof. Madhu Dandavate for trying hard within one week to show a positive result. Millions of people were affected and tortured during the black days of the Congress(I) regime.

The point is, as Prof. Madhu Dandavate said, regarding sugar, certain reasons abetted the shooting up of its price. I feel everybody should know them so that this sort of ugly phenomenon is not repeated. There should be an enquiry as to why the price of sugar shot up from Rs. 8/- to Rs. 15/- a kilo and whether there was a *hera-pheri* of Rs. 300 crores, that is money passed through some of the dealers, some agents and the people who were also ruling at that time. It would be in the interest of the nation and also the people to, at least know this. (*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: What is

the question?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: The question is whether Prof. Madhu Dandavate, hon. Finance Minister will constitute an inquiry to find out why the prices of sugar shot up from Rs. 8/- per kg. to Rs. 15/- per kg. and whether there was *hera pheri* of Rs. 300 crores in it and whether the palms of the people in the then ruling party, that agents and other people were greased? (*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted anyone except Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

(*Interruptions*)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, I would like to assure the House that in giving reply, I would not like to induct politics into this question. But, at the same time, considering the economic aspect of the problem, I would like to assure my friend, Shri Kundu; he has asked whether I would examine the proposition of setting up a Committee to inquire into the factor that was responsible for the rise in prices. I would like to tell him that the Finance Ministry feels that there is no need for the Committee; we are already in the know of the things about the mal-practices that have taken place. We are already conscious of the aberrations in the policies and what corrections have to be done. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY: Have you taken action? (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Yes. I welcome the suggestion that has come from the opposition that we should take action. We will take firm action against those who

are responsible for the mal-practices and will solve the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question.

Vacancies of Judges In Supreme Court and High Courts

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*5. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) the details thereof for each High Court and Supreme Court as on 30 November, 1989; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to fill these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). A statement showing the vacancies of Judges in various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on 30th November, 1989 is given below.

(c) Selection of Judges involves deliberations in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and is a continuous process. Government are making all possible efforts to ensure the delay that occurs in filling up the vacancies of judges at various levels is reduced to the minimum.

STATEMENT

Vacancies in Various High Courts as on 30-11-1989

I	S.No.	High Court	Number of Vacancies
	1.	Allahabad	11
	2.	Andhra Pradesh	8

*Not recorded.

I	S.No.	High Court	Number of Vacancies
	3.	Bombay	5
	4.	Calcutta	3
	5.	Delhi	6
	6.	Gauhati	—
	7.	Gujarat	8
	8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
	9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
	10.	Karnataka	6
	11.	Kerala	2
	12.	Madhya Pradesh	7
	13.	Madras	6
	14.	Orissa	1
	15.	Patna	7
	16.	Punjab & Haryana	4
	17.	Rajasthan	3
	18.	Sikkim	2
		Total	83
II		Supreme Court:	Sanctioned strength : 26
			Actual strength : 24
			Vacancies : 2

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Sir, the time is too short. So, I shall put both the Supplementaries?

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question first.

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: The Minister has stated, in his reply, that the process of consultation and deliberation in the selection of judges under the Rules, consumes inescapable delay. Moreover, the

search for the favoured persons, rather than the talented, adds to the delay in the process. So, the casualty is public litigants and justice. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is planning to cut short this process and provide some speedy method to fill up the vacancies?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the procedure for appointment of the judges had been laid down in the Constitution itself. Therefore, if we want to change the procedure, a constitutional amendment will be necessary. We are examining the whole matter, at the present moment. But, at the same time, under the constitutional provisions, we ought to consult the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of a State and in the case of judges, the Chief Justice of the High Court. Now, in many States, new Chief Ministers have come and new Governments have come into being. Of course, we have referred those cases back, for their opinions and so it is going to take some time.

For the broader question, whether we are contemplating any change in the procedure for selection of a judge itself, that will be a part which we will discuss while considering the aspects of judicial reform. At the present moment, we have no proposal as such for changing the procedure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Transfer of Judges

*7. **SHRI V.N. GADGIL:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the practice of appointing the Chief Justices of High Courts from other States;

(b) whether Government also propose

to continue the policy of transfer of High Court Judges; and

(c) if not, what would be the policy of Government in the matter;

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Even though consultation with the Chief Justice of India is necessary in every case of transfer of a puisne Judge, the Government will consider such a transfer only on the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India.

Condoning of Agricultural Loans by Banks

*8. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total assets of the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to condone the bank loans below Rs. 10,000/- in the agricultural sector;

(c) if so, the approximate liability on this account; and

(d) the manner in which Government propose to compensate the banks in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) According to Reserve Bank of India, the total assets of 28 public sector banks as on 28th July, 1989 was Rs. 2,44,500 crores. As per working results of the above banks the profits for the year concluding 31st March, 1989 was Rs. 365 crores.

(b) The Government will take appropriate steps to provide debt relief for marginal

farmers, landless agricultural labourers, artisans and weavers on loans below Rs. 10,000.

(c) and (d). RBI has estimated the share of small and marginal farmers in the outstanding loans of commercial banks and cooperatives in Agriculture Sector at about Rs. 12,000 crores. Government desires to ensure that richer sections of the society and wilful defaulters do not get benefit in the process and further that the credibility of the financial institutions does not get eroded. The modalities of providing debt relief to specified groups are being examined in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

New Note Printing Press at Salboni, West Bengal

*9. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a New Note Printing Press at Salboni in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Government have approved the setting up two New Note Printing Presses, one at Salboni in West Bengal and the other at Mysore in Karnataka. The estimated cost of the two projects is Rs. 844 crores. The presses are designed to print about 5000 million pieces of currency notes per annum, each.

Trade Turnover from IITF

*10. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the India Inter-

national Trade Fair (IITF) held in Delhi recently;

(b) the volume of trade turnover from the Fair;

(c) whether any new agreements were entered into with other countries for exports and imports during the Fair; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) While IITF-89 covered various aspects of industry, agriculture, trade, science & technology etc., the special displays were on:—

(i) Environment—Air, Water, Earth and

(ii) Essential Oils, Fragrances and Flavours.

(b) to (d). It is difficult to quantify the business booked and agreements signed during the fair because business usually results over a period of time after the fair. The principal objectives of the IITF are to facilitate business contacts, project export capabilities, to offer technology options to Indian industry and create greater awareness among the Indian public about developments in different fields.

Decontrol of Newsprint Import

*11. SHRI BANWAR LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand for the decontrol of newsprint import;

(b) whether Government propose to decontrol the import of newsprint and if so, when; and

(c) what other assistance Government propose to give to newspaper industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Economic Offences

*12. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of economic offences which were shelved or closed during the last five years; and

(b) whether Government propose to re-open any of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No case of economic offences has been shelved or closed during the last years. However, in a few cases of Income-Tax offences, prosecutions sanctioned were withdrawn on further indepth examinations of the relevant Direct Tax laws and regulations and the applicability of schemes such as the Amnesty Scheme (1985-87) framed under those regulations.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

White Paper on Country's Economy

*13. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay a White Paper on the state of the economy on the Table of the House; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) A paper on the current economic situation is proposed to be circulated.

(b) In the current session of the Lok Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Foreign Debts

*14. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debts and outstanding interest thereon, country-wise;

(b) the extent of loans taken for the payment of interest and when each such loan was taken during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high-level Commission to ascertain whether these foreign loans were properly utilised; and

(d) if so, the time by which such a Commission is to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) A statement if given below.

(b) Payment of interest on loans outstanding are made from our exports and gross invisible earnings. As such no loans were contracted for the payment of interest in the past.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Government have, however, been following a cautious policy of external borrowings and closely monitoring the utilisation of these loans.

STATEMENT*External debt outstanding as on 31.3.1989 and payment of interest during 1989-90**(Rs. Crores)*

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of Country Government Account</i>	<i>Debt outstanding as on 31.3.1989</i>	<i>Payment of Interest during 89-90 (Estimates)</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Austria	61.43	1.37
2.	Belgium	152.32	1.06
3.	Canada	904.58	0.01
4.	France	1534.36	76.82
5.	F.R.G.	3913.93	65.09
6.	Denmark	206.29	0.00
7.	Italy	214.79	3.62
8.	Japan	4633.39	165.90
9.	Netherlands	1372.97	32.41
10.	U.K.	514.59	0.36
11.	U.S.A.	4254.21	92.78
12.	Switzerland	36.34	1.04
13.	Abu Dhabi	13.89	0.51
14.	Kuwait Fund	320.29	13.87
15.	Saudi Fund	84.83	3.05
16.	U.A.E.	46.10	1.10
17.	Czechoslovakia	15.04	0.10
18.	Hungary	0.37	0.01
19.	Poland	0.05	0.00

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Country Government Account	Debt outstanding as on 31.3.1989	Payment of Interest during 89-90 (Estimates)
1	2	3	4
20.	U.S.R.R.	1416.81	45.06
21.	Iran	423.56	0.82
	TOTAL	20120.14	504.98
<i>Non-Government Account</i>			
1.	Canada	10.45	0.55
2.	F.R.G.	345.24	8.12
3.	U.S.A.	50.11	2.46
	TOTAL:	405.80	11.13
	GRAND TOTAL:	20525.94	516.11

N.B.— The above figures do not include borrowings from multilateral institutions and external commercial borrowings since these cannot be allocated by country.

[English]

Separate High Court for Arunachal Pradesh at Itanagar

*15. SHRI P.K. THUNGON: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(b) whether the people from Arunachal Pradesh are required to travel long distances to get justice from Guwahati High Court;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to establish a separate High Court for Arunachal Pradesh at Itanagar;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The Jurisdiction of Guwahati High Court extends over Arunachal Pradesh.

(b) to (d). Even though it has been decided to establish a separate High Court for each of the States in the north-eastern region, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh have opted for a Circuit Bench of the Guwahati High Court for the present.

Doordarshan Transmission Coverage of Kerala Districts

*16. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all districts in the State of Kerala are covered by the Doordarshan transmission;

(b) if not, the districts yet to be covered;

(c) whether work has commenced to link these remaining districts under the microwave system; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d). All the 14 districts of Kerala are covered by TV Service, wholly or partially. The Regional TV Service emanating from Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum, is relayed at present only by the High Power (10 KW) TV transmitters at Trivandrum and Cochin and the Low Power (100 W) TV transmitter at Calicut and is available, wholly or partially, in all the districts except three, namely, Kasargod, Wayanad and Cannanore.

The VII Plan of Doordarshan includes a scheme for replacement of the existing Low Power (100 W) TV transmitter at Calicut by a (100 KW) TV transmitter. With the completion of this project, Regional TV Service is expected to be available to almost entire districts of Wayanad and Cannanore also. The VII Plan of Doordarshan, however, does not have any scheme to link any other transmitter in the State with the Doordarshan

Kendra, Trivandrum, for relay of programmes originating from Trivandrum. The expansion of Regional TV Service in Kerala would depend upon future availability of resources and requisite facilities.

[*Translation*]

Overseas unit of General Insurance Corporation

*17. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an overseas unit of the General Insurance Corporation of India for insurance business abroad; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India viz. (i) National Insurance Company Ltd., (ii) New India Insurance Company Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. and (iv) United India Insurance Company Ltd. are already operating in 31 countries abroad. Out of these 31 countries, they are operating in 17 countries directly through Branches/Agencies and in 14 countries through Associate/Subsidiary Companies as under:—

Directly through Branches and Agencies

- (1) Australia
- (2) Bahrain
- (3) Canada
- (4) Fiji
- (5) France

- (6) Hong Kong
 (7) Japan
 (8) Kuwait
 (9) Mauritius
 (10) Nepal
 (11) Netherlands Antilles
 (12) Oman
 (13) Phillipines
 (14) Saudi Arabia
 (15) Thailand
 (16) United Arab Emirates
 (17) United Kingdom

- (12) Antigua
 (13) Liberia
 (14) Singapore

[English]

Raids in Orissa for Economic Offences

*18. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the last two years to tackle and apprehend economic offenders and tax evaders in Orissa particularly in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela and Sambalpur;

(b) whether any raids have been conducted at the above places during the last two years;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Through Subsidiaries & Associate Companies

- (1) Barbados
 (2) Dominica
 (3) Guyana
 (4) Ghana
 (5) Jordan
 (6) Kenya
 (7) Malaysia
 (8) Nigeria
 (9) Sierre Leone
 (10) Trinidad & Tobago
 (11) St. Lucia

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Combating tax-evasion and economic offences is a continuous process. The Government takes necessary administrative and legislative steps as deemed appropriate from time to time to combat tax-evasion and economic offences by persons all over the country including those in Orissa.

(b) and (c). The Central Excise authorities conducted two search in Cuttack and three in Bhubaneswar during the last two years resulting in detection of the Evasion of Central Excise duty to the tune of Rs. 2.19 lakhs and also seized incriminating documents.

The Income-Tax authorities conducted 106 searches in Orissa during the last two years resulting in seizure of unaccounted

assets of the value of Rs. 4.19 crores.

(d) Does not arise.

Acquisition of Shares of Larsen and Toubro

*19. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the alleged role of Bank of Baroda Fiscal Services in acquiring Larsen and Toubro equity on its account and subsequently transferring them to investment companies belonging to a certain industrial group; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In response to a request from BOB Fiscal Services Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda), UTI, LIC and GIC had in August-September, 1988 offered them a basket of blue chip equity share, including 39 lakh shares of L&T, which was accepted by BOB Fiscal at the market rates prevailing on the date of purchase. BOB Fiscal have

intimated that they did not transfer these shares directly to any investment company of any industrial group.

As the matter is subjudice and is pending before the Supreme Court, the Government will consider the necessary action after the Supreme Court judgement. In the mean time the Chairman and Managing Director of the Bank of Baroda has been advised to proceed on leave.

Development of Kanyakumari as a Tourist Centre

*20. SHRIN. DENNIS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to develop Kanyakumari as a tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). During the Seventh Five Year Plan, a number of scheme were sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism on the request of the State Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Kanyakumari as a tourist centre. A list of the scheme sanctioned is given below:—

		<i>Amount sanctioned</i>
1.	Construction of 8 cottages	Rs. 13.36 lakhs
2.	Construction of a Cafeteria	Rs. 6.02 lakhs
3.	Tourist amenities at bathing ghats	Rs. 3.57 lakhs
4.	Purchase of a Ferry Launch	Rs. 39.07 lakhs
5.	Floodlighting at Vivekanand Rock Memorial	Rs. 11.19 lakhs

Stock Exchange at Cuttack

1. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the popular demands, Government are contemplating to set up a Stock Exchange at Cuttack, the commercial capital of Orissa; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government have not received any formal proposal for setting up a Stock Exchange at Cuttack. A Stock Exchange at Bhubaneswar in Orissa has already been granted recognition.

Raids on the Premises of Property Dealers

2. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of raids conducted by Income Tax Department during 1989 on the establishments and residential premises of property dealers in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) the details of cash and other documents seized during such raids; and

(c) the details of action taken against erring establishments and persons?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The Income-tax Department conducted 421 searches on the establishments and residential premises of property dealers and their associates in Delhi and other parts of the county during the year 1989 (from 1.1.1989 to 30.11.1989). During the course of these searches, prima-facie unaccounted

assets of the value of Rs. 13.98 crores in all, were seized besides incriminating documents. The persons searched, in their statements on oath, given during the course of these searches, have in aggregate, admitted unaccounted income to the tune of Rs. 39.99 crores. Appropriate action as called for under the Direct Taxes enactments is taken in all these cases.

As the number of cases is large, it is not practicable to furnish case-wise details.

FM A.I.R. Station of Cannanore, Kerala

3. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on the FM A.I.R. Station at Cannanore, Kerala has been completed;

(b) if so, when is the same likely to be started; and

(d) the total outlay on the project?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Installation works have started and the Radio Station at Cannanore is envisaged to be completed in 1990.

(c) Allocation for F.M. project at Cannanore is Rs. 234.80 lakhs.

Setting up of Nickel Plant in Orissa

4. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast belt of nickel ore in the Sukinda/Daitari region of Orissa of

which large quantity is being exported; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to set up nickel plant in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) There are large nickel ore deposits of poor grade in Sukinda Valley in Orissa. These ores are not being exported.

(b) Sanction was accorded for setting up of a nickel plant in Orissa in 1974 based on indigenous technology. However, the technology developed on laboratory scale when tested on a pilot plant did not yield satisfactory results. An evaluation carried out indicated that further investigation work required before preparation of a feasibility report may cost about Rs. 49 crores. In view of the adverse economics of producing nickel from the low grade ores of Sukinda and constraints on resources, the project was not pursued.

[Translation]

Merger of Regional Rural Banks with Sponsoring Banks

5. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in regard to the merger of all the regional rural banks with their sponsoring banks; and

(b) if so, the time by which this decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction of TV Towers

6. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to postpone the construction work of various categories of television towers sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the names of places where the construction work of these towers is likely to be completed by the end of the current financial year; and

(d) the time by which the construction work of TV towers at Champawat, Bageshwar, Didihat and Manila in Uttar Pradesh will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Whereas 15 low power (100W) TV transmitters, one each at Akbarpur, Azamgarh, Budaun, Basti, Balrampur, Fatehpur, Gonda, Jagdishpur, Kashipur, Lalganj, Mathura, Mau, Obra, Sitapur and Thirwa; 2 very low power (2x10W) TV transmitters, one each at Bhatnari and Ranikhet, and 2 TV transposers, one each at New Tehri and Srinagar, have been so far commissioned into service in Uttar Pradesh during the current financial year, a low power (100W) TV transmitter at Haridwar and a very low power (2x10W) TV transmitter at Dharchula are, according to present indications, expected to be commissioned into service during the remaining part of the current financial year (1989-90).

(d) There is, at present, no approved scheme to set up TV transmitters at Champawat, Bageshwar, Didihat and Manila in Utter Pradesh.

Quantum of Black Money

7. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of black money in circulation in the country at present;

(b) whether Government propose to identify the sources thereof and take steps to eliminate them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) There is no official estimate of the amount of black money in circulation in the country. The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in their report titled 'Aspects of Black Economy in India' have estimated the amount of black money for 1983-84 between Rs. 31,584 to 36,786 crores. The authors have, however, admitted that their estimate is based on numerous assumptions and approximations. They have also admitted that amongst other limitations, their estimate fails to adequately take into account, the following:

- (i) evasion through corporate cover;
- (ii) undeclared capital gains, income from illegal current economic activities and illegal transfers; and
- (iii) legal avoidance through trust, H.U.Fs. etc.

(b) and (c). The sources from which black money is found to be generated have no permanence as such. These keep on changing from time to time. The report by the National Institute of Public Finance & Policy

has, however, identified the following sectors where black money is generally generated:

- (i) Real estate transactions
- (ii) large scale manufacturing
- (iii) film industry
- (iv) the professions
- (v) construction
- (vi) smuggling

Combatting tax evasion is a continuous exercise. The Government takes necessary legislative and administrative measures as deemed appropriate from time to time to curb the generation, growth and use of black money. Some of the measures taken by the Income-tax Department include the following:

- (i) Systematic survey operations;
- (ii) Search and seizure operations in appropriate case;
- (iii) Verification of information by Central Information Branches in a Planned manner;
- (iv) In depth investigation in a selected number of cases;
- (v) pre-emptive purchase of immovable property by the Central Government under the provisions of Chapter XXC of the Income-tax Act in certain notified cities.

Autonomy to Doordarshan and all India Radio

8. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI ARVIND NETAM:

SHRI P.K. THUNGON:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up autonomous bodies for Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A bill to set up an autonomous broadcasting Corporation is being introduced in this session of Parliament.

[English]

C&AG's Report on Export Processing Zones

10. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its report on Union Government (Civil) (No. 16 of 1989) has flayed Export Processing Zones (EPZs) for poor performance; and

(b) if so, the details of action by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b): The report of C&AG has pointed out certain shortfalls relating to value addition, export targets, earning of foreign ex-

change, etc. in the various Export Processing Zones. Action on various observations would be finalised soon in consultation with the Development Commissioners of the Zones.

Merger of HCI with ITDC

11. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the merger of the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) with the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). The question of merger of HCI with ITDC has been dropped for present.

Export of Betel Leaves

13. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the export of betel leaves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Export of betel leaves is freely allowed. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce, assists in the promotion of exports of various agricultural products including betel leaves.

Investment on Tourism in West Bengal

14. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release additional funds for promotion of tourism in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details of projects selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Govts. on proposals put forward by concerned State Governments. The Central assistance depends on the viability of the project proposed by State Governments and the funds available with the Central Government. The following projects have been selected for Central assistance and they are being executed in West Bengal :—

1. Construction of Cottages at Ajodhya Hills
2. Tourist Lodge at Digha
3. Wayside facilities at Durgapur
4. Tourist accommodation at Shantiniketan
5. Tourist facilities at Mukutmanipur
6. Cottage blocks at Gadiara
7. Yatri Niwas at Darjeeling
8. Mounting of Sound and Light Show at Rabindra Bharti University Calcutta.
9. Yatrika at Mayapur
10. Yatrika at Gangasagar
11. Launch for Cruises on the River Hoogly.
12. Floating accommodation, Sunderbans.

Song and Drama Division

15. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish the Song and Drama Division; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Second Channel of Door-darshan by States

16. SHRI V.N. GADGIL:
SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to allow State Governments to open second of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the proposed organisational structure for the second channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Uniform Civil Code

17. SHRI V.M. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a uniform civil code in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL THE MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir. The Government will not interfere on its own in the personal laws of the minority communities. Uniform Civil Code can be introduced only when the initiative comes from the minority communities for the same.

(b) Does not arise.

Hindi News from all Stations of Doordarshan

18. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Hindi news from all stations of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consult State Governments before introducing Hindi news from all stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Doordarshan is already telecasting news bulletin in Hindi in its morning transmission which is relayed by all the Kendras. The Hindi bulletin telecast at 8.40 p.m. is put out from all the Kendras, except Doordarshan Kendra, Madras and its linked transmitter at Kodaikanal, which put out Tamil bulletin at that hour.

Implementation of Recommendation of Jaswant Singh Commission

19. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the

Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the steps being taken to implement the recommendation of Jaswant Singh Commission to establish benches of High Courts particularly in Raipur (M.P.) and Western Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): Proposals in the light of the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission for location of benches of the High courts at specific places have not been received from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Performance of Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited

20. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to close down the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to improve its working and financial status as a construction company?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Careful diversification of cost effective orders in sectors besides steel, improvement in operational management and implementation of an attractive voluntary retirement scheme are steps which would improve the financial status of the company.

Seizure of Gold and Narcotics

21. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of seizures of smuggled gold and narcotics made in important cities during the last six months,

(b) whether the persons involved in the smuggling operations were apprehended and prosecuted; and

(c) the further steps proposed to be taken to curb smuggling operations especially from across the borders and from airports?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The quantity and value of contraband gold and the quantity of various narcotic drugs seized throughout the country during the last six months from June to November, 1989 are given below:—

	<i>Quantity (in Kgs.)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in crores)</i>
Gold	3792.77	117.44
<i>Narcotic drugs</i>		
(i) Opium	2298	No precise value of the seized drugs can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like: purity, place of origin, local demand and supply etc.
(ii) Morphine	11	
(iii) Heroin	1121	
(iv) Hashish (charas)	4437	
(v) Ganja	11584	
(vi) Methaqualone	562	

(Figures are provisional)

(b) and (c). The Government is firmly resolved to combat smuggling into and out of the country including that from across the border and through airports. Close co-ordination is being maintained among all the agencies (such as Border Security Force, Assam Rifles and State Police) concerned with the detection and prevention of smuggling activities.

Sophisticated equipment such as : X-ray baggage machines, metal detectors, Drug Identification kits, night-vision binoculars are being increasingly used. The Customs Offi-

cers are being equipped with sophisticated weapons like; self-loading rifles.

Apart from penalising the persons found involved in smuggling activities in departmental adjudications, such persons are also arrested/prosecuted in the Courts of law in suitable cases. They are also being detained under the provisions of Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 and the Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, if considered necessary.

Development of Tourist spots in Maharashtra

22. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to develop some tourist spots in Maharashtra during the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, the details of the spots to be developed and the estimated expenditure

likely to be incurred; and

(c) when the work to develop these tourist spots is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following projects have been proposed to the Department of Tourism by the State Government of Maharashtra for development of tourist spots in the State:—

	<i>Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1. Beach Resort at Bassein near Bombay	45.58
2. Construction of Cottages and Dormitories at Lomar.	12.63
3. Holiday Resort at Chikkaldhara	51.25
4. Motel at Mahed	30.00
5. New Holiday Resort at Pahhala	42.16
6. Tourist Resort at Buldhana	26.56
7. Construction of New Jetty at Elephanta	100.00
8. Holiday Resort at Ganpatipule	} Estimated costs of the projects are awaited from the State Government.
9. Sea Beach Resort at Murud	
10. Passenger oriented wayside amenities at Manor.	

(c) After finalisation of the Annual Plan for 1990-91, Department of Tourism will consider the projects for sanction.

Suggestion of All India Chief Justices' Conference

23. PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated December 8, 1989 captioned 'Judges demand pay panel salary';

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made in the two-day All India Chief Justices Conference held in New Delhi; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Uniform pay scales, Higher retirement age, increased pensionary benefits, better medical facilities and more facilities to retiring Judges, as well as enhanced financial powers to High Courts were some of the important suggestions made in the Chief Justices' Conference.

(c) These suggestions are being examined by the Government.

Increase in the Prices of Steel

24. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep rise in the prices of steel during the last one year:

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Union Government to bring down the prices of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). There has been some increase in steel prices in last one year on account of increase in input costs like coal & Power, railway freight and excise duty.

(c) Prices are sought to be contained through various costs reduction measures taken by the integrated steel plants from time to time, including modernisation, and by increasing domestic availability by judicious imports.

[*Translation*]

Pending Cases in High Courts

25. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the High Courts at present, court-wise;

(b) the court-wise break up of cases pending for more than one year;

(c) the number of cases pending for more than five years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to provide speedy and cheap justice?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

(d) In order to further streamline the functioning of courts and with a view to delivering cheap and speedy justice at the door steps of the common man, Government entrusted the study of judicial reforms to the Law Commission. Some of its important recommendations pertain to the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas at village level for resolution of disputes in rural areas, curtailment of the jurisdiction of the High Courts by excluding subjects which deserve specialist treatment by Specialist Court/Tribunals as well as curtailing of oral arguments are being considered for implementation by the Government. Besides, increasing the Judge strength in the High Court/Supreme Court, the Report of the Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts, constituted by the Government recently to look into the problem of arrears and to suggest remedial measures is likely to be received shortly. This will also be examined expeditiously.

STATEMENT

Pendency of cases in the High Courts as on 30.6.1989

S.No.	Name of the High Court	Total No. of cases pending	Over one years	Over five years
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad	445039	407596	168755
2.	Andhra Pradesh	72844	37507	2375
3.	Bombay	152167	122158	42563
4.	Calcutta*	189338	157296	74036
5.	Delhi	97682	73454	26417
6.	Guwahati*	22099	Not Available	Not Available
7.	Gujarat	73519	51314	17815
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12270	9597	4480
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	41655	31738	7186

S.No.	Name of the High Court	Total No. of cases pending	Over one years	Over five years
1	2	3	4	5
10.	Karnataka	70442	50396	11602
11.	Kerala	88154	68071	10416
12.	Madhya Pradesh	61298	30825	5044
13.	Madras*	225636	166095	31268
14.	Orissa*	44381	31266	5512
15.	Patna*	68382	47269	11006
16.	Punjab & Haryana	82718	56529	15756
17.	Rajasthan	64211	50356	14962
18.	Sikkim	70	43	1

*Indicates the figures of High Courts for the period 31.12.1988.

[English]

Tourism Policy

26. PROF. VIJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the existing tourism policy and its implementation;

(b) whether any changes are proposed in order to accelerate the pace of development of tourism in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). The Government has recently completed a comprehensive review of tourism policy in the light of recommendations of the National Committee on Tourism. A number of measures have been initiated by the Government to accelerate the pace of development of tourism in the country. These include :

(i) a package of incentives for attracting private investment in the tourism sector,

(ii) setting up of a Tourism Finance Corporation for meeting the loan requirements of tourism industries,

(iii) launching of a scheme called 'Assistance for the Development of International Tourism' (ADIT) for providing market-

ing assistance to private entrepreneurs,

(iv) liberalisation of charter policy,

(v) introduction of air taxi services and rent-a-car scheme,

(vi) strengthening of overseas marketing efforts by advertising through print and electronic media in major tourist generating markets,

(vii) strengthening of training infrastructure for the development of human resources to meet the man-power requirements of the sector.

[Translation]

Gold Reserves

27. SHRI HUKAMDEV NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold is kept in reserve in the Government treasury; and

(b) if so, the details of the total quantity and value of such gold kept there during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) Gold reserves are kept with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The quantity and value of gold reserve with the Reserve Bank of India are given below:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Quantity in fine grammes</i>	<i>Value at the rate of 0.118489 fine grammes per Rupee</i>
1987	324,988,830.56748	Rs. 274,27,76,380.65
June 1988	—do—	—do—
June 1989	—do—	—do—
June		

[English]

Development of Tourism in Kerala

28. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the programme of Government for development of tourism in Kerala during 1990-91;

(b) the proposed allocation for each of the projects;

(c) whether proposals have been received from the Government of Kerala for the development of specific potential tourist centre in Malabar area of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details of proposals and the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (d). The projects/schemes received from the State Government of Kerala for further development of Tourism in Kerala State would be considered by the Central Department of Tourism after the annual plan of the Department for the year 1990-91 is received.

Modernisation of Radio Station, Calicut, Kerala

29. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion and modernisation of the Radio Station at Calicut, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total allocation for the renovation work on Calicut AIR; and

(d) whether Government propose to open more AIR Stations in Kerala, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). There is a proposal in the 7th Plan of All India Radio to replace the existing 10KW MW transmitter at Calicut by a new 10KW. Subsequently, a decision was taken to replace the 10KW MW transmitter by a 100 KW MW transmitter.

(c) The total requirement for the 100 KW MW transmitter has been projected as Rs. 311.74 lakhs.

(d) Three new Radio Stations with 2x3 KW FW transmitter, multi-purpose studios and staff quarters are proposed to be set up in the 7th Plan at Idukki, Cannanore and Cochin. Out of these, AIR station at Cochin has already been inaugurated on 1.10.89. The other two Radio Stations i.e. Cannanore and Idukki are envisaged to be commissioned in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

Export of Coffee

30. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of coffee exported during 1989; and

(b) whether Government propose to raise the minimum release price of coffee and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) the exports of coffee during April-November, 1989 are provisionally placed at 86,609 tonnes valued at about Rs. 265.59 crores.

(b) The minimum release price for coffee was last revised in October, 1988. Any further revision would depend on the justification as well as the recommendation of the Coffee Board and the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation of Doordarshan and All India Radio

32. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise Doordarshan and All India Radio during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Details in this regard can be known only after the 8th Five Year Plan Schemes of Doordarshan and All India Radio are approved.

Setting up of Steel Plant in Bihar

33. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to set up another steel plant like Bokaro in Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Setting up of Currency Note Printing Presses by RBI

34. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Reserve Bank of India to undertake the responsibility of setting up two new currency note printing presses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is departure from the existing practice of running the presses by his Ministry itself; and

(d) if so, the advantages and reasons for changing the practice?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Setting up of the two new currency note printing presses involves a large financial outlay of Rs. 844 crores. In course of exploration of various alternative sources of funding Govt. found that the Reserve Bank of India was willing to set up the two presses. In view of this, RBI has been entrusted with the execution of these projects.

Improvement in Programmes of T.V. Station at Nagercoil

35. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the area of coverage and make improvements in the programmes of the T.V. station at Nagercoil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). The low power (100 W) TV transmitter at Nagercoil Provides satisfactory coverage within its normal service range and covers about 55% of Kanyakumari district, areawise. The Seventh Plan of Doordarshan does not include any scheme for augmenting the power of the transmitter at Nagercoil. This would depend upon availability of resources for the future plans of TV expansion.

The TV relay centre at Nagercoil is not equipped with any Programme Generating Facility. It only relays programmes originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Madras, for a limited duration and those originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi for the rest of the transmission hours. It is, however, the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to improve the quality of the quality of the programmes telecast from all the centres in its network.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am taking up next item of the agenda. What have you to say?

[English]

Yes. Mr. Chidambaram.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): May I seek your permission, Sir? There is a very serious situation.

MR. SPEAKER: What situation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The KCF

has asked Hindu students to leave all medical and engineering institutions in Punjab...

MR. SPEAKER: You please give a notice.

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM: I met you in your chamber and I sought your permission. Three days are holidays. Saturday, Sunday and Monday are holidays. This can't wait for three days till Tuesday. Here is a written notice saying: "We inform the management committee and principals of all medical colleges through a notification that they should not give admissions to any Hindu students in these colleges in Punjab and Chandigarh. (Interruptions) Students from Punjab, especially Sikhs, are not given admissions...."

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have made your point.

(Interruptions)

MR. P. CHIDAMBARAM: Three days are holidays. (Interruptions) It cannot wait till Tuesday. Government must do something. The External Affairs Minister must be aware of this secret meeting there. And this is the result of that. It cannot wait for three days. Three days are holidays. Saturday, Sunday and Monday are holidays. We want a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. You have done your duty.

[Translation]

What have you to say? The senior member of your party is on his legs.

SHRI LALOO PRASAD (Chapra): First you should get it verified as to whether this letter is genius or not?

[English]

SHRIDINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Sir,

I given a notice to you under Rule 193 for a discussion on the Panama issue. I would request you to very kindly admit that.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into that.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow): On a point of order, Sir. Extraneous issues are being raised. Let us follow the agenda.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: All right would you like to say something? Shri Panja ji, what have you to say?

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North East): I bring to your kind notice a very serious situation so far as our country is concerned. We are literate in the sense as now defined, that is, how to read and write. That is 35 per cent. On the 2nd December, the Prime Minister took oath and thereafter the Cabinet Ministers on the 5th of December. On the 6th December, the portfolios were distributed. Where is our Education Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, I requested you yesterday and gave a notice also under Rule 197 to the effect that tension has been built up in the society through the country. The Minister may be asked to make a statement on the issue of reservation. The people, who thought that they were born to rule the country, are deliberately spoiling the law and order situation in the entire country.

MR. SPEAKER: You may while speaking raise these points on the Motion of thanks

on President's Address.

[*English*]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): Sir, I have given a privilege notice against Mr. Sanjiv Malik, S.P. of Bolangir, who made a murderous attempt on Hon. Member Mr. Bal Gopal Mishra after his victory in the election. I would like to know whether that privilege notice has been received by you or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: yes, you have given a privilege motion. But this is not a matter of privilege.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have written to the Government in this regard.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This means that you do not intend to give notices. You want to raise these issue just now.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): I have given a notice.

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have also given three notices.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.P. AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time of election,

Janta Dal and Bhartiya Janata Party, which is supporting the Government, had promised to provide 'Assembly' for Delhi. I would like to know from the Government as to when Assembly will be provided for the State of Delhi and when Government's decision will be announced in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, Zero Hour Will remain with us by choice. (*Interruption*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Zero Hour, of course, you may raise burning issues.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have given three notices. One is adjournment motion... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: If you have given a write, I will certainly consider it.

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have given notices under Rule 193 also. I want the House to discuss the Bhagalpur riots and the causes of those riots because Bhagalpur riots have tarnished the secular image of India.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER; You may raise these points during the discussion on Motion of thanks on President's Address.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Three-four days back some decomposed bodies and 12 skulls were recovered from a well in Bhagalpur.

[*English*]

Bhagalpur riots have tarnished the secular image of India. So, before discussing the Panama issue for which I have also given the notice, we must discuss about the

Bhagalpur riots and the people responsible for those riots. I want an inquiry into those riots. I want the House to discuss it as priority number one before the Panama issue will be discussed.

[*Translation*]

You give your observation.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly do not compel me. You may please take your seat. I may tell you....

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I will take my seat. You give your observation as to when this matter will be taken up for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Since you have given a notice, it will be examined.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: You are above the Business Advisory Committee. You are the Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee. So, this should be the first issue to be discussed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should assist me in conducting the House in an orderly manner. I have permitted Mr. Bal Gopal Mishra to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not deny anybody. I will allow everybody.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TASLIMUDIN (Purnia): Mr. Speaker, Sir Bhagalpur issue is being raised here since yesterday. You are not bothering about it and the Government also in silent. Kindly take up Bhagalpur issue for discussion. Dead bodies have been recovered in Bhagalpur and the Congress (I) Government is power in that state ... (*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given permission to you. Shri Bal Gopal Mishra.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Sir, the train services in the country are in a total mess. No train runs on time. I request the Government to take a note of it and rectify the position. Further, the two trains from Delhi to Orissa, Kalinga Express and the Neelachal Express are badly timed and cause a lot of inconvenience to the passengers. Their timings need to be changed... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, I will consider it.

[*English*]

SHRI M.R. JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 193. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has told the press that the Sri Lankan problem is now in the Centre's court; Shri V.P. Singh has to decide and that his job is over. I want to know what is the stand of the present Government on the IPKF de-induction. Indian bureaucrats have been attacked. I want a discussion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGLAM (Salem): I have given a calling attention notice. The Indian Express workers have been on strike for so many days. The Bachawat Commission award needs to be implemented immediately. First of all, the Bachawat Commission has hardly given anything and even that is not implemented. Let us have a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I will consider it.

[*Translation*]

Now, the next item. No more discussion please. I am quite liberal, you should not do so.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Next item, Papers to be laid on the Table.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order in regard to the papers to be laid on the Table.

In the List of Business, certain papers are shown to be laid by Prof Madhu Dandavate at serial No. 3. Kindly see sub-item 3(i) which refers to 'the revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.'

What I submit is that this is too serious a matter. This refers to depreciation of our currency, or devaluation of our currency. I, therefore, request that the hon. Finance Minister instead of laying this paper on the Table of the House makes a separate statement in the House and then a discussion follows. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, I am happy that he has raised this question, but there is some misunderstanding. There is no question of devaluation. I would like the hon. Member to realise that only for the purpose of custom valuation, the exchange rate for conversion of Pound Sterling into the Indian currency is being specified on the basis of RBI rates. This is done purely as a matter of administrative convenience. This does not involve any change in the existing currency and, therefore, no fresh discussion is called for. Of course, in spite of that if the hon. Member wants, he can raise it in the general discussion and I will give him the same reply.

MR. SPEAKER: No further discussion is required. Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

12.13 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification under Coinage Act, Central Excises and Salt Act, Customs Act, and Reports under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Acts, 1970

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of of Commemorative Coins of One Rupee containing Copper 75 per cent and Nickel 25 per cent coined on the theme "FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT" on the occasion of the celebration of Ninth World Food Day on the 16th October, 1989) Rules, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 791(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1989 under sub-sections (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8/89]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 747(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 133/86-Central Excises dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to extend concessional rate of excise duty to modified polyphenylene oxide.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 750(E) published in

Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 177/86-Central Excises dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to allow to the users full Modvat credit of duty paid on paper board falling under sub-heading 4811.30 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

- (iii) G.S.R. 751(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe a concessional rate of excise duty of ten per cent *ad valorem* on flax fabrics falling under heading No. 53.05 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1986.
- (iv) G.S.R. 752(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 193/87—Central Excises, dated the 17th August, 1987 upto 31st March, 1992.
- (v) G.S.R. 750(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting excise duty on potassium amidecapatively used in manufacture of heavy water.
- (vi) G.S.R. 760(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum exempting excise duty on potassium metal produced in heavy water plant

- at Baroda and used in manufacture of potassium amide by heavy water plants at Baroda, Tuticorin, Talchar, Thal and Hazira.
- (vii) G.S.R. 756(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 263/87-CE, dated the 10th December, 1987 so as to make certain changes in the procedure for claiming the exemption.
- (viii) G.S.R. 801(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 140/83-CE, dated the 5th May, 1983, 175/86-CE, dated 1st March, 1986 and 75/87-CE, dated the 1st March, 1987 so as to provide for *inter alia* the exclusion of value of clearance of goods affixed with the brand/trade name of another person who is not eligible for exemption under these notifications for computing the aggregate value of clearances in a financial year so as to determine the eligibility to avail exemption in the next financial year.
- (ix) G.S.R. 804(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 60/88-CE, dated the 1st March, 1988 so that the certificate from NRI which was required to be produced before the Assistant Collector of Central Excise having jurisdiction over newspaper establishment for availing the exemption, is now required to be produced before the Assistant Collector of Central Excise having jurisdiction over the newsprint manufacturing unit.
- (x) G.S.R. 810(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 207/87-CE dated the 9th September, 1987 upto 30th September, 1990.
- (xi) G.S.R. 811(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 23/89-CE, dated the 1st March, 1989 so as to provide the concessional rate of excise duty to cement manufactured by factories using vertical shaft kiln with licenced capacity not exceeding 200 tonnes per day and by factories using rotary kiln with licenced capacity not exceeding 300 tonnes per day.
- (xii) G.S.R. 838(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 133/86-CE, dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to change the description of 'polystyrene' to "Polystyrene and copolymers of styrene".
- (xiii) G.S.R. 790(E) published in

- Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide that in accordance with a general practice that was prevalent at the relevant time, the excise duty on woven sacks of polymers of ethlene or propylene or, as the case may be, a combination thereof, manufactured on looms other than circular looms and falling under heading No. 46.01 or 63.01 of the Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 shall not be required to be paid during the period from 20th November, 1986 to 6th January, 1987.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 850(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide that in accordance with a general practice that was prevalent at the relevant time, the basic excise duty and the special excise duty on A.D.V. tyres of sizes 4" x 8" and 3.5" x 8", measured in terms of cross-sectional width x rim diameter and falling under sub-heading No. 4011.10 of the Scheduled to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, shall not be required to be paid during the period from 1st March, 1988 to 28th February, 1989.
- (xv) The Central Excise (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 832(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-9/89]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-
- (i) S.O. 726(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding the revised rate of exchange for conversion of Pound Sterling into India Currency or *vice-versa*.
- (ii) G.S.R. 746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 48/89-Customs, dated the 1st March, 1989 so as to extent concessional rate of basic customs duty of 30 per cent *ad valorem* to modified polyphenylene oxide.
- (iii) G.S.R. 753(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 297/87-Cs., dated the 17th August, 1987 authorising Director in the Office of Development Commissioner (SSI) to attest the list of components to be imported by small scale units and also to extend the validity of the notification upto 31st March, 1992.
- (iv) G.S.R. 758 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 40/80-Cus. dated the 1st

- March, 1989 so as to include two more chemicals namely, L. Lysine Mono Hydrochloride and Methionine hydroxy analog in the said notification.
- (v) G.S.R. 754 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 224/85-Cus., dated the 9th July, 1985 so as to withdraw customs duty concession available for certain items covered by the said notification.
- (vi) G.S.R. 672 (E) and 673 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide concessional rate of basic customs duty of 55 per cent *ad valorem* and auxiliary duty of 5 per cent *ad valorem* on dead burnt magnesite of specified grades.
- (vii) G.S.R. 777 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 148/88-Cus., dated the 27th April, 1988 seeking to extend the benefit of 35 per cent basic duty plus nil additional duty on imported out-board motors for fitment to fishing boats presently available to State Fisheries Corporation or any Fisheries Cooperative Federation to imports by all persons subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) GSR 778 (E) and 779 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe 35 per cent basic customs duty, nil additional duty and 5 per cent auxiliary duty on Lyophilizers imported for manufacture of antibiotics subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) G.S.R. 781 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 247/84-Cus., dated the 27th September, 1984 so as to increase with effect from 1st October, 1989 the value of duty free limit for the import of components for fishing trawlers from 20 per cent to 30 per cent of trawlers land also to extend the validity of the Notification upto 30th September, 1992.
- (x) G.S.R. 800 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 64/70 Cus, dated the 6th March, 1979 seeking to delete Dicyanadiamide and Guanidine Nitrate from the list of goods eligible for concessional rate of basic customs duty.
- (xi) G.S.R. 802 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 47/89-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1989 so as to increase the basic customs duty on

- Low density polyethylene based sheathing compound or insulation compound from Rs. 3000/-per tonne to 50 per cent *ad valorem*.
- (xii) G.S.R. 803 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt newsprint for printing of newspapers, books and periodicals when imported into India from the whole of additional duty of customs (CVD).
- (xiii) G.S.R. 840(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 47/89-Cus., dated the 1st March, 1989 so as to change the description of 'polystyrene' to 'Polystyrene and copolymers to styrene'.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 841 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt concentrated dispersions of colouring matter in polypropylene, (Polypropylene Muster Batch), from basic customs duty in excess of 70 per cent *ad valorem* subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O. 764 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10/89]
- (4) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (8) of section 10 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:-
- (i) Report on the working and activities of the Bank of Baroda for the period from 1st January, 1988 to 31st March, 1989 along with Accounts and Auditor's report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5/89]
- (ii) Report on the working and activities of the Allahabad Bank for the period from 1st January, 1988 to 31st March, 1989 along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6/89]
- (iii) Report on the working and activities of the UCO Bank for the period from 1st January, 1988 to 31st March, 1989 along with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7/89]
- (5) A copy of the Results (Hindi and English versions) of the Nineteenth Valuation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31st March, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-11/89]
- Notification under Export (Quality control and Inspection) Act, 1963, Tobacco Board Act 1975, Spice Board Act, 1986, and Review on and Annual Report of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India, Ltd., New Delhi for 1988-89**

TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):
I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:—

(i) The Export of Cardamon (Inspection) Rules, 1989 Published in Notification No. S.O. 1981 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1989.

(ii) The Export of Rubber Hoses (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. SO 1685 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1989.

(iii) The Export of Crockeryware (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. S.O. 1685 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1989.

(iv) S.O. 1895 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1989 making certain amendments to the Export of Dry Batteries (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1978.

(v) S.O. 1896 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1989 making certain amendments to the rules specified in the Annexure annexed to the notification.

(vi) S.O. 1897 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1989 making certain amendments to the rules specified in the Annexure annexed to the notification.

(vii) S.O. 1989 published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1989 making certain amendments to the Export of Electric Motors and Generators (Quality Control and Inspection) Rules, 1980.

(viii) The Export of Frozen Fish and Fishery products (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. S.O. 2491 in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1989.

(ix) The Export of Canned Fish and Fishery Products (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. S.O. 2492 in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1989.

(x) The Export Inspection Council Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. S.O. 2631 in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1989.

(xi) The Export Inspection Agency Employees (Classification, Control and Appeal) Amendment Rules, 1989 published in Notification No. S.O. 2632 in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-12/89]

(2) A copy of the Tobacco Board (Recruitment) Regulations, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) Published in Notification No. 8(2).88-EP (Agri VI) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 1989 under sub-section (5) of section 33 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-13/89]

- (3) A copy of the Spices Board (Regulation of Exporters) Regulations, 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. Adm/Reg./01/89 in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 1989 under section 40 of the Spices Board Act, 1986. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-14/89]
- (4) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1988-89.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-15/89]
- (ii) The Solvent-Extracted Oil, De-oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Amendment Order, 1989 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 767 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th August, 1989.
- (iii) The Sugar (Price Determination for 1989-90 production) Amendment Order, 1989 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 813 in Gazette of India dated the 4th November, 1989.
- (iv) The Sugar (Price Determination for 1989-90 production Order, 1989 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 900 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-16/89]
- (2) A copy of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Regulations 1989 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 4(4)/89-B.C. in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1989 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-17/89]

Notifications under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and under Food Corporation Act, 1964

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
- (i) The Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Fourth Amendment Order, 1989 published in

12.15 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): With your permission, Sir I rise

to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing, Tuesday, the 26th December, 1989 will consist of:—

- (1) Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
- (2) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

12.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) **Need to ensure suitable rehabilitation by Railways of persons living on either side of Railway Lines Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.**

SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR (Sriperumbudur): Sir, in my constituency, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, thousands of families belonging to poorer and weaker sections as also Landless labourers have been dwelling on either side of the railway lines near Ponneri Gummidipoondi, Tiruvellore and Tiruttani railway stations as also in other areas. These people have spent all their life savings in constructing their small kutcha dwelling units, many of them having tiled roofs. They have been living there for the last several years. Most of them are daily wage earners and small artisans.

Sir, it is understood that the Railway authorities are considering to uproot the dwelling units of these thousands of families from those areas, thus depriving them of their shelter. The people are very much agitated over this.

It is, therefore, requested that the Railway authorities may not take such a drastic and hasty action. They should consider providing them suitable alternative dwelling

places and adequate compensation so that they are able to construct their dwelling units in the new areas.

- (ii) **Need for measures for overall development of hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

SHRIHARISH RAWAT (Almora): A large number of people in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh have been demanding a separate State for themselves. This demand is not based on economic consideration but the same is being raised because of inadequate representation of this region in U.P. Assembly and faulty implementation of development works. The discontent among the people have been growing gradually due to the inappropriate action taken by the Central and State Government in these two matters. The growing discontent in this border area is not in national interest in any way. A large number of youths are associated with this demand of a separate state since they hope that they will get employment in the newly formed state. With the passage of time, complexes are growing in youths which and the result is that the positions is going bad to worse many political parties of this areas, including certain national parties, have been supporting this demand. Under these circumstances, the Central Government has two options before it. Firstly—the creation of new state for which all the plan and non-plan expenditure will be borne by the Central Government and the people of this region would be given a guarantee to the effect that they would continue to get present facilities in the Government services in Uttar Pradesh. Secondly—necessary provisions should be made for the formation of a Hill Development Council in order to ensure the development of this region. The council should be given administrative powers to formulate and implement plans for this region. Smaller Assembly constituencies on the pattern of Himachal Pradesh may also be created in U.P. and amendment in the constitution, if necessary, may be made.

(iii) Need for speedy implementation of the National capital Region Plan.

[English]

SHRI J.P. AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): National Capital Region Plan was launched by the previous Government with a view to, *inter alia*, reducing population pressure on Delhi. The main idea behind this Scheme was that by creating satellite towns around Delhi, the population pressure on Delhi will ease. Accordingly, a lot of work was done. The development process should be continued and necessary infrastructure be created. Townships around Delhi should be developed and Rail/Road links provided at a faster rate.

Now that the Sarkaria Commission has given its report on status of Delhi and it is expected that this Capital town is going to have a full-fledged State Assembly, the development plan of the NCR should also be taken up at a faster speed. In any case the growth of NCR should be assured. unless this is done at a very fast speed, the problems of Delhi will multiply day by day.

I request the Government that all these factors be given due consideration for speedy implementation of the NCR plan.

(iv) Need to take over the Katihar Jute Mill in Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI YUVRAJ (Katihar): Mr Speaker Sir, I raise the following matter under Rule 377.

"In the last two years there has not been any production in the katihar Jute Mill for want of raw material although the mill was operational. This Mill was taken over by the Bihar State Financial Corporation under Section 29-C and was being managed by the Bihar State Industrial Development Corpo-

ration. Till now the mill has not begun production. Many workers are starving as their wages have not been paid for a long time. This is a modern mill and is fully energised. In order to restore the livelihood to 1400 workers and make payment of areas of arrears to them, the Central Government should takeover this Mill as soon as possible.

(v) Need for early completion of the pending railway projects in North Bihar.

THE HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, work related to the Samastipur-Darbhanga broad-gauge railway line, construction of Sakri-Hasanpur railway line, renovation of the 'Sitamarhi railway station, creation of a new railway division in Darbhanga, construction of a new railway line on the Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi, Sitamarhi—Sonparsi and Sursanthja Nagar sections and construction of an overbridge on the road near Sitamarhi and Nupri Stations has been pending for many years. The earlier Railway Ministers had given assurances that these projects would be completed. The project related to the conversion into broad-gauge of the Samastipur-Darbhanga railway line was even inaugurated. We have gone to jail number of times in connection with this movement. Special attention needs to be given for the development of backward areas of that region. The Railways should extend their full co-operation in the development of North Bihar.

(vi) Need for resolving the drinking water problem in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

*SHRI SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker Sir, "Drinking water is not available in the country easily. It is very difficult to get drinking water in problem villages. There is acute drinking water problem in Ujjain district of Madhya Pradesh. The Narmada-Shipra-Chambal Link project is the permanent solution to this drinking water problem. The Singhashta festival is cele-

brated in Ujjain after every 12 years. For this purpose also adequate flow of water is required in river Shipra. So I request the Central Government to give top priority for setting up a body for resolving drinking water problem in Ujjain district and direct the Madhya Pradesh Government to implement the Narmada-Shipra Link project at the earliest.

(vii) Need to provide Control Assistance for early completion of the Teesta Barrage Project

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): The river Teesta is dependable source of water for agricultural development of the backward districts namely, Cooch-Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, West Dinajpur and Malda in West Bengal.

The Teesta Barrage project envisages irrigation to an area of 7.5 lakh acres during Kharif season and 4 lakh acres during Rabi. If Geokhali Dam in upper catchment is completed, another 3 lakh acres of land would be irrigated.

When the project would be completed, 62 lakh metric tons more foodgrains will be produced in the five districts of North Bengal. Realising the special importance of this Project, the working group of the Planning Commission had recommended an allocation of Rs. 221 crores in the 7th Plan.

It is reported that Bangladesh is going ahead with their Teesta Irrigation Project with international aid. But due to financial constraint, the progress of work on our Teesta Project is very slow. Government of West Bengal with their financial limitations, have spent so far more than Rs. 280 crores and is spending about 75 per cent money for the project out of their total irrigation budget. On the other hand, the special assistance so far from the Central Government amounts to Rs. 5 crores only. Of course, the Central Government had given Rs. 15 crores as loan for this project.

I would request the Central government to take necessary steps and provide adequate assistance for the early completion of the Teesta Barrage project.

(viii) Need to revamp the Sindri Fertilizer Plant in Bihar

SHRI A.K. ROY (Dhanbad): The Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India is the first public sector enterprise in the country, established in 1951 and inaugurated by the then Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Lal Nehru as the new temple of India. It is now facing closure. The industrial complex of Sindri unit consists of a fertilizer plant, power plant, a research-cum-design institute, training centre and a good township with hospital and enough land connected with railway lines, i.e. all the rare infrastructure required for development. But all these are lying neglected for the last decade. The original coalbased plant has been sold and improperly substituted by a heavy oil-based plant, whose life is also shortly to end with all good production performance. The proposals to instal 900-tonne per day naphtha-based fertilizer plant, one methanol plant expansion and renovation of the power plant have been kept in cold storage; even the coke ovens have remained half-built. An atmosphere of despair prevails in the area, spelling omen for the future of public sector in the country. Revamping the Sindri industrial complex with a new coal-based fertilizer plant and a power plant is absolutely called for, to save this industrial complex from ruin.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Mr. Speaker, Sir: I would like to make a submission to you and, through you, to the House about the Constitution (Amendment) Bill which my colleague Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan would move for consideration.

[Sh. P. Upendra]

This is a very important Bill, on which depends the coming elections also; and I had requested the hon. Leader of the Opposition to help us in getting this Bill passed today, so that this Bill may be sent to the State Assemblies, because half the State Assemblies have to ratify it before 26th January and President's consent has to be obtained before that, so that in the next Assembly elections there would be no difficulty.

Therefore, I would submit to you that today, even if we have to sit late, let us get this Bill passed; and I would also like to request the hon. Members, through you, kindly to cooperate, so that we can dispense with the lunch hour and continue this Bill and take the voting around 3 p.m.—so that before 3.30 p.m. when the Private Members' Business may be taken up, we can have the Bill passed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAHMDUTT (Tehri Garhwal): A lot of people want to speak on it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Brahmduttji you said that a lot of people want to speak on it. He has suggested, therefore, that Lunch may be dispensed with.

[*English*]

AN. HON. MEMBER: If it can be taken up on Tuesday, there will be no harm.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: We have just began and such requests are being made every day. Is this the way to carry on the business of the House? We will support you if you announce that there will not be any lunch-hour in future. But dispensing with the lunch-hour now and then, upsets our schedule because we often forgo our lunch-break and use that time to attend to other urgent work. I use this time for offering 'namaz' also.

All such things are done during the lunch break.

MR. SPEAKER: All right, we will have the lunch hour. I hope there is no objection to that. The House will sit late.

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: If the hon. Members want to have their Lunch Hour, in that case, we will have to sit late after 6 P.M. to pass the Constituent (Sixty-Second Amendment) Bill.

12.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY-SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1989

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that the President has recommended the consideration of the Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill, 1989 under article 117 (3) of the Constitution of India.

Now Shri Ram Vilas Paswan can move his Bill for consideration.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker Sir, as you are aware, this Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha yesterday. This is a very important Bill. This Bill deals with that section of society have been suppressed and victimised for centuries from the social, economic and educational point of view. I have briefly explained the Objects and Reasons of this Bill.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Section 334 of the Constitution says that in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies the provision related to reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and nomination of representatives of the Anglo-Indian community shall remain effective for a period of 40 years. People belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have made some progress in the last 40 years but the reasons for which reservation was provided to these people by the Constituent Assembly, are valid even today. Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and nomination of representatives from the Anglo-Indian community is proposed to be extended for a further period of 10 years. This Bill has been moved to fulfil the above objectives.

Mr. Speaker Sir, Section 330 of the Constitution relates to provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha.

Article 331 of the Constitution provides for representation of the Anglo-Indian Community in the Lok Sabha. There is provision for reservation of seats in the State Assemblies for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in article 332. Article 331 has a special provision for the reservation of seats for the representatives of the Anglo-India Community in the State Assemblies.

It is a matter of happiness that that first Resolution that our Government brought forward is to give justice to the people who belong to the weakest section of the society. It is not the last but a first step to start with. That is why I feel that when my hon. colleagues will speak, they will definitely draw the attention of the Government towards the problems relating to the atrocities being committed on the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the weaker sections of the society. They will ask as to why other things were not incorporated in the Bill. Why a Constitutional amendment consisting of two lines has been brought forward? But I am helpless because of shortage of time. Since reservation provisions are valid upto 26th January only and these provisions will

lapse on that date, it become very necessary to bring forward this Bill before that date. That is why without incorporating allied matters, we, as a first step in this direction, preferred to incorporate the subject of political reservation in this Bill. I am pained to note that an agitation is being launched all over the country against reservation which is definitely very unfortunate for the country. This is the question of reservation and not of any caste or party. Reservation in the Constitution has been provided on the basis of national consensus. It has been clearly provided in the Constitution that reservation will continue for that section of the society who are backward from social and educational point of view. So far as the question of providing reservation in Government jobs is concerned, there is no such time limit in articles 15 (4) and 16(4) of the constitution. But so far as the provision of political reservation in the legislatures is concerned, it is extended after every 10 years. This practice is in vogue for the last 40 years. Our Government has extended this facility for the next 10 years. It has nothing to do with the government service as is being made out. there is no time limit for reservation in Government service. I know that all hon. Members, irrespective of their party affiliations, feel concerned about the weaker sections and people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Earlier also I have been a member of this House and was sitting in the opposition. Whenever all these points used to be raised, it has always been our earnest endeavour to adopt humanitarians approach towards them irrespective of party politics, religious and communal feelings.

People belonging to all castes and all religions live in our country. All of them should be provided with an opportunity make progress in life. If a member in the family falls sick, we make arrangements for the ailing member. When the doctor prescribes medicines and asks to arrange fruits for the patient, we arrange all these things affecting cuts in ration expenditure. Similarly we have to do something for those who have remained backward for the last thousands of years, who though not backward, have been

[Sh. Ram Vilas Paswan]

forced to remain backward, who have been confined to darkness from all around, whose right to speech, right to learning and right to property has been snatched away. They are still the oppressed lot in the society. Some special provisions have been made for them after independence. But I am of the view that these provisions are not adequate. It is not possible that the society will achieve all round progress if somebody became an M.P., a minister or joined Government service. It is thus indicative of the fact that we are also a part of the Government, we can also become an M.P., an M.L.A, and a Minister. We can also have a share in power. We have to think about the measures for raising their standard of living and removing the economic disparities. The Government is thinking seriously about it, that is why I said that the Bill that has been brought before the House is very important, though appears to be small one. It is important because it will instill confidence in the minds of people belonging to the weaker section of the society. At the same time, the Government as well as the whole country will assure these people that we are concerned for these weaker sections of the society.

I would like that the entire House should express its concern and condemn the anti-reservation agitation that is going on all over the country and not allow this tendency to rise. If his sort of tendency will rise, it will create a feeling of disappointment in the minds of weaker sections of the society. When people lose confidence and a feeling of disappointment gains ground in their minds, a very dangerous situation emerges in the country. The anti-reservation stir being launched today is not only deplorable but also a conspiracy to weaken the country. I want that people belonging to all sections, all factions, all parties, whether they are religious or non-religious should condemn this move in one voice. This issue should not be made a concern of the Government, instead this should be made a matter of concern for the nation as a whole. Further action to improve the lot of the people belonging to

weaker sections should be taken up in this direction. I was delighted to hear the points made by the hon. Prime Minister in his speech yesterday. It appeared to me that it is for the first time when the Prime Minister, the head of the state or the country truly thinks about affecting changes and want us to follow suit. I know that while expression their views on this Bill, some of our hon. Colleagues would like to know as to why this thing has not been incorporated in the Bill. In this connection, I would like to make it clear before this august House that this Bill could not be made comprehensive because dead line was approaching fast. There are several other issues also viz. land reforms, granting statutory status to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, setting up of special courts to deal with the cases of atrocities etc. We are fully conscious of our commitments and assure you that we will fulfill our commitments and bring a Bill to that effect before the House. I have been saying time and again that we will make all out efforts in this regard. There is no dearth of leaders in this country and that of policies, but the point which is lacking, is a sincere will to implement these policies. Laws have been enacted for the weaker sections, for the poor, for the labour class...

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: When Mr. Devi Lal is present, intentions are very clear.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Look, it is not a matter concerning any particular party. Even when your own colleagues would speak on this subject, their views may differ. Mr. Jaipal Singh may express one view and Shri Rawat another. This state of affairs is seen in every party. Every one has his own views.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Haridwar): You have mentioned my name. So far our party is concerned, nobody will differ on policy matters as in your case as your Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister differ on reservation policy.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It hardly matters what have been the views of different Ministers in our Government. But now I

have come with the documents. It is our document. When other things will come up. You have a right to speak on that subject.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: You are a good man, we will hear you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That is why I say that the genesis of reservation which has hitherto been followed still continues to be there. Our Government is thinking on that line. There is no question of changing the basis of reservation. I have to say only this much that the Bill we have brought forward here, has been brought with a good intention. I am happy to note that the commitments made by the new Government were not vague at all. We had made clear commitments. Today we have a good leadership whose intentions are noble. I do not consider it a small incident to display the portrait of Dr. Ambedkar in the Central Hall. Our Government has initiated a proposal for this and the portrait of Dr. Ambedkar will be displayed. It is Ambedkar who drafted the constitution. If his portrait is not displayed in the Parliament after 42 years of independence, there can be no other sad thing like this for the country...

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We opened a University at Lucknow after his name.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Rawat, we have not been able to display his portrait here in the Parliament House.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: His status has been installed here. I thank you for your love for Dr. Ambedkar.

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karolbagh): Our love for Ambedkar is not new, it is very old.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Therefore, friends, the hon. Prime Minister has announced that the 'Land Reforms' will be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution and it is not an ordinary thing. The landless are dispossessed of their land holdings allotted to them by the Government because the landlords take the matter directly to the court. Under this provision, we

will be able to prevent these people from going to courts. That is why I submitted that we have a number of programmes and we shall bring them before this House one by one. All the hon. Members will get the opportunity of discussing them and not only opportunity but we shall also be happy on this account. In the capacity of a Minister, I would like to assure you that whatever suggestions are put forward regarding the welfare of these weaker sections, whether inside the House or outside it, in writing or orally, we will not only consider them in all seriousness but we will make all possible efforts to achieve that end. This Constitution (Amendment) Bill has been brought with a view to extend the provision for reservation by another 10 years. It will go a long way in fulfilment of our commitment to social, economic and political justice as laid down in the constitution. I would like that all the parties should unanimously and without any reservation should pass this bill. After the passage of this Bill, it will be our duty and outside the House as well to take all possible measures for the welfare of the weaker section. Efforts should also be made to fight these forces which are operating against their interests and ensure that they get justice. With this intention I move the Motion for consideration on this Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration. Now, Shri Vasant Sathe.

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to greet you because this is the first opportunity which I have got to make my submission in the House. It is a matter of great pride for us that today a person like you who is our old associate and who is committed to socialism is occupying this high office. We are confident that we shall establish a new ideal under

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

your leadership in this House.

While speaking on this subject, I would first like to welcome our young Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who has presented his views in his capacity as a Minister.... (*Interruptions*) I support it.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We would like that the instead of Shri Devi Lal, he should be appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAHADEO RAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Sathe, you said at Wardha that it is on account of the special privileges granted to Harijans and Adivasis that the Congress party lost the recent elections because of protection given to the harijans and adivasis by the Congress Party... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Whatever I may say inside the House or outside, I am not in the habit of suppressing it. What my friend has referred to just now, I would speak about it during the course of my submission.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to submit that so far as my party is concerned, out stand is clear that we will lend full support to this Constition (Amendment) Bill which is aimed at extending the provision for reservation by another 10 years.

SHRI LALOO PRASAD (Chapra): You should also make efforts to stop the anti-reservation agitation going on these days.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if certain amount of restraint is exercised it will be observed that our views are quite similar to yours on several national issues. There is no difference of opinion in that regard but these are some matters which require sorting out. Therefore, I would like to request that our hon. friends should have a little patience. They should listen patiently and after that if they find some lacuna there

are free to make their comments. I have no objections in this regard. Moreover, this is how the democratic system works.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while welcoming this Bill, I would like to submit that it is a laudable step. This was a part of our manifesto and we had mentioned it in all our speeches as well. I had also stated in my speech that the first step a Government would have to take would be to extend the Reservation provision from 40 to 50 years. You have brought this Bill and I would like to congratulate you for it.

As the matter is of great importance, it requires a detailed discussion. If the stand of the Government should be made clear in the beginning, it will provide a clear direction of the country.

This is an appropriate Bill. This provision should be incorporated in our Constitution. Baba Saheb Ambedkar who was the founding father of our Constitution and who is known as the modern 'Manu' had incorporated this provision in the Constitution. Initially, it was made for 30 years. Thereafter, it was extended for another 10 years and the current Bill is for extending it for another 10 years. But I would like to inform you that Baba Saheb was not happy while incorporating this provision. He wanted that these sections should get the required education and come at par with other sections of society so that they need not beg any favour from any quarter. He wanted that if the weaker sections were able to come at par with others there would be no need for them to request for any favours from others and instead others would approach them for assistance. These were the views of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. But Baba Saheb Ambedkar has made this provision because as my friend Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has just submitted that much injustice has been committed to these people for thousands of years and they have been subjects to extreme social and economic exploitation.

This question has received much emphasis in our social system. Right from Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru to Jai Prakash Narain

and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, it has been emphasised time and again that unless economic exploitation of these communities is checked, true economic justice cannot be provided to them. No doubt, this has not been done so far. We all will have to put our heads together to find an answer to this problem. We will have to rise above the party lines in this Matter. Therefore I would like to request that while considering this question the background of injustice meted out to these people in the past cannot be ignored. The practice of untouchability was such that these deprived people could not even come anywhere near the people belonging to upper castes. I have mentioned these kinds of oppression in my speeches. You may check the record.

I have reiterated this point time and again. My adversary at the election launched a massive propaganda war against me and that is why he could succeed in cornering 1.25 lakh votes which otherwise would have gone in my favour. I would like to tell you as to how and on which slogan they could manage this so that you are able to understand this matter in its proper perspective. What was the slogan of my opponent friend who was a joint candidate of the BJP and the Shiv Sena? He used to lament in his speeches.

"The Government have spoiled the people belonging to scheduled castes and minority communities by providing them all sort of facilities and appeasing them whereas we belonging to majority communities and other castes are facing injustice. The majority communities and other castes as also their children are being exploited," I am quoting this from his speeches.

Shri Paswan used to say that all facilities are being provided to or being grabbed by the children of those scheduled castes who have become rich, or have become Ministers or big licence holding contractors and are earning Rs. 2-3 thousand per month. The poor among them living below poverty

line, remain deprived of any facility. We are even poorer than them so why does not the Congress give us any facilities or reservations... (*Interruptions*)....

[*English*]

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patan): Sir, he is misguiding the House. There is economic restriction... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Please be seated, you have got up without any reasons.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of order, Sir (*Interruptions*) The statement of the hon. Member is not true... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order, your turn will also come. Please be seated (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know as to who has said this. Please tell this.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAM NAIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please tell the name of the person who has said this. He is speaking sheer..**

MR. SPEAKER: "... is un-parliamentary. This should be expunged from the proceedings of the House. Please take your seat. Shri Sathe... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Truth is always bitter. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the thing is that both you and I have spent a substantial period here and are familiar with some conventions. My friend is using the word '...' which is un-parliamentary and no doubt it will be expunged from the proceedings. Secondly

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

he is asking me to tell he name. I am not doing so deliberately because as per one of our Rules a person who is not present here and cannot defend himself, should not be named here. Therefore, I am not telling his name. I have no problem in telling his name. I am only speaking about the persons who are campaigning this. What I submitted here just now, has relevance due to which I am saying it. They asked as to why we are going facilities to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and not to backward classes. In Viddharba region, which is considered to be the Citadel of Congress in 1977 sweep all the 11 members who were elected belonged to opposition and this time they have got five seats. They contribute this change to the fact that 80% of the electorate belong to backward classes who are with them. They said that they are poor and exploited and in spite of being educated they do not get jobs, reservation etc. and facilities are continued to be extended to the minorities and the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in order to appease them as they are considered to be the vote bank.

13.00 hrs.

This was the charge they used to level and I submit that if whatever is taking place in the country is not taken seriously, all of us will have to repent. The children of our own Party Members, I remember told us in a meeting that if now when Mandal Commission report has been submitted you cannot take any steps, then Lord Rama along would be our saviour. I am telling your their views. Now they say Siyawar Ramchandra ki jai, Pawan Sut Hanuman ki jai. And now in Maharashtra, it has further been added...

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sathe, you may continue after lunch.

[English]

We adjourn for Lunch to meet at 2.00 pm.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha ten adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

14.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[SHRI JASWANT SINGH *in the Chair*]

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY-SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL-CONTD

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I call the hon. Members from Wardha, Shri Vasant Sathe to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much. As I was saying that this is a symbol of the way elections were conducted in Wardha and the wave which overcame the entire country. That is why my friend asked me to tell what I had said at Wardha. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, in that context I was saying that while some of our friends from the Opposition were saying that no facilities have been provided to other backward sections who are also called O.B.C. and who constitute more than 80 per cent of the population in Vidarbha, though many years have passed since Mandal Commission submitted their report. The Congress was blamed for not paying any attention or providing any facilities to backward classes. They complained that only the children of the of the Scheduled Castes are getting benefit though their parents have become rich and are on high posts.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): This is absolutely incorrect.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This is what they complained. They also said that if they

cannot be provided reservation, then they have no option but to go to the shelter of Lord Rama or become Shri Ramashray Prasad or march to Ayodhya carrying bricks and singing hymns in praise of Lord Rama. Another new thing was added in Maharashtra since the B.J.P. and the Shivsena has joined hands there and the candidate there enjoyed only their support, so they said that in Maharashtra, it is specially the brave Shivaji, Bhawani Mata who are to be glorified and now they will try to take action against injustice being done to majority Communities by carrying of saffron flag to each village. They were talking about Bhaujan Samaj (majority communities) and not Bhaujan Samaj Party which is altogether different. Bhaujan Samraj Party also had a candidate there but I need not discuss him. These people who claimed the support of majority communities used to say that they are the true representatives and if they were not provided proper facilities then they will raise a revolution against reservation in the country. We will raise revolution against the minorities and for that the youth should joint us. Mr. Chairman, Sir, they allured the young generation of our partymen.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thana): He is speaking absolute..**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: This is even more incorrect. The members of youth Congress are inciting and the Congress has a hand in the agitation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I request that the use of this word that is unparliamentary. Please do not use it.

[English]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): What is the Point of Order?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the point of order?

SHRI MAVNENDRA SINGH: He is misleading the House. He has said that the saffron flag is being carried in the forefront of the march during the agitation. This is absolutely incorrect. The workers of the Congress and the Youth Congress are inciting this agitation and the members of Youth Congress burnt buses at various places, blocked the routes and have made the whole situation disorderly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have listened to your point. This is not a point of order. If you want to express your views you may do so by participating in the debate.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: What was said in the Maharashtra Assembly that the people who get elected do so by inciting in the people, is incorrect. The elected Member represent the wish of the people. By making such statements here, we should...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have listened to your point, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can express these views by participating in this discussion.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my statement is in reference to the comments made by my opponent friends during my electioneering. It was in this context that I made my comments, as it was directly addressed to me. I am not talking of on-going anti-reservation movement. Shakespeare has said in his drama "As you like it" that one could do nothing after shooting the arrow and hitting the target? (Interruptions) Please have patience. It is very serious question. What are you going to do?

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

You are going to create conflict by misleading the unemployed youth belonging to backward & poor section of the society. If the youth of weaker sections and other backward communities are made to believe that reservation given to Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes is causing injustice to them, then they may be misguided. I was saying that this is not the right step and this is what I said in my election campaign. The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and other such schemes were made to help the poor. Now we will welcome any efforts made by the new Government to solve this issue of national dimensions. Such issues are above party politics. With partisan outlook one cannot solve the problem. Today the youth of the country is a troubled lot. If you want to know the real reason.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are the real reason. (Interruptions).

AN. HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present generation in this country is suffering because these people could not do anything for them in the last 40 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to tell you that if he is pacified by saying this much that the present sorry state of affairs is attributed to our being in power for so many years, let him tell so and we do agree that it is because of us. Good or bad, we cannot deny it. That is why we are in this position today. You have come into power.

AN HON. MEMBER: This is *ibtida-e-ishk*”.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: It is for you to judge. I would like to humbly tell my hon. colleagues that they have just come into power riding on a wave. They should give serious thought to this aspect. Once casteism and caste hatred are allowed to spread in this country, the situation will become very

difficult to handle. We people are well-entrenched in our heritage. Religion deeply influences our minds and hearts. Therefore the responsibility lies on everyone. All saints and sages have given a message of humanity. Let us not be swept away by emotion. The youth of today has been misled because of unemployment. This applies to all issues. If we step out of our emotional cocoons, we shall know the real situation. Be it the Punjab problem or any other problems, at the root of them all is the dissatisfied and angry youth...

.... (Interruptions).....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to caution you that there are 11 speakers from your party. I do not want to interrupt you. But please be mindful of the time.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to set the trend. If I am not interrupted, I will conclude very early.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am also mindful of the interruptions. I will give you adequate time. But I want to caution you.

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, why is communalism flaring up in this country? This is because some people have given a religious tint to the running of this country. Their strength in the House has increase from 2 to 88. I congratulate them and wish them many more such achievements. But think of the role played by religion in their achievement. (Interruptions) ...

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): How is he saying that our number has increased to 88 because of religion the electorates of this country have elected us. It is due to them that our number has risen to 88. Nobody can level baseless allegations against any political party. The members belonging to the B.J.P. have been successful because of the Party's manifesto and not on the basis of religious sentiment.

[English]

We have got our programmes and manifesto on which we fought the elections and people of the country have given us 88 seats. This is not because of you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member speaking has got a right to his views just as you have a right to your views. Let him say what he wishes to say.

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, they wanted to play party politics, how can they solve national issues?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Let me forewarn the House that the concept of Hindu nation being reiterated by them will lead us towards narrow-mindedness. People who speak in this vein are themselves not aware that we have a vedic heritage, what we called 'Sanatan Dharma'. There is no place for narrow-mindedness here. This is what Adi Shankaracharya said. We have many learned persons among the hon. Members and they shall have much to say on Hindu culture. But I would like to say that there cannot be a greater authority on Hindu culture than Adi-Shankaracharya and I would like to quote him. He said(Interruptions)

[English]

You sit in the Chair and then tell me. Have you not attended any orientation course?

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, perhaps he does not know the meaning of Hindu nation. A Hindu nation means 'Sarvadharmā Sambhava'.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Adi Shankaracharya has said 'Najatyā brahmanotrakshatriya vaishya eva cha, na shudro nathwa mlechho bhedit guna karma bhi.' There cannot be a better description of our culture, or our Sanatan dharma than this. The situation we are seeing today arose ever since

birth: was taken as basis for determining castes. None of the Shankaracharyas of today or any other person knowledgeable about Hindu culture will say that we should have a caste-system based on birth. If all the four Shankaracharyas say this, there will be a revolution in the country. Are you prepared to say it? If this caste-system remains, then you will ask for caste-based reservations. The Mandal Commission will come into the picture. It will entail hour of discussion and numerous demands for reservation based on each and every caste. There will be no limit to this. They created false aspiration among the masses. They gave a call to the people during the election compaign to come under the saffron flag and carry a brick in the name of Lord Rama. This is against the ideal of Lord Rama even. It would be wrong to talk of casteism in the name of Lord Rama who had embraced 'Keval' (Boatman) and who had eaten the plums tasted by the adivasis 'Sabri.'

The so called word 'Hindu' oft repeated by them is not found in any of our Vedas, Shastras, Manu Samriti, the Geeta or the Mahabharata or the Ramayana. The word 'Hindu' has not been mentioned anywhere in those scriptures. It is not a word of our origin. It is a derivative of word 'Sindu' as in Persian language the alphabet "S" is pronounced as "H". Thus this word 'Sindu' began to be pronounced as Hindu'. Does any character of Hindu scriptures claim his religion as Indian? Can any of you say so? If not, why this Hindu religion....

SHRI JANARDHAN TWARI (Siwan): From where did 'The Hindu' daily start publication? It was from Madras sixty years ago. What a great exponent of word Hindu'.

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: He does not understand what I am saying.

[Translation]

I am saying that the Bill which has been brought today is not merely aimed at in-

[Sh. Vasant Sathe]

creasing the reservation provision from 40 to 50 years.....(Interruptions) You will continue to do this and you will make the country men fight among themselves in the name of religion and caste. It will result in the situation the country is witnessing today. The youths of country are agitating. If you take pleasure in casting aspersion on each other, then it is all right, you are free to do it. If the ruling party gets satisfaction in passing the buck to others for this country wide violence, it is right, we will be the last person to grudge against you I thought that the way Shri Ram Vilas Paswan initiated the discussion with all its seriousness, the issue will be debated raising above partisan ends. I am coming to this point, if they do not like it, then it is a different matter, But you see provisions have been made for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the constitution. As I said in the very beginning that by providing reservation for 30 years 40 years, the atrocities on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people for the last 4000 years could not be removed with one stroke. People belonging to a section of our society were forced to live outside the village as even their shadows were considered to be untouchable. They were not allowed to take water from the village well. If one is subjected to such mal treatment to day, how he feel offended. You can well imagine it. They were subjected to such mal treatment not for a year or two, rather they have been subjected to such mattreatment for the last 4000 years. Now something has been given to them by way of reserving some seats in State Assemblies and Lok Sabha . Much hue and cry is being made on it. It is being said that injustice is being done to other communities. Do you know what our Government has done in this regard. It was our leader who had increased the reservation period from 30 to 40 years. It was we who first made this demand and we welcome the step taken by you. We thank your Government for this..(Interruptions)...If need be, we will continue it for another 500 years and will not allow atrocities to be committed on them. This is our view point. For the atrocities committed on them for the last 5000

years, if we have to provide reservation for another 500 years, we will provide reservation for them. But your Government is saying something and doing something else. What is the result thereof ? Two leaders of your own party have been saying that reservation is a fraud. Only economic condition should be taken into account for providing reservation, they said. What do they mean by it? Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are talking of snatching of rights. There is a conspiracy behind it and a fraud is being committed. I welcome the step taken by the present Government to extend the period of reservation for another ten years. The Government should make its policy clear that the facilities provided to this hopeless section of our society will not be withdrawn in any circumstances. A number of facilities have been provided to them under Articles 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the Constitution which read like this.

Article 15 (4) of the Constitution says:

Nothing in this article or in the Clause II of article 29 shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.'

This is the salutary provision for giving the first amendment. Article 16(4) the Constitution says:

'Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in the opinion of the State is not adequately represented in the services under the State.'

Now the period of reservation is being extended from 40 to 50 years. I do not understand why so much uproar is being made in the country on this issue. In article 46 of the Directive Principles it has been said:-

" The State shall promote with special

care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.”

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask as to whether we are taking measures to ensure that the provisions made in the constitution are neither diluted nor done away with. If not, the person, or the class of persons or the party, whosoever they may be, is working against the constitution and the unity and integrity of the country for which all of us have taken a pledge. We have to say this if one does not want to uplift the poor people, it has to be pointed out. To be a proudish is a bad thing. There is saying in Marathi that ‘Garva Che Ghar Khathi’. It means that pride will have a fall. Even then slogan is being raised that say with pride that we are so and so” (*Interruptions*).

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): I can name the persons who are spearheading this agitation. In Gujarat, leaders of youth Congress have launched this movement. They belong to ruling party. This anti-reservation agitation is being launched by the people belonging to Congress party. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA : On a point of order, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule ?

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: He has taken 50 minutes. Is there any restriction about time ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it a point of order against me ?

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA : No, no, Sir. (*Interruptions*) You decide the time-limit. He has taken about 50 minutes.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, Mr. Sathe.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: This country belong to all of us. I am saying this thing not only for the Members of this House but for all our countrymen. Yesterday, one of my friends from Goa recited a very good couplet from a Sant Gyaneshwari:-

“Vishv Svadharamsurya Paho.”

It is need of the hour that if at all, we have to say something with pride, we should say that we are human being. This is required today. We should not be narrow minded. Only a good human being can become a good Hindu or a good Christian or a good Muslim or a good Sikh. A bad or untruthfull man will always take others to narrow mindedness, thereby endangering the existence of the society and the country.

While speaking on this issue, I would like to request that our present Government should adopt a clear cut policy on this issue and should not compromise with the person or the group of the persons wanted to curtail the facilities which you wish to provide to the weaker sections of the society. Our party will strongly oppose any such action which curtails or snatches the facilities provided to the people belonging to minorities and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I hope all right thinking members of this august House will also strongly oppose such action.

With these words, I conclude and again thank you for providing me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call Mr. K.S. Chavda, I would request the Whip of the Congress (I) party to note that there are 11 speakers and the hon. Member from Wardha has taken up 50 minutes of the time allotted to you. Now, please allocate the time accordingly. There is a time limit. We are under a constraint.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: But the debate cannot be infinite in its time. There is time limit and there is a party time allotted.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: (Tripura West): Sir, the tradition of this House has been that we take four hours instead of the three hours allotted. We take some good things from the erstwhile Opposition (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly allow me to finish. The principal speaker from your party has been shown every consideration. There are 11 speakers from your party. I am just asking you to allocate the time between your 11 speakers. Will you kindly allocate the time for those speakers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Sir, since the tradition of this House has been pointed out, I may remind you that whenever any member from any party take more time than allotted, they always adjust the number of speakers so that the allotted time will not disturbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to suggest that. It is up to the Opposition.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have been given the names here. Mr. K.S. Chavda may speak now.

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill

which is before this august House. While supporting this Bill, I would like to make some observations. Sir, no member belonging to Scheduled Castes had ever been elected on a seat other than the reserved seat in the Assembly and in the Lok Sabha. Look at the general election recently held. Two members belonging to the Scheduled Castes have been given the Janata Dal tickets for a general seat. They have been elected on the general seats by defeating two former rulers. I congratulate the two Members from Orissa Shri Bhakta Charan Das and Shri Bhaj Mohan Behera who contested on the Janata Dal tickets on the general seats and defeated the Congress rivals.

Regarding the reservation policy, the hon. Prime Minister Shri V.P. Singh has made it amply clear during his first press conference and during the debate that took place yesterday in the House. If I mistake not, he said that the reservation policy would continue till the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people are brought to the level of, or at par with the rest of the people of our country economically and socially. The persons who do not belong to the category of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes say that the reservation policy cannot go on for ever; it cannot continue for long. Another charge that has been levelled against the scheduled castes people who are advanced is that they also want to retain this reservation policy. Thirdly, it is said that the reservation policy should not be on caste lines, but economic criterion should be adopted. I will be dealing with these three points.

I am very eager that the Bill should be passed in this session and today itself, so that the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people can take advantage of this in the coming Assembly elections.

So far as the reservation policy is concerned, I am in favour of continuing this policy till discrimination arising out of the practice of untouchability is removed. Look at the picture in India today. In the villages, scheduled castes people live at the outskirts of the villages and in cities, they live in slums.

They are not allowed to live and mix with others in the inside localities of the villages and cities. Whereas Muslims can live, Christians can live, but these scheduled caste people who are Hindus are not allowed to live with others. That is the position. Look at the discrimination. In certain villages even today, scheduled castes people are not allowed to draw water from the common well. The barbers do not serve them. If this type of discrimination continues, I am not in favour of abolishing this reservation policy. If these people remain backward as they are today, and if reservation policy is discontinued, it would be disastrous for the country, and the country will go to dogs.

Majority of the Indian people belong to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and other backward classes. Look at the population census of 1981. Therefore, until and unless socially and economically these people are raised to the level of the rest of the people in our society, the reservation policy should be continued.

There are people who may say that the Scheduled Castes who have advanced economically want to retain reservation. I deny that. It is not in our hands. For example, if a member belonging to Scheduled Caste is a Collector or an M.P., will he be allowed to live in villages with the caste Hindus or in mixed localities? No. About 80 Members are there in this House who belong to Scheduled Caste category. Will their family members be allowed to fetch water from the same well? No. This discrimination is still continuing in our country.

I congratulate the National Front Party here. What they preached earlier, they have now started practising. Mr. Sathe, you show only lip-sympathies. Already forty years have passed since we got independence but still they remain as they were. Regarding my third point, according to the Judgement of the High Court or the Supreme Court, this reservation is not communal. Anybody can go through the judgement of the Supreme Court. They have mentioned each and every

instance. When I tried to interrupt Mr. Sathe—when he was speaking—I said, economic restriction is there for students who belong to Scheduled Caste category. If the annual income of the parent of a Scheduled Caste student exceeds Rs. 10,000, he is not entitled for scholarship. If any of his family members got this advantage, then he is not entitled to take this benefit. There are several other restrictions which people do not know. Even if they know, they deliberately say otherwise. Although I am a Member of parliamentary since 1960, I also belong to Scheduled Caste category and my income does exceed Rs. 10,000, but my daughters and sons did not avail of the concession, i.e. scholarship. The same thing applies to other persons also.

Now, I would like to bring to the notice of this hon. House the economic conditions of Scheduled Castes. If the economic condition of a Scheduled Caste is sound and if he owns a car, he will not get a caste Hindu driver. It is because if he want to have water he has to fetch water from the house of the Scheduled Caste only. So, he believes in untouchability. That is why I laid stress on this particular point. If they remain socially backward and also economically backward, then this reservation should continue. That is why I would request that at least for God's sake, do not bring any economic criteria for the Scheduled Castes. If you do so, it will ruin the country. You very well know as to what is happening inside and outside the country.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Still untouchability is there.

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: My hon. friend Shri Pathak is right. Still untouchability is there. There are not allowed to enter the Nathdwada Temple or for that matter even some other temples in our country. My hon. friend Shri Satheji also talked about Shankaracharya. A Conference which was held in Patna in 1969 was presided over by Dr. Karan Singh. At that time, Shankaracharya said, "I believe in untouchability." Still they continue to believe in untouchability. He said, "If you want to punish

[Sh. Khemchandbhai Somabhai Chavda]

me, you can do so, You can put me in the jail. Even if you cut me into pieces, I will stand by that." This is what he narrated. In support he said, "even women are considered untouchables during the four days of menstrual period". So, he believes in untouchability. I want to know from the hon. Members belonging to Congress (I), as to what is the stand of their party regarding reservation in educational institutions, in services or posts of the States and the Union. What is your party's stand? You are not clear, my friend. I know you are a good friend of mine. We have been together in several Committees, I know.

Sir, they are not clear in their minds. They only give sermons before the House. According to the rules, they have to be here. What to do? This is the position. I am sorry to say so; my friends should not feel ill, because it is a fact that they have given a lot of sermons, but not a practical thrust. Did his party give tickets during the last elections to any SC man for the General seat? No; that is why I say that what this Janata Dal preached, is being practised by it now. Give some time, and you will find good results from this side.

I would say something about Gujarat also. One ST candidate, belonging to BJP Mr. Chandubhai Deshmukh defeated your Gujarat Congress (I) president, Mr. Ahmed Patel, from a General seat. Look at the intention of this party, and then give some time.

I will not take more time, Sir. I am very eager that this Bill should be passed in this Session.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the 62nd Amendment Bill. I would like to make it clear that BJP fully supports this Amendment. I would like to submit that it has been accepted in the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill that the work has not been completed in the stipulated time-limit. I will emphasise that work has not been

completed even in forty years for which the Constituent Assembly took a resolution to complete within ten years. It is an utter failure of the Government and the society. Shri Sathe said that it would be continued even for five hundred years. What did it mean? Did he mean that they would not be brought at par with the other castes even in next five hundred years? This is not a question of any party alone, but is a fundamental question linked with the unity of the country as a whole. If this question is considered on party lines, it may result in disintegration of the country, as a lot of disruptive activities are taking place outside this House. So it is necessary to consider this question by rising above party politics. We all know the forty years have passed since the provision of reservation was made. By extending the period of reservation for another ten years, the House is only completing a formality. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will come here again after ten years to perform this ritual of extending the period of reservation for another ten years. I would like to submit emphatically that the resolution passed by the Constituent Assembly forty years ago had not be implemented and the main reason behind it was that the earlier Governments of this country never tried to let the people belonging to these castes become self-dependent, but only tried to convert them into a vote bank. The situation would not have been as it prevailed today, even after forty years, had attempts been made to make these castes self-dependent. People of these castes would not have been such a neglected lot after these forty years.

I would like to submit another point. I fully share the views expressed by an hon'ble Member who spoke before me that all parties should field scheduled castes and scheduled tribes candidates on unreserved seats. Shri Sathe and others may say whatever they like about our party, but this time our party fielded a scheduled tribe candidate on an unreserved seat and got him elected to this House.

I would like to submit another point. In view of the population of these castes, an

amendment is very necessary. The number of voters cannot be increased. But there should be no hitch in rotating the reserved constituencies. At present certain constituencies are reserved for the last twenty years and only scheduled castes and scheduled tribes candidates can contest from there which meant that other castes are deprived representation from those constituencies. Likewise a scheduled caste or scheduled tribe candidate finds it difficult to contest from an unreserved seat. So there should be rotation of reserved constituencies. Even if the population of that area remains the same, there should be de-limitation. There should be rotation of reserved constituencies, so that the people belonging to other castes should also have the opportunity to represent and in other constituencies, the scheduled caste candidates could also have the opportunity of representation.

So far as this question is concerned, there cannot be two opinions in this regard. But the discussion carried out outside the House on this question is not a discussion at all. It is an agitation which poses great danger to country. I have been elected to this House for the first time and this is my maiden speech. While Shri Sathe was speaking, I was quite disappointed and the reason of my disappointment was that if we, the elected members indulge in making allegations and counter allegations on such fundamental questions due to party politics, which should be considered seriously and attempts should be made to reach consensus, then who will save this country.

We all should oppose the agitations going on in the country. All the parties should say that they support the reservation policy. BJP supports all the reservations made in the services. There should be no doubt about our stand in this regard. But attention should be paid to the agitators also. We should try to understand why this agitation is taking place. I find three reasons behind it.

The first reason is that there is poverty and unemployment. The youth of the country is suffering from the pangs of unemploy-

ment. In a country where there are crores of educated unemployed, something or the other will certainly happen. Sometimes it will be on the issue of reservation or sometime on any other issue. The main reasons are poverty and unemployment. What has been done in these 40 years to solve this problem?

15.00 hrs.

Only plans were formulated and poverty and disparity remained on the increase. On one hand, there are some people who have so much wealth that they donot know how to spend and on the other hand, there are cores of people in the country, who donot know how to bring up their children. Who is responsible for this disparity? Are the last Government and the Congress Party not responsible for this, who have continuously ruled the country for such a long time. I want that the new Government should bring some fundamental changes in this area, some new schemes should be made so that the poverty and unemployment and dissatisfaction among the youth can be removed.

The second reasons is that there is poverty among the other castes also. The poorest among those castes are agitated. Some new attempts should be made in this regard. I would like to repeat again that the question does not arise to take back the facilities provided to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, but the Government should also pay attention towards the poor belonging to other castes.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

I would, now, like to refer to Himachal Pradesh. In 1977-78, when Janata Government came in power, an experiment was made by starting Antyodaya scheme. This scheme was started in Himachal Pradesh. Antyodaya was a favourite word of Mahatma Gandhi. The Congress only took votes in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, but we tried to

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materialise the Antyodaya dream of Mahatma Gandhi in reality in Rajasthan and in Himachal Pradesh in 1977-78. Under the Antyodaya scheme in Himachal Pradesh the poorest families from every village were selected. 19 thousand families were selected in the first phase. Among those 19 thousand families, 68 per cent were from scheduled castes and 33 per cent from other castes. It was directed by the Government that the poorest among these identified families should be provided help through these schemes on top priority basis. Later, the scheme should move upward. The system of our society is such that whatever the schemes of development and social justice were made, they were all started from above and got stucked in the middle. There was no benefit to the lowest class of the society. I am not among those who say that no development has taken place in the last 40 years. There was progress and social development, but there was no social justice. Those who are at the lowest strata, got very less or nothing at all.

I would like to draw your attention on one more point. We adopted a selection method while selecting the 19 thousand poorest families from Himachal Pradesh. The revenue authority selected poorest five families from each village. It was arranged on behalf of the Government that it will not be the final decision. A meeting of Gram Sabha was called and all the villagers were invited. They were told that in the first phase, the poorest families of their village have to be helped and the selected people were approved by the Gram Sabha. The villagers also approved them unanimously. We had conducted a survey in which about 19,000 poorest of the poor families which did not receive even a single paisa during the last 30 years from these schemes were identified—a view which was endorsed by the people themselves. I would like to say that under the prevailing system the benefits of various schemes in the country reach the upper class and middle class people and not the lowest class. I, therefore, want that the

Government should launch such comprehensive schemes which will provide benefit to poor people. The Government should think about the poorest of the poor. I would like to appeal that comprehensive national schemes may be prepared for the downtrodden people. We had set up a Financial Corporation for various schemes in Himachal Pradesh. We tried a number of experiments. Unfortunately, after assuming office, the new Government scrapped all these schemes. At the time of planning these schemes, we had the poorest of the poor in our mind. We knew that the influential people can easily get their work done in the banks. But the poor people whose clothes were tattered cannot be go to banks. We had set up the *Antodaya Finance Corporation for the benefit of the poor*. Our objective was to provide the benefit of these schemes first to the poorest of the poor in the society. I would like this experiment to be made at the national level. I want that the Government should launch such a scheme for the uplift of the downtrodden people. As regards other families they should be identified on the basis of their economic condition. New provisions should be made and separate allocation of funds should be made for them. All such steps should be taken so as to pacify others who have landed on the path of agitation. If a Rajput or a Brahmin is poor, what remedy is available to them? The discontentment brewing in their minds could be dispelled with the making of separate provisions for them also. A lot of hue and cry is also noticed in Government services. This agitation is being spearheaded by those who are affected particularly in the matter of promotions. I do not plead for scrapping the provisions of reservations in promotion, but I want that their view point must be taken into consideration. Some way out could be found out for this. It is not necessary that benefits should be provided to other sections at the cost of facilities being made available to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. What I mean is that the Government should make some earnest efforts to remove the discontent among other sections of people.

I would like to make yet another submis-

sion. This is regarding facilities being made available to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. It has been repeated time and again in the House as well as outside that those who have already availed of the benefits, should not be given the benefit for the second time. I, on my part, do not make such a demand. But one thing I must say that gradually two groups are emerging from among the scheduled castes. Let me cite an instance from Himachal Pradesh. In certain villages in the State, there are some people belonging to the reserved category who have become top I.A.S. officers and are prosperous. After getting various modern facilities they have shifted their residence from the parent locality. I am afraid to note that two groups might emerge from among them. I do not say that they prosperous group should be debarred of the benefits. But I would like to make a suggestion to the Government that priority should be accorded to provide benefits to those families first, who are comparatively poor. There are families who could avail benefits four times.... (Interruptions) What I want to say is that as compared to families who have availed maximum benefits, priority should be accorded to those families who have not yet availed any benefit during the past 40 years. This is my suggestion to the Government.

Finally, I would like to make a suggestion. A lot of things have been said by the hon. Members from both the sides. I would like to call upon my colleagues in the Congress to verify the fact as per a report published in a mid-day newspaper that in Delhi the activists of N.S.U.I. have made an announcement that their elected members in 14 colleges would convene a meeting in which they would decide to launch an anti-reservation campaign. God forbid, this news should be false. If it is true, I am apprehensive that politics is playing its dirty tricks in this agitation which is spreading everywhere. I am afraid because we have already tasted its bitterness. Madam Chairman, the orgy of violence did not break in Punjab, on its own rather it was created. There is a long history as to how it all happened in Punjab and who are the people behind it. I request the politi-

cal parties who are alleged to have engineered the uncalled for situation, to make a self-retrospection and check it. Mr. Sathe has charged our party with instigating religious feelings in the electorate and thereby winning 86 seats. In this connection, I would like to tell him that they have lost the polls and they should accept the defeat in a sportsman's spirit. They faced defeat for quite a few times only but we have ever been a vanquished lot. We win occasionally. But we have never taken the defeat in that spirit. We rose to 86 from 2 not by instigating any feelings, rather our number rose to 86 from 2 due to the blessings of Shri Sathe. Had their party not spread such rampant corruption, such a situation would have never arisen. Their image sagged due to their corruption and we rose to 86 from 2 on our own strength. It is due to the situation created by them in the country, that such a state of affairs has emerged. (Interruptions) Nobody can deny this thing. When Olympic Games are held in various parts of the world, our medal tally is negligible. On the other hand if an olympic is held for corruption, all the prizes will be won by our camp. I, therefore, say that it is not proper to make such petty points. I would like to submit further....

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Madam Chairman, I am on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: I have to make a submission against the points he has made. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shanta Kumar ji, please continue.

SHRI SHANTA KUMAR: Madam, such petty things should not be said in the House. I had never expected that Shri Sathe, would ridicule the steps taken by crores of devotees of Lord Ram for the construction of His

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temple. I may remind him that he is one of the oldest members in this House and members like me have to learn a lot of things from him. I was highly disappointed to hear his speech. He should discuss the basic issues only. Let me know what they have done for the Harijans during the past 40 years? Why have they not been able to assuage the pains and sufferings of the poor and oppressed people? They only indulged in corruption and deposited money in Swiss Banks. Instead of replying to these points, he is dealing with these petty things. It does not behove him.

Madam Chairman, with these words, I support this Constitution amendment. I urge all the parties to come forward and clarify their stand on the agitation taking place in the country. I hope that they will take the basic points that have been raised by me into consideration. They should refrain the people from carrying out the agitation so that all things leading to the disintegration of the country could be resolved. This reservation is necessary. It is our duty as well as the duty of the nation to bring those people who have remained backward for centuries at par with others. Every effort should be made to bring all these people to the required level by paying due consideration to their problems. I am fully confident that the new Government would make all out efforts in this direction. With these words, I support this Constitution amendment.

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI (Kanpur):
Madam Chairman, on behalf of my party, the C.P.I. (M), I rise to extend my full support to the Constitution Amendment Bill that has been brought before the House.

As all of you are aware, the reasons for providing this reservation in our Constitution was exploitation and discrimination against those people in our country who had not been given even the human status in the country. Today when we are discussing the issue of extending the provision for reservation by another ten years and in order to take a decision in this matter it has to be consid-

ered whether the circumstances under which the said provision was made have changed and whether social exploitation and disparities have ended. In case it is otherwise, there shall be need of extending this provision.

However, we have to accept with much regret that it is not that atrocities are not being committed any more. Atrocities are still being committed on these unfortunate people. In fact the incidents of atrocities and social exploitation are constantly increasing. During the last 40 years, instead of atrocities being stopped, there has been an increase in the number of such incidents. Nothing can be more shameful than this for any country.

The report of the commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is before us. As per this report, there has been an increase in the number of FIRs between 1981 and 1986. 70 per cent of these incidents have taken place in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It was immaterial to which political party was in power in these States. In 1981, the number of these incidents was 14,318 and in 1986, it increased to 15,416.

So far as the atrocities committed on adivasis are concerned, the number of incidents committed in 1981 was 3,425 and 1986 this figure rose to 3,985. Out of these 3,985 incidents, 2,721 incidents occurred in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Keeping these facts in view we will have to consider the matter seriously.

It is not that these incidents taken place in the rural areas only. Of course, the number of incidents are more in the rural areas. This is because of poverty and backwardness prevailing in the rural areas. Mass rape, general massacre and their settlements being set on fire are the kind of atrocities which take place in the rural areas. But the attitude of the people in the urban areas is no better. In this connection, I would like to mention certain incidents. One such incident occurred in Bombay. In one of the schools of this city, harijan children were made to clean the toilet saying that it was their traditional occupa-

tion. In an incident which occurred in Delhi, two 12 year old caste Hindu children killed their harijan classmate because he had sat side by side with them to study Sanskrit. He is not allowed to study Sanskrit. The third incident concerns Shri Khilahand Jha who is sitting on 'dharna' even today. His fault was that he had married a harijan woman. That is why he is not allowed to stay in his house and he has been dismissed from his job. During the rule of the previous Government he had submitted an appeal and he was assured of being reinstated on his job and of being provided due security. He went back to Bihar. But atrocities were committed on his wife and his house was set on fire. Today he has come back to Delhi seeking justice. I request the present Government to order his reinstatement and make necessary arrangements for providing him security. Social injustice exists even today. Exploitation and disparities still plague our society. Under these circumstances, it is our duty to welcome this amendment. However, I would like to submit that reservation is not the only way out for ending oppression.

We will have to pay attention to other matters as well. It is a welcome move that our Hon. Prime Minister in his speech yesterday and the President in his Address referred to certain issues and assured that the Government will definitely take action regarding them. Harijans are the worst exploited lot in the society today. The main reason behind oppression is that the harijans and adivasis are landless. They have no other resources as well. The plight of the people, who neither own any piece of land nor have any other kind of resources, is well known. It is good that the new Government has resolved to introduce land reforms. It has resolved to make the tiller also owner of the land. But there are apprehensions in this connection because such resolves were made earlier also. The previous Government even celebrated one year as the year of the Land Reforms. But what are the facts? During the last 42 years 77 lakh acres of land was identified as surplus which could be distributed and out of it only 49 lakh acres of land was distributed. What were the reasons

behind it? The committees set up by the Government are of the opinion that land reforms are not being implemented properly because persons with vested interest are occupying positions in the Government who put obstacles in the process of distribution of land. But we have seen that where the Government is well-intentioned and committed land reforms are taking place.

West Bengal accounts for only 4 per cent of the total land available in the country. Still out of the total surplus land distributed in the country, 20 per cent has been distributed by the Left Front Government of the State. The Left Front Government of West Bengal has distributed 8.6 lakh acres of land and it has been distributed among the most backward sections of the rural poor. This matter should be given priority in the agenda of the new Government. Otherwise land reforms will not be implemented and the landless will remain without land and without resources and as Shri Sathe has stated we will continue to pass such resolutions for the next 500 years. But, we are trying to usher in fresh approach and establish new conventions so that the sins committed by the previous Government may be atoned.

The backward classes and the harijans are without any means of livelihood because they have neither the land nor any other source to earn their bread. They are tilling the land owned by the people. There are 5 1/2 crore of landless labourers in the country. But there are no laws for the protection of their rights. They do not even enjoy the right to life. Except some places where they are organised and there is mass upsurge to support their cause, the agricultural labourers are not able to raise their voice and in case they demand means of livelihood, atrocities are committed on them and their wives are raped, huts are set on fire and they are killed. There are 5.50 crore agricultural labourers in the country, safeguarding their interests should also be major responsibility of our new Government. There is another way out to ensuring social justice. In this connection efforts should be made to strengthen the Panchayat System. There

[Smt. Subhashini Ali]

are certain people who display eloquence in favour of Panchayati Raj but the fact is that Panchayat elections have not been held for the past 18 years in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The attempts were made in this way to destroy grass-root level democracy. Whenever Panchayats have been strengthened, improvements have been noticed. Efforts were made to strengthen the Panchayat system in Karnataka and West Bengal and in these States it has been observed that when a member of harijan and other deprived sections is elected as a Sarpanch, a sense of self-respect and enhanced social status is generated with the result that the oppressed people gain confidence and get encouragement to seek social justice. Therefore, strengthening of the Panchayat Raj System and making it realistic fruitful should get top priority under the new Government.

The fourth aspect is education. Education is a major instrument for ensuring social justice. The indifferent attitude of our previous Government towards education is evident from the fact that only 2 per cent of the total Budget allocation was provided for education and the result is that 80 per cent of the people of this country are illiterate. If the position is reviewed, it will be found that the majority of the illiterates are harijans and adivasis. However, State Government of Kerala spends 45 per cent of its budget outlay on education and Government of West Bengal allocates 23 per cent for this purpose. Education has been made free upto 12th class and there is no discrimination on the basis of caste etc. The new Government must also pay due attention in this direction. It is not necessary to impart the Doon School type of exclusive education. On the other hand, what we need is to concentrate on imparting education to the maximum number of deprived people. To make due provision in this regard should be a major priority of the new Government. So far as the adivasis are concerned, their pitiable condition is known to everybody. They are being assaulted from all sides. The corrupt officers, the moneylenders, the forest contractors

and forest officials do not consider them as human beings and ill-treat them. The rape of adivasi women has become an everyday affair. The adivasis, who are lords of the forests, are not allowed entry into the forests today and they are no longer able to draw sustenance from the forest produce. Adivasis are facing attacks from all sides. Attacks are being made not merely on their lives but a heinous conspiracy is being hatched to destroy their culture and life-style. Under such circumstance if an explosive situation is created, it will not be surprising. What is the proper solution in these circumstances? The Government will have to make them masters of their lives and ensure that their basic needs are satisfied. In Tripura, such an attempt was made in that direction and an autonomous council for the tribals was constituted there when the Leftist Government was there in power. The tribals of Tripura were given the power to frame their own laws for the preserving their culture. But the present autocratic Government of Tripura is dealing with the people of that State with highhandedness and continues to retain the reigns of power in its hands but the most inimical thing, which has been done by this Government against the tribals, is its attempt to dissolve the autonomous tribal council and harm the unity of the tribals and the non-tribals. An 80 year old woman was raped there. You would have never heard such a thing before. Tribal women are raped there by the Government officials and the police. Is this is way to make them progress? We will have to think over it. It is also essential that an autonomous council is constituted for the tribals in the predominantly tribal areas and its entire control is given in their hands. I am sure that the new Government will take steps in that direction.

In the end I would like to say that a new wind is blowing in the whole country on the issue of this amendment which has been introduced here in the House today. Here, as the members of this House, we are talking of reservation but outside this House, there are anti-reservation agitations taking place in various parts of the country. There are various factors underlying these agitation. One

reason may be misunderstanding and the other reason may be that people have been misled or misguided. It was only yesterday that we heard some people here claiming accolades for gracefully handing over the reigns of government. But this fact is that they have become impatient after having last power and now they are trying to stage a come back some has or the other.

Certain Members of this House referred to the speeches of some persons. But I would like to submit that the former member from my constituency, who was also General Secretary of the All India Congress (I), said it not in his speech but released a statement to the Press that now reservations on social basis were no more necessary. Any reservation in this country should be made not on the basis of caste but on economic basis.

If a senior leader of all India level makes such an irresponsible statement, we will all have to bear its consequences. But the most vital factor, which is mainly responsible for this anti-reservation movement, is the problem of terrible unemployment this country is facing today. Today there are 3 crore unemployed youths in our country who are registered with the Employment Exchanges. There are 13 crore other youths in the rural and urban areas who are without employment. However it is a welcome statement by the present Government that they are going to include the right to work in our Fundamental Rights. We welcome this step of the Government. This is a right step in the right direction but it needs to be made effective. The unemployed have to be provided employment. The employment opportunities should be increased to the optimum level so that anti-social elements may not take exploit the situation and get an opportunity to incite the youth.

Madam Chairman, with these words I conclude and once again welcome the introduction of this Bill.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is time for taking up Private Member's Business. The

Parliamentary Affairs Minister will make a suggestion.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Madam Chairman, I would like to take the opinion of the House about this Bill. Originally we wanted to take the voting today itself, but after consultation with various Party Leaders, the suggestion is that we will have the voting at 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday. On that day we will have only one hour for discussion, that is, from twelve to one and one to two will be the Lunch hour. Some of that one hour time will be taken by the Minister for his reply and so very little time will be left on Tuesday for discussion as such. There are a large number of Members who want to speak. If the House agrees, after the Private Member's Business, we can continue the Government Business from 6.00 p.m. onwards for an hour or one-and-a half hours to enable some more Members to speak. One or two Members can speak on Tuesday and after that the Minister will reply. The vote can be taken at 2.00 p.m. Madam, you can take the opinion of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope the House agrees to this proposal.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has made a proposal which, under the circumstances, I think, is more practicable than trying to finish the whole thing today. But, in that case, I would request that the next speaker—normally in the order of speakers it would be from my party, Shri Bhogendra Jha—may kindly be allowed to speak on Tuesday. It will not be possible for him to speak today after 6.00 p.m., because he has to go away for some other work. Earlier, we were told that the whole thing would be over by 3.30 p.m.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Those parties who have not spoken today, can be given turns on Tuesday. But those who are repeating, that is the second and the third speakers from the same party can be asked to speak after 6.00 p.m. That would be fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we begin the Private Members' Business now and after it is finished at 6.00 p.m., we shall resume the discussion.

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West): No, no, we cannot agree to that. After 6.00 p.m. you can speak and you can continue the House with your Members, we have no objection.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: After all the Parties have finished, then one by one repetition will come. We follow the same procedure now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we have to take up Private Member's Business.

15.35 hrs.

RESOLUTION REGARDING CONVERSION OF NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY LINES INTO BROAD GAUGE IN VIDARBHA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before we take up the Resolution of Shri Sudam Deshmukh, we have to fix the time for this resolution. Shall we fix 2 hours? I think all are agreeable to this.

I call upon Shri Sudam Deshmukh to move his resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDAM DATTATRYA DESHMUKH (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"This House takes serious note of the fact that about 250 kms. of narrow gauge railway track is still under private ownership in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and urges upon the Government to nationalise the same

and to take immediate steps for the conversion of all narrow gauge railway lines in the region into broad gauge for its rapid development."

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order please. Please be seated and please do not go on talking. This is also his maiden speech in the shape of speaking on his Resolution. I appeal to the Members to be quiet and let the business of the House proceed quietly.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDAM DATTATRYA DESHMUKH (Amravati): The resolution which I have moved in this House has been the issue on the basis of which the people have elected me. This issue has been a burning problem of my constituency. The railway line I am talking about, is in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and connects Barar. This is the region of black soil, which is most suitable for growing cotton. This railway line was constructed to export cotton from this region to Lancashire in Britain as the Civil War broke out in America, resulting in stoppage of export of cotton to Britain. With a view to facilitate export of cotton the State of Barar was taken over by the Britishers. But later on no attention was paid to this railway line, rather its condition was made miserable. Instead of bringing about some improvements some of its wheels were dismantled and sent to Africa to help in the war operations there and the stations in the region were also closed down. Shri Antulay, who spoke yesterday, had declared in the Maharashtra state Assembly that he would be going to England to bring back to India the *Bhawani* sword of Shivaji Maharaj lying in a museum in England. I was also a Member of the State Assembly and I had requested to him to bring the wheels of the railway bogeys also along with the sword. Madam, this train covers a distance of 50 kilometres only but takes 6 hours to cover it. In this age of high speed vehicles, its speed is so slow that

even a cycle rider can beat it. There is no factory for manufacturing its engine and the day these engines go out of order, this train will have to be hauled with the help of bullocks. The situation in the present decade of 80s is such that people in Delhi are moving on flyovers, Calcuttans are travelling in the Metros and Bombayites are thinking of constructing a tunnel in the sea. But it is surprising that even today after independence we are having this slow train in our region and it continues to be owned by a British Company, viz. Killick & Co. although it is a core sector. The railways give this company an amount of Rs. 10 lakh every year. Why do we pay this amount? All the things are managed by the Central Railway. After all what has been done by the owners of this company because they have not provided any facility of platform, drinking water or the ticket checking staff? Moreover, the trains also start late and even its terminus is not definite. Why these had the arrangement with this company not been discontinued despite such a miserable condition of its services and why we have been made to bear with all the problems? It is beyond my comprehension as to why Government is paying an amount of Rs. 5-10 lakh to this company? The Railway Board had taken a policy decision that conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines would be given top priority, but nothing has been done so far in this regard. None of the railway ministers have even cared about it because they concentrated on the provision of broad gauge lines in their own constituencies and we were left to bear with the narrow gauge.

AN. HON. MEMBER: Prof. Dandavate was also the Minister of Railways.

SHRI SUDAM DATTATRYA DESHMUKH: I am not talking of only Prof. Dandavate but of all the Railway Ministers. What I mean to say is that since there was no pressure on the Government, no conversion of this railway line was undertaken by them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, why is it that today we are denied even the basic amenities? We have repeatedly raised this issue in the

Maharashtra Assembly but it is regretted that although the Maharashtra Government had recommended to the Central Government time and again, the conversion of this railway line was not included in the list of priority. There also pressure works. Therefore, it is high time to discontinue that train. We demand only 2 things. My first demand is that this route should be nationalised and the rolling stock of Killick and Co. should be placed in the museum. Shri George Fernandes should take initiative and credit for doing it. I feel that the process of nationalisation should be expedited because without if the conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge line is not possible. Therefore, I appeal and request all the hon. Members to plead with the hon. Minister of Railways for the conversion of the narrow gauge line into broad gauge line.

Our district is the largest cotton growing area. In spite of its being a district, it does not have the facility of train or reservation. I do not know as to which railway administration is responsible for this situation and why it is doing so? Is that train worth being called a train? Though I have all praise for Madhav Rao Scindia but he concentrated on facilities in Guna. Anyway, I do not want to delve on that issue.

What I mean to say is that in view of all these things, the Government should think of the nationalisation of this route and I hope that a declaration to this effect will be made in the House. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Resolution moved:

"This House takes serious note of the fact about 250 kms. of narrow gauge railway track is still under private ownership in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and urges upon the Government to nationalise the same and to take immediate steps for the conversion of all narrow gauge railway lines in the region into broad gauge for its rapid development."

SHRI MAHADEO RAO SHIWANKAR
(Chimur): I beg to move:

That in the resolution,—

after "lines in the region"

insert ", e.g., Jabaipur-Gondia-Chan-
drapur railway line," (1)

That in the resolution,—

add at the end—

"and work on this should start latest by
April 1, 1990." (2)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak later.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Ber-
hampur): Madam Chairperson, I am indeed
grateful for this opportunity granted to me in
connection with my saying a few words for
the conversion of the "Parlakhemundi Light
Railway which is the style for the narrow-
gauge section now existing between
Naupada-Parlakhemundi-Gunupur in the
South-Eastern Railway.

In continuation of our hon. Member Shri
Sudam Deshmukh's plea for the conversion
of all the narrow-gauge sections in the coun-
try into broad-gauge, this specific issue of
the conversion of the existing line between
Naupada-Parlakhemundi—Gunupur is much
awaited and and it is a long-felt need. This
particular stretch of railway line of 91 Kms.
length was laid by the late Shri Krishna
Chandra Gajapathi who happened to be my
grand-father and also the first Chief Minister
of the State of Orissa. This railway line which
was laid and completed in the 1930s cost a
private individual like him fairly a sizeable
outlay of Rs. 75 lakhs. Now, with the consid-
erable increase in the population of that area
as well as the increase in goods traffic the
existing narrow-gauge railway line hardly
meets the present day requirements and
demands. Hence, the conversion of this
narrow-gauge section into a broad-gauge
has been expected by the people of that
underdeveloped region of Ganjam District

who are predominantly poor tribals.

Secondly, if this Naupada-Par-
lakhemundi-Gunupur Section, after conver-
sion into that of broad-gauge, is extended by
approximately another 50 Kms. length to the
industrial town of Rayagada, it will form an
ideal loop-line particularly for goods traffic
movement from the Western Regions as
well as the industrial town of Rayagada to
the Paradip Port in Orissa State. At present,
the situation is that all the goods traffic from
Western Orissa particularly from the indus-
trial town of Rayagada is transported by the
Raipur-Vizianagaram line and generally for
proximity reasons it floods the already busy
port of Visakhapatnam, thereby delaying
maritime cargo transportation. So, if this
alternative proposed loopline is constructed,
most of the goods traffic can be diverted by
this loopline to the not much used Paradeep
Port in Orissa and that also would involve a
saving of at least 200 kms. in freight.

To sum up, I would urge and appeal to
our hon. Railway Minister and the Ministry of
Railways, Government of India, to actively
consider this much felt and long awaited
need of the conversion of the Parlakhemundi
light railway section and also the extension
of the section from Gunupur to Rayagada for
reasons which will help mainly the tribals of
that region and also help the development of
the generally under-developed district of
Ganjam.

I am again most grateful for being
granted this wonderful opportunity and would
finally conclude by saying that this benevo-
lent act of the Government of India would
greatly help the tribals and the down-trodden
of the under-developed district of Ganjam.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV
(Sitamarhi): Madam, God has endowed me
with a voice powerful enough to reach every
corner.

The Resolution moved by the hon.
Member for discussion in the House relates

to a particular region only. I have the same problem as he has. My problem can also be solved if hon. Shri George Fernandes gives me a bit of his attention. Like the Vidharba region, the Kosi Gandak area of Bihar, from where I and hon. Shri Bhogendra Jha come, is also very backward. Places where the people are affluent and good looking, have adequate food, clothing and shelter, own fertile land and reap rich harvest, the railways run efficient train services with beautiful coaches and where the people are not good looking, poor and hopeless, have no land of their own and suffer from natural calamities like flood and drought, the bogies of the trains are worn out and dilapidated and sometimes even without a roof. At other places trains derails or overturns in an accident but I come from an area where an entire train plunged into the river due to a storm. This happened near Saharsa. From this incident we can make out the condition of the coaches, the track and the bridges. A former hon. Railway Minister made political capital out of laying the foundation stones of new projects, flagging off new trains and sanctioning conversions of meter gauge lines into broad gauge ones. But in physical terms nothing was done. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to get the matter looked into as to why his predecessor did not complete the projects. It does not matter whether the foundation stone of the project was laid by his predecessor or a former Railway Minister or a late Railway Minister, the Janata Dal Government should fulfill all the promises made by the Railways. The matter relating to the construction of a broad-gauge line between Samastipur and Darbhanga is pending. Hon. Shri Bhogendra Jha and I have been agitating for this every year. Members belonging to all parties, particularly the Leftist, have gone to jail for acceptance of their demands. Late Shri Lalit Narain Mishra was killed in a bomb explosion at Samastipur railway station. He had a dream that there should be a broad-gauge line from Samastipur to Jayanagar via Darbhanga. After his death, that project has remained incomplete. There is a broad-gauge line upto Samastipur and further on it is metre-gauge. The people face lot of prob-

lems on this account. The Government should have a uniform policy for the entire country and not for Vidarbha alone. Science has made tremendous progress, satellites have been launched but when we travel by train in North Bihar, we feel as if we have gone back to pre-bullock cart age. You never know when and where the engine will fail or the coach will derail, collapse and the passengers will be thrown off the track. Efforts should be made to provide an efficient railway system in that area. In Bihar a private company was running a train service between Arrah and Sasaram. But now that track has been removed. The Government should consider this also. The metre-gauge line between Fatuha and Islampur should also be converted into broad-gauge. Factors like the area being a place of tourist interest, a centre of pilgrimage for Jains and venue for world famous fairs, should also be taken into account. I request the hon. Railway Minister to convert metre-gauge lines into broad gauge in Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Nirmali and Jayanagar. Hon. Minister of Railways, Shri George Fernandes has said that gauge conversion of one kilometre of railway line entails an expenditure of Rs. 75 lakh. I have never said that the expenditure would be any less. The Government has the necessary funds, so let them be spent on the development of backward and flood-prone areas. Why should an efficient railway system be limited to cities like Bombay, Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi or Calcutta? Why should the scope of developmental expenditure be limited to the people of these cities alone? People living in backward areas, for whom the railways are the means to transport their agricultural produce to the Mandi to get remunerative price also have a right to share the funds of the exchequer. If they do have this right, a sound railway system should be provided to them also.

The late Shri Lalit Narain Mishra approved the construction of the Sakri-Hasanpur railway line for which land was acquired without payment of compensation. Our land which provided us food and clothing and was our only source of livelihood was taken away and ultimately the project did not

[Sh. Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

progress beyond earth work. Can there be a greater crime than this? So now it becomes the responsibility of the present Railway Minister, who has gone to jail several times while leading agitations with us. Today he has the opportunity to fulfil the demands that he once raised himself. He should make good use of the position he is in today and complete all the pending projects.

Then there is the case of Sitamarhi which is a place of religious, cultural and historical significance as it is the birth place of Sita. Sitamarhi is visited by people from all over the world but the railway facilities there are deplorable. The Railways are spending crores of rupees on modernisation of railway stations. Since Sitamarhi is an important place on the railway network from the point of view of tourism, I request the hon. Railway Minister to modernize the Sitamarhi railway station. Facilities like retiring rooms for passengers do not exist there at present. I hope the hon. Minister will not allow Sitamarhi railway station to continue to be a picture of neglect.

Thirdly, Bihar is a border State. Therefore, the construction of the railway line starting from Samastipur and passing along the border via Jayanagar and Mirmali to Sitamarhi should be undertaken. From Sitamarhi the line should be connected with Raxaul. The work on the Bagaha-Chhitauni railway bridge on this line should be completed.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

16.00 hrs.

There was an agitation for the construction of this bridge which the hon. Minister had himself led. We had launched an agitation under his leadership in Gorakhpur. May I know from the hon. Railway Minister whether the Bagaha-Chhitauni railway bridge will be completed or not?

I am reminding the hon. Railway Minis-

ter Shri George Fernandes here in this august House that he should fulfill the promises that he has made to the people. This will link Forbesganj, Nirmali, Jayanagar and Sitamarhi. If the Bagaha-Chhitauni railway line is made operational, Varanasi will be linked with the border area of Bihar. This area is also strategic from the point of view of security. There are no motorable roads there. So a railway network is a must for these backward areas.

The hon. Member's Resolution relates to a particular region only. But this issue has a wider scope. Railways are to our country what arteries and veins are to the human body. Railways have a major role to play in the country's economic development. If we are to strengthen our economy, we must formulate a programme to strengthen our railway system. This is what I want to say to the hon. Railway Minister.

A number of trains have been cancelled in our area under the influence of the bus-owners on the members of ruling party. A number of them are very close to the leaders of the opposition. Trains were cancelled to allow the bus operators to earn profits. I would request you that the train from Hajipur to Narkatiaganj should be immediately restored.

You have visited Maniharighat where many people lost their lives because of sinking of a steamer. As regards payment of compensation to the victims, nothing has been done by the Railway Department so far. The owner of the steamer has also not been punished. Why did he operate a defective steamer? The people lost their lives because of the arrogance of the steamer owner and the officials. The guilty should be given rigorous punishment. They should not go scot free.

You should exercise the same force in issuing orders which you display in your speech in a public meeting. You are a disciple of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He always emphasised that there should be no difference in profession and practice. You should

show the firmness of your voice in your action also as Minister of Railways. It is only then, people will realise that you mean what you say.

PROF. MAHADEO RAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have moved an amendment regarding the conversasion of Jabalpur-Gondia-Chandrapur narrow gauge line into broad gauge, the work on this line should be started from April, 1990. The Chandrapur-Gondia-Jabalpur line was commissioned in 1895 but it has not been completed so far. There are derailments and accidents which results in the loss of life and property of the people. Two and a half years ago, the railway culvert collapsed and fell into the river in Balaghat district. Hundreds of people were killed at that time. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the history of this line. This railway line passes through Mahaj Khand, where there are copper mines, Bhandara district, which produces bamboos and timber and Balaghat district, which abounds in manganese ore and links Chandrapur District which gives us coal and wood. Sir, this entire area is backward. It is a Scheduled Tribe dominated area. The train takes 32 hours to cover the entire distance of approximately 47 kms. You can very well imagine from this as to how much time is wasted. If this line is converted into broad gauge, this line which links the central India with Andhra Pradesh will run diagonally thereby reducing the distance by 200 kms. So, it is very important to convert it into broad gauge. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this line starts from a place near Jabalpur-Balaghat which is a famous place in India and run along the Kanha National Park and Chandrapur National Park. This is an important National Park of the country. A survey of this railway line upto Gondia-Jabalpur was conducted during the Janata regime in 1978-79. During the last ten years, nothing has been done in this regard. So, first of all, the survey work of the remaining sketch of Jabalpur-Gondia-Chandrapur railway line should be taken up immediately.

Sir, this railway line is in very bad shape. I would like to submit in this regard that there

is a station named Gondumari on this line. Sometime back orders were given that a halt should be provided there in place of the station, which should be closed. I contacted the Minister of Railways in this regard and I was assured that the railway station will continue. I have written him a letter also. I would like to thank him for a good beginning. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rich deposits of copper and manganese available in these tribal and backward areas can be exploited, if this railway line is immediately converted into broad gauge line. Sir, this is my basic amendment. From April 1990, the work should be started on the railway line and the survey work should also be taken up immediately. Allocation should be made in the Budget for this railway line. I hope that the House will adopt this Amendment. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I propose to be very very brief. Mr. George Fernandes is the Railway Minister and Mr. Madhu Dandavate is the Finance Minister in the Union Government of India now. My constituency Latur had an opportunity to receive them and hear their views on turning the narrow-gauge railways into broad-gauge railways. I was told that they had emphasised on turning the narrow-gauge railway which goes from Latur to Mirag into the broad-gauge railway.

Now they have the authority to see that their demands are turned into realities. My request, therefore, is that this demand of the people may be considered favourably and the narrow-gauge railway may be turned into the broad-gauge. My request is that they should not now put forward any excuse not to do it.

The Government of Maharashtra has agreed to extend a helping hand in this matter. Some other steps also can be taken to raise some funds for these purposes. The land with the railways can be auctioned to raise the funds. The land at Latur is very costly and a few crores of rupees can be

[Sh. Shivraj V. Patil]

raised for this purpose by auctioning the land. This matter can be considered carefully and an appropriate decision can be taken. It may be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan and enough funds may be set aside for this purpose. There is a demand to provide a railway line through this district connecting Aurangabad to Parali also. This also may be taken up. There are the only points which I want to make.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore):

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I take this opportunity just for a few minutes to draw the attention of my old friend, the Railway Minister to an anomalous position which exists in the suburban network of Railways based in Calcutta. He is familiar, perhaps, more with Bombay than with Calcutta. But he knows that it is a declared policy of the Railway Board and the Railway Administration to see that the sub urban network of Railways around these big cities is electrified so as to help the tens and thousands of daily commuters who come to the cities to earn their livelihood, whether for jobs in factories or offices or whether they are vendors who are carrying fruits and vegetables and other perishable commodities to the cities everyday. Unless they are provided with electrified train services, you can understand the great difficulty that arises. In Calcutta, there are Eastern and South-eastern Railways electrified services operating all round the city reaching out to 80 to 100 kms. in various directions. But one essential part of this area, which runs from Calcutta to Basirhat, which was my former constituency, that is from Sealdah station to Basirhat, which stretches to about 45 kms. remains unelectrified. And this is the line which serves the whole of Sunderbans region of West Bengal. After Basirhat there is no way of proceedings further because there is no road. Let alone Railways, there is no road. They are all rivers. It is nothing but water. Across the river is the border of Bangladesh. So, in a sense, it is our national border also. But this stretch from Sealdah to Basirhat has never been electrified. I have

been raising this matter for the last ten years in this House and bringing it to the attention of the Government in various ways. There was lot of agitation by the people of that area also but we have not succeeded. Thousands of people have to come to Calcutta daily. From the Sunderbans, they have to come by boat, by rivers, up to Basirhat and then travel to Calcutta. But there are no electric trains. There is only one through train. In the morning, there is one through train running from Basirhat to Calcutta and in the evening there is one through train returning from Calcutta to Basirhat which is totally inadequate to cope up with the traffic. Thousand of people, commuters are put to great inconvenience because this train which is there is a very very slow train. We have suggested to the Eastern Railway Administration that if they cannot electrify this section immediately, they can at least increase the number of trains. They were saying that it will cost a lot of money and there is no money and so on. Instead of one train, even if there are two trains either way, that will help the factory-goers, office-goers and other people immensely. But even that is not done on the plea that there are no diesel engines available. I do not what to take up the time. I do not expect Mr. Fernandes to give a reply immediately as to what they can do. But I want him to look into this problem which has been raised so many times. Unnecessarily traffic is being drawn away from the Railways to the road traffic. It is the buses, tempos, matador vans and all sorts of privately owned road vehicles which are drawing away all the traffic because there is no way for the people to travel. But if the railways were electrified and the services were increased, then it would be helpful for the railways revenues also. But the main point is that the people living in this region, who are all based in Calcutta for their livelihood would be greatly benefited and they would not have to spend hours and hours in coming and going which is an impossible business—when any big city is involved, as he knows from his experience in Bombay.

I would request him to look into this matter and see that something is done for the benefit of the people there.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh, and the feelings behind it, that the narrow gauge lines should be converted into broad gauge and that the private ownership should be abolished.

Sir, there are a number of narrow gauge lines in Bihar which have not yet been taken over by the Government. When we are making strides in development, it is really strange that the private Rail Companies have been allowed to continue and loot the people. These companies should be taken over and it will be a justified step. In this regard, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards my constituency Kodarma in Bihar where a 294 km. long railway line from Giridih to Ranchi via Kodarma is pending clearance by the Government since 1977. A traffic potential and mechanical survey was got conducted by the then Minister of Railways, Shri Madhu Dandavate. An expenditure of Rs. 18 lakh was incurred on this project. The conclusion of the survey was that the line should be laid because it would provide railway link to four districts of Santhal Pargana, Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Giridih. Besides, this area is predominantly inhabited by the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and other backward classes. They are disappointed and agitated over the lack of transport facilities as no concrete step has been taken by the Government in this regard during these last 42 years. They have resorted to agitation, roads were blocked and trains were detailed. It was assured by both the Ex-Prime Ministers Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi in a public meeting that Hazaribagh will be provided a railway line. Even the post-graduate youths here do not know what is a train, as they haven't seen a train. Hazaribagh is a commissioner's headquarter but it has not been linked with the railway line. This is a neglected and backward area. This belt is rich in minerals like coal, iron, manganese and mica which can be exploited for the benefit of the country and the State. I regret to say that such a State which is so rich in mineral deposit is being neglected. A railway line is necessary in this area and the plan involving an expenditure of

Rs. 262.47 lakhs for this line prepared by the Railway department and Government is not being implemented on the pretext of financial constraints. It should be given priority.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Dumka will also be linked with this railway line. God forbid, if there is an accident any time, the railway service can continue through grand cord line via Ranchi. This railway line is very important from this point of view also. It was assured by three Prime Ministers in the public meeting at Hazaribagh that this railway line will be paid at the earliest. The forty lakh people have been befooled.

More than 1.5 crores of people, of these four districts, who have been given step motherly treatment till now, will be benefited by this. Railway lines in Bihar were laid during the British period and since then no further expansion has been made. During last 42 years of independence, they have been given step-motherly treatment. It has been the history of Congress Government that all Railway Ministers provided rail facilities to the areas from which they hailed. While doing so they did not pay any attention to the fact that other people of the country had also a right to get similar facilities. This kind of discrimination should also be looked into. Secondly, it is a tribal belt and tribal dominated area. From this point of view, it would be unfair on the part of bureaucrats to say that the railway line in the area is not economically viable. These are the reasons why the people in tribal belt are resorting to agitation. The Government should look into this demand and ensure that the provision for the construction of this line is made in the next Budget. We have given assurance to the people that the new Government will definitely provide this new railway line. It will have positive impact on Jharkhand agitation. If new railway line from Dumka to Ranchi is constructed, there will be about thirty new Railway stations which will generate employment opportunities for the people and in every Railway Station 2000 persons can get self employment. In this way, it will benefit the poor. Therefore, I would request the Railway Minister to ensure that provision for it is made in the Budget.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD (Bansgaon): My point of order is that the Resolution has limited scope.

[English]

It is limited to Maharashtra and Vidharba.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. We will take care of it.

[Translation]

PROF. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Let others place their point of view. Please listen to views of other is also.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Sudan Deshmukh in connection with conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. It is an important line as stated by the mover of the Resolution and this line though it is an important link has not yet been nationalised. So, this line needs to be nationalised first and then this important link of 250 kms. should be converted into a broad gauge. This will facilitate a link between the two broad gauge sections.

So, this important line is to be first nationalised and then the conversion of this narrow gauge line should be taken up.

There are a number of narrow gauge lines in Indian Railways. Even, there are a number of lines whose management has been taken over but those lines have not yet been nationalised. There was one Committee which was constituted long back called National Transport Policy Committee. This committee had also made some recommendations for the conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge. Though the NTPC submitted its report long back, in 1980, its

recommendations for the conversion of narrow gauge lines, particularly the important sections, have not yet been implemented.

I come from one of the backward districts, viz. Purulia, where there is a narrow gauge line, viz. Purulia-Kotshila line, about 31 Kms. long. I have been demanding its conversion for the last ten years. This will facilitate a direct link between Purulia and Bokaro. The survey was done in 1984, and the estimated cost at that time was only Rs. 6 crores.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: (Guntur) Why should your Government not make some contribution?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We had also suggested that expenditure on the earth-work which might be required for the conversion of this line could be borne by the Zilla Parishad. That proposal was also made by the State Government, because out of the 31Kms., work has to be done only on 11 Kms. For 20 Kms., no work is necessary. By replacing the narrow gauge line, a broad gauge line can be laid. There is no major bridge work.

The estimate was made in 1984. Under the present costs and prices, I think the estimate will be double, viz. Rs.8 crores or Rs.10 crores or Rs. 12 crores. It was forwarded to the Planning Commission, but the Planning Commission rejected it twice. I do not know why.

This is quite a remunerative project. The return on the capital investment on this project is 10%. So, I urge upon the Railway Minister to see that this important project viz. the conversion of Purulia-Kotshila narrow gauge line is taken up during the 8th five-year Plan.

The other important railway lines are Ahmedpur-Katwah and Burdwan-Katwah.

These two narrow gauge lines are very important. There is one important line viz. Bankura-damodar River railway line which is in my constituency. The management of this railway line was taken over long back, in 1966. The management was taken over, but this railway line was not nationalized. This BDR railway line passes through rural Bengal, and this is a very important railway line. This line has not been nationalised, and it has not been converted. The passenger trains are still hauled by the age-old, over-aged steam engines.

The distance between Ahmedpur and Katwa is I think 20-25 kms. The distance between Burdwan and Katwa is also less than 30 kms and 104 kms is the distance between Bidia-Bankura-Damodar-River railway line. It is a very important narrow-gauge railway line. The distance between Purulia and Porsilla is 31 kms. These are the important four narrow-gauge railway lines of the State of West Bengal. These should be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The conversion of these four very important narrow-gauge railway lines into broad-gauge railway lines will facilitate the link with the other broad-gauge section. Railway line is an important infrastructure. It will help industrialisation of the area, the improvement of the economy of that area. So, I urge upon the Minister to see that these four important railway lines of the State of West Bengal should be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : (Ghosi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh. However, I request the hon. Minister, Shri George Fernandes to pay attention towards the submission made by Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav regarding backward areas. Both, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are backward States. Planning Commission has its own yardsticks

for rejecting the conversion of narrow gauge railway lines into broad gauge railway lines. If a proposal for conversion of metre-gauge line in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar is sent to the Planning Commission, it calls for the survey. Later on it is said that since it is not economically viable the conversion of narrow gauge into broad gauge cannot be done. What I want to say is that narrow gauge railway lines cannot become economically viable until they are converted into broad gauge lines. That is why sanction is not granted for conversion of various narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Bihar. Most of the proposals have been rejected by the Planning Commission on the ground that they are not economically viable.

I would like to thank Shri Lalit Narain Mishra for the conversion of largest narrow gauge line from Barabanki to Samastipur into broad gauge railway line, which has benefited crores of people in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

Our Railway Minister has undertaken intensive tours of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and is well aware of the backwardness of these areas. He has been elected thrice as Member of Parliament from Bihar. I hope that he would help in changing the attitude of the Planning Commission. So long as the attitude or the perspective of the Planning Commission is not changed, backwardness in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh cannot be removed. Shri Hegde has decided to grant Planning Commission a statutory status. He must take this decision soon. Shri Hegde and Shri Dandavate should sit together and decide about the conversion of these narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines. I would like to cite an example. The approval for the conversion of narrow gauge line from Bhatni to Varanasi into broad gauge line was accorded in 1976 both by the Planning Commission and the Railway Board. In 1976 the project was estimated to cost Rs.13 crores, which has now increased to Rs.80 crores.

[Sh. Kalpnath Rai]

Till now Rs.62 crores have been spent on it but it is still incomplete. What I want to say is that ongoing projects should be completed expeditiously and it should be ensured that the new projects taken up by the Government are completed within the estimated cost and the stipulated period. Railways are the life line of the country and 20 to 25 lakh employees of this organisation are well known to you. You have the beacon light of the labour movement in India. Therefore, you have to think as to how the labour force can be associated with the production and how the natural resources of the country can be exploited to make the country stronger. You have to take initiative in this direction and it will be possible only if a time bound programme is chalked out and concrete steps taken in this direction.

My second submission is about Chhitauni Bagha railway line about which the hon. Railway Minister has also given statement on several occasions. No other railway line is as important as this to connect Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Many agitations were launched for this purpose and thousands of social workers courted arrest. The completion of railway line will bring about a revolutionary change in the life of the people of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. In this connection, I have had meetings with Shri Dandavate as well as his predecessor. Shri Dandavate had ordered the survey of this line in 1978 but you know that without will power no work can be executed (*Interruptions*).

Thirdly, I would like to say that Mhow Shahganj narrow gauge line should be converted into broad gauge line because whenever a question of setting up of industries in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is raised to generate employment opportunities, the public sector and the industrialists both refuse to do so. They ask whether there is any broad gauge railway line and airport in that

area to transport the goods. In the same breath, they raise queries whether telecommunication facilities, electronic telephone exchange and other infrastructural facilities are available there or not. The first question they raise is about broad gauge railway line. Therefore, I would like to request that steps should be taken to convert narrow gauge railway line into broad gauge line in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh which are the most backward areas of the country and have the lowest per capita income.

[*English*]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): I am very happy that Mr. Deshmukh has brought this Resolution. I fully support the spirit of this Resolution. I am surprised to know that still a certain railway line is in the private sector. I hope that the Minister will look into it and also let us know why it is in the private sector still.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It has been a scandal.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU : I am happy that Prof. Ranga, an old veteran is agreeing with me. I will be very glad if he agree with my next request which I am going to make to the Minister in this forum. That is about conversion of narrow gauge and rail line to broad gauge its extension in my State.

Orissa is one of the poorest States in India, everybody knows it. In this poorest State Mayurbhanj is one of the poorest of districts, almost same as Kalahandi district or next to Kalahandi. There is a narrow gauge line known as Rupsa-Bangriposirail line in Mayurbhanj district in Orissa—which we have been trying to get converted into a broad gauge line and also to get it extended and connected with the main line from Bombay to Kharagpur. Now this railway line is running to a distance of about 50 KMs. The extension would be hardly about 40 KMs

more. If this is joined with Bombay-Kharagpur line, then all trains coming to Madras, Puri or Paradeep from Bombay side will save about 100 KMs. The goods trains carrying minerals from Orissa mines to Paradeep port can go by a route, which will be shorter by about 100 KMs. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the MMTC is paying Rs 20/- extra per tonne of iron ore for transporting it from Orissa mines to Paradeep because it goes in a circuitous route.

Sir, Orissa is one of the most backward States and we have to improve the economic condition of Orissa. This cannot be done without improving its communication and transport systems. My friend Mr. Bhagya Govardhan, an important Adivasi leader, who has come from Mayurbhanj joins with me and says that we must urge before the Government to convert this narrow gauge line and extend this railway line. The cost factor will be nominal because already a line is existing. You are taking out 90 pounds rail and some of the slippers from the main line because you are strengthening it to run fast trains. You are selling them to the contractors. These materials could be used in converting this narrow gauge line.

Another thing I would like to mention here is about the policy to be adopted in laying new lines. Unless you change the present policy of laying new railway lines, the backward State cannot be developed. The so called viability needed to construct new railway lines cannot be achieved by poorer states. Therefore, my suggestion is that where the per capita income is low or below the national average, where the per hectare and per capita railway line is less and the areas which are mostly inhabited by Adivasis, Harijans and backward people, priority should be given to lay railway line. In Orissa, 60 per cent of the people are Adivasis, Harijans and backward.

I am thankful to my friend Prof. Madhu

Dandavate, who as the Railway Minister during the Sixth Lok Sabha, prepared a blueprint for construction of this line. Had the Janata Government been there for another three months, he would have laid the foundation construction of the railway. But unfortunately the Janata Government failed and this railway line could not be constructed. I request the Railway Minister to bring out that blueprint from the cupboard wherein it is hidden and lay the foundation of this line within six months. I have been writing letters to our former Railway Minister Mr. Madhavrao Scindia. He never mention about the scheme or blue print which was prepared during the Janata period. For the construction of this line, in order to meet your financial difficulties, I assure you that I will give you 1,000 volunteers who will work free for about a month.... (*Interruptions*).

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Give a piece of land also.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: If it is necessary, we will give the land also. Kindly help us to get this line. I am reminded of one very important incident. Marshal Tito, who was the President of Yugoslavia went to the Belgrade University and exhorted the students and said: "I do not have money. Come and build the roads from the port to the capital". Years back when Yugoslavia was under threat of an attack from Soviet Russia, thousands came and built the roads. Here we will provide one thousand volunteers who will work free for about a month. Kindly announce the construction of this railway line and inaugurate the construction of this railway line also. While saying this, I will fail in my duty if I do not say about two or three matters in this connections Sambalpur-Cuttack railway line again has been made a show piece by the former Congress Government. They promised that this railway line will be completed within three or four years. But it has now been lingering for years and money is coming just in drops. Nothing

[Sh. Samarendra Kundu]

substantial has been done. This is one of the very important lines because it goes through one of the important arteries area of Orissa.

Mr. Ghani Khan Choudhary built a railway line upto Diga in West Bengal which is only two KMs away from Orissa border. The distance between Diga and Jaleswar on Orissa side is 40 KMs and the traffic is heavy in this sector. People squeeze themselves into buses and even travel on the roofs of buses. The people of Orissa want that the line upto Diga should be extended upto Jaleswar. I have also written to the Minister about it. If these three things are done to begin with, we will think that an achievement has been made by the Railway Ministry and therefore we wish whole-heartedly all well to the Railway Minister. The hon. Minister is an able leader, a visionary and a man of action who can actually get things done. We expect quick results from him.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Railway Minister's job is a difficult one. Whenever a discussion on Railways is held, every hon. Member wants to draw the attention of the Railway Minister. Similarly, through this Resolution I also take this opportunity to draw the attention of Shri Fernandes towards the problems of my area.

Sir, now almost all of our hon. Friends have made their points for laying new railway lines or converting the narrow gauge lines into broad gauge lines in the backward areas. My friend, Shri Kalpnath Rai has made a strong point that the Planning Commission takes economic viability as a criterion for laying new lines and due to this the backward areas continue to remain economically

backward. Economically activity is in a very low key in the backward areas. As a result of this the work of laying new railway lines in the backward areas does not progress.

Consequently, States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which are densely populated have to suffer. The former Railway Ministers belonging to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh adopted an impartial outlook in the matter of laying new railway lines and their conversion. They tried to rise above regionalism. That is why these two States have below average network of railway lines despite being thickly populated and vast in area. I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Railways that we are prepared to land strong support to him, if he vigorously pursued our case with the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister. If you do this, believe me you will become a hero amongst us. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan was just now saying that you also launched agitations for these lines and went to jail a number of times. If you fail to complete these lines even now, we shall have to face difficult times. I was telling somebodys that by the time you relinquish the office of the Railway Minister all your hair might turn grey.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already he is having grey hair.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : There are still some black hair in between.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today our criteria should be to identify those areas where railway lines are needed most and these areas should be developed. The Government has made negligible allocation for the areas which are rich in natural resources. They are not being utilised fully in the national interest. This is because I feel the transport system is in a very backward stage.

I would urge you to plead our cause. Believe me, majority of the hon. Members in the House would plead the cause with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, not even a single new railway line has been provided in about six districts in my Parliamentary constituency and the state of affairs is the same as the Britishers had left. We made earnest efforts, and with great difficulty got the survey work of two railway lines completed during the days of Shri Ghani Khan Choudhury and Shri Madhavrao Scindia. I request that funds may be provided to conduct survey on Tanakpur-Ghat Bageshwar and Ram Nagar-Mikiasen-Chaukhutia railway lines. As soon as the survey work is completed the Planning Commission should be asked to give permission for the construction work so that our hopes are not belied by the Government.

Secondly, my hon. friend, Shri Pal who comes from Nainital may be aware that the foundation stone of Rampur-New Haldwani railway line which is in his constituency had been laid by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi. There is great pleasure on him now. Hon. Member! when I am pleading your case, why are you worried. Since you will not say anything in this regard, I am pleading your case. I am sitting in front of you. I am making a point on your behalf. The construction work on Rampur-New Haldwani Railway line has started. Our Government had sanctioned Rs.5 crores for this work. Now it is a challenge for the ruling party during the 1990-91 financial year. To begin with, you need at least Rs.10 crores for this work as you have made big promises during the election. If it is not possible to do so, at least enhance the amount by 1 1/2 times to save your face. At least Rs. 7.5 crores must be allocated so that half of the railway line is completed. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate your problem. Several hon. friends want to speak. Hence, I conclude here and extend my support to the

Resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH(Lucknow): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to Shri Deshmukh, who brought forward this Resolution and provided not only to me but also to several other hon. Members of this House, an opportunity to be posted with some information. I was not aware that railways still existed in the private sector. I also hail from the same area about which Shri Kalpnath Rai was saying:-

[*English*]

about the most populous part of the country, that is, Eastern U.P. and Bihar. But why forget Orissa and Bengal?

[*Translation*]

The discussion started from the problems of Maharashtra and Shri Rawat through his amendment extended it upto the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh. As a matter of fact, the entire House is grateful to Shri Deshmukh who, by raising this vital issue through his Resolution, provided all of us an opportunity to raise their problems, whether it was about perishable commodities of Calcutta, as mentioned by comrade Indrajit Gupta or other things referred to by Shri Kalpnath Rai and others. I would not like to go into details. It is my sacred duty to express by thanks to him. Secondly, I hope the hon. Minister of Railways, who was associated with us in several labour movements and has participated in many agitations for laying new railway lines and dismantling also will understand the problem.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: It was just a slip of tongue.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH : This much is permissible in Parliamentary etiquette. He was instrumental in dismantling the railway lines and he organised strikes in the Rail-

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

ways. Fortunately, today he is in charge of the department. Hence, I can call him both a comrade and an hon. Minister. Now, I hope he would tell us the reasons why people like us to remain in dark? What is the conspiracy behind it. In my childhood I heard the railways being referred to as East Indian Railway Company. I also heard the name of B.N.W.R. which used to be the private company of the Britishers. I thought that it was the Martin company. I saw in Bihar that the narrow gauge line constructed by the Burn and Martin Company was dismantled. Was it possible to nationalise it? The railway lines passing through Arah and Patna have been dismantled. It is only now that I come to know that many areas in the country still have no railway line or have narrow gauge lines only. I came to know all these things from several hon. Members. Unfortunately, no hon. Member from the south has stood up. I knew about the Nizam Railway only in the South. When a railway accident took place in the south and Shastriji resigned. I came to know that railways were there in the South in the private sector also. If the information is incomplete the hon. Minister should collect information in this regard and inform us. He should also let us know as to how many railway lines are there in the private sector and how many foreign companies have been given a free hand to exploit country's economy in this sector and how much capital have they invested in it? As regards the broad gauge lines, Shri Kalpnath Rai has made a point about the economic viability. This wooden headed phraseology was a creation of the Britishers. At the time of laying railway lines, they did not take the economic viability into consideration. They had laid the railway lines just to enslave the country and move their troops from north to south. Today the Government is a welfare Government and it wants to do welfare of the people. Hence this Parliament will not allow the Planning Commission to put forward the

argument of economic viability. Shri Rawat said that the entire House is with you and you lead us. The point of economic viability comes up when plans are formulated in terms of population, territory, economic needs and aspirations. The hon. Minister of Finance has also come. I would like to tell him also that economic viability is a wooden headed question. Our new Minister is very dynamic. He would liberate the system from the grips of bureaucracy and take effective steps for setting up a welfare state in accordance with the people's aspirations. The entire House will lend its support to Shri George to accomplish this task.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Sir, the discussion in the House which started from the question of nationalisation of a narrow gauge railway line, has proliferated to railways in each and every state. Several hon. Members spoke on the subject. From the discussion on a small railway line, the matter culminated in discussing the entire gamut of the railways. A lot has been said about metre gauge and narrow gauge lines. But I shall restrict myself to Jammu and Kashmir. The hon. Minister of Railways is aware that the last rail head is Jammu and it did not move any further. The construction work of Jammu-Udhampur railway line, a distance of 40 to 50 kilometres only, has been going on for last 9 years and it is not known as to when it would be completed. I would like to request hon. Shri George Fernandes to visit the construction site at his leisure and ascertain the time by which the line—which has already taken 9 years—will reach Udhampur and the people of the city will have the privilege of having a rail link to the city. It is also often said that this line will be extended upto Srinagar and at times we also hear that the survey work on this line has also been completed. If it is so, I would make an earnest appeal to the hon. Minister to reopen the survey report and clean the dust gathered on it and take further steps to provide rail line to the people of

Kashmir in view of their poor economic condition. I have expressed these views because of the Resolution moved by my hon. friend Shri Deshmukh. If it is possible to extend the railway network beyond Jammu, it will not only prove beneficial to the State, but also to the whole of country.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the conditions of the railways in the North Eastern region. Sir, Shri George Fernandes is aware of the fact that the North Eastern region is the most backward region and it has not made any significant progress since independence. Had there been no war with China, perhaps even roads would have not been constructed in the North-Eastern region. Following the war with China, railway line was constructed there speedily and I thank the Government for laying double track, in patches, in the area right from Assam to Bomidila which links the entire border in this region. But there is a need to pay more attention towards this because goods traffic is particularly heavy in this region. More conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge line would not do. It is necessary to double the railway track in the area. Railway line upto Siliguri has been doubled but the work relating to doubling of the railway line from Alipurduar onwards is still to be done. Due to this, the people of the area have to face many difficulties in the transportation of goods produced there to other areas. Therefore, I would like to request that the narrow gauge railway line of this section should be doubled. Starting from Katihar, this railway line goes upto Alipurduar via Siliguri. It will provide two facilities. Firstly, it will facility transportation of forest products from the forests of Assam and other areas and will help in reducing the congestion on this route. Secondly, the Government will earn more revenue by running a goods train on this line. Therefore, narrow gauge railway line should be retained as it is and the old railway line which runs parallel to it from

Katihar to Siliguri should be extended upto Madarihat and this entire line should be doubled. Adivasi area is quite neglected. Adivasis are called scheduled castes. This area is predominantly inhabited by Adivasis. Therefore, it is very necessary to double the railway line in this area. It will facilitate development of Alipurduar area. At present steam locomotive is attached to the train in Alipurduar. It should be replaced by diesel locomotive so as to provide relief to the people.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Haridwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Hon'ble Shri Deshmukh for drawing the attention of the House towards a big problem facing the country. He has demanded that narrow gauge lines should be converted into broad gauge lines. Before I proceed further, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for entrusting the charge of the biggest Department of the Government to such a person of Janata Dal, who has been struggling for years for the welfare of the railway employees and has even been failed for that. I would like to thank Shri George Fernandes for this. This is for this reason that 25-30 lakh railway employees and 80 crore people of this country have great expectations from him. I hope the demand raised by our colleague Shri Deshmukh, will be fulfilled by nationalising the private sector railway companies and converting the narrow gauge lines into broad gauge. Being our colleague in this House from 1980 to 1984 the hon. Minister knows it very well that we have had serious discussion about the various problems of the railways in this House. I would like to thank Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government also for accepting our persistent demand for renewal of 12,000 kms. of railway track. Of this, renewal of 6000 kms. of railway track has already been undertaken. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take up the work relating to the renewal of the remaining 6000 kilometres of railway track so that the people of this country do not meet with any tragic accident. As time is short, I would like to draw the

[Sh. Jagpal Singh]

attention of the hon. Minister towards two problems. I come from an area, which is revered by crores of people of this country. He knows that Haridwar is a place of pilgrimage which is visited by lakhs and crores of people of India 50-60 times a year to take holy dip.

17.09 hrs.

[SHRI JASWANT SINGH *in the Chair*]

Shri Brahma Dutt is saying that no one can achieve 'Moksha' without going to Haridwar. Perhaps he wants to say that if the hon. Minister of Railways does not pay attention towards Haridwar, he will also not attain 'Moksha'. There is double railway line from Delhi to Ghaziabad and from Saharanpur upto Pakistan border. But between Saharanpur and Ghaziabad, there is only single railway line for the last 40-42 years. I have come to know that survey for this line was conducted during the regime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Department of Railways has also recommended that this line should be doubled. In case it has not been taken up, I would request the hon. Minister to start the work for doubling the railway line between Ghaziabad and Saharanpur. This should be done because there is double railway line from Ghaziabad up to North Eastern region and only this patch is left out.

In the end, I would like to make a submission about my own constituency. Lakhs of pilgrims have to wait for hours together at Laksar railway station during the days of pilgrimage. There is no hilly terrain between Laksar and Dehradun. Shri Brahma Dutt belong to Dehradun. The river Yamuna flows between Paonta Saheb and Dehradun. Therefore, it will be convenient for the Railways to construct a double line from Laksar to Dehradun so that pilgrims may not have to

wait at Laksar Railway station during the days of pilgrimage.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: (Barasat): Mr. Chairman, while supporting the Resolution moved in the name of Shri Sudam Deshmukh, I take this opportunity to raise certain important issues of Eastern Railway. The problem which I propose to raise is quite well-known to the Hon. Minister of Railways because I have already sent him a detailed note on the question of doubling of the section between Barasat and Banagaon. It is a part of Eastern railway. As a matter of fact, the need for doubling of the track was accepted in principle by the Railway Ministry right in the year 1978 and I have the great pleasure to say, it was Prof. Madhu Dandavate who cleared the project in the year 1978 which visualised the doubling of the entire track of about 72 kms. from Sealdah to Banagaon. But unfortunately it has been taken up in phased manner. The first phase has been doubling the track from Sealdah to Barasat. But it has not been extended to the extreme end of Bongaon.

Mr. Chairman, the Railway Minister may be aware of the fact that these sections are in the Sunderbans area. It is very much connected with the passenger facilities and with the metropolitan city like Calcutta as lakhs of people every day travel in this section, in the pursuit of their avocation and living. Unless this track is doubled, the very social purpose of providing additional and necessary amenities for the passengers will not be fulfilled. Therefore, in my letter to the hon. Minister of Railways, I have explained in detail the need for immediate taking up of the doubling of the project not in phases but by one-go. It is because you would admit that by spreading then the very scarce resources of our country, we cannot complete any project. Unless a project is completed on time, the cost escalation would be inevitable. As far as I remember, right in the year 1988, in reply to a question in Parliament, the then

Railway Minister replied that the total cost required for doubling of tract from Barasat to Bongaon would be about Rs.27 crores. I think, it is not a very big sum which the Government Exchequer cannot spare for such a vital project which provides adequate facilities for the suburban passengers for their living and pursuit of avocation. Therefore, without taking much of your time, I would once more request the Railway Minister, Shri George Fernandes, to get my proposal examined and take appropriate action so that the long-felt difficulties of the commuters of this section are removed as early as possible.

I only add two names which are equally important, the railway line which connects Barasat to Hashnabad. The Hashnabad section of the Eastern railway is very important because it connects the border of India to the capital city of Calcutta. It needs to be electrified and further improved so that the disbursal proposal of the Government of India as well as the State Government for disbursing the people from the metropolitan cities will be more helpful if this suburban railways are improved.

Equally important is another line which connects Bongaon to Ranaghat and I would not take much of your time. I would only refer to these three lines:-

The doubling project to be completed from Barasat to Bongaon at a go instead of building it by phases.

There should be electrification of the Bashnabad Barasat section and other improvements and also the electrification of Bongaon to Ranaghat section.

If these three rail lines are improved, the entire economic situation of the area will be improved and I hope the hon. Minister will be kind and gracious enough to have a fresh look at all these on-going projects.

Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh. The Resolution relates to conversion of narrow gauge line into broad-gauge. I would like to say a few words about it.

In the state of Gujarat, narrow gauge line from Ankleshwar to Rajpeepla should be converted into broad-gauge. In kutch, the metre-gauge line from Gandhidham to Bhuj should be converted into broad gauge. The long-standing demand to convert the metre gauge railway line into broad gauge line from Jetalsar to Veraval should also be fulfilled.

Hon. Shri George Fernandes is a very hard working person. I hope that he will definitely fulfil this demand. Conversion of metre gauge railway line from Gandhidham to Bhuj into broad-gauge line is also necessary for the movement of army in the border area. A special railway line has been constructed from Bhuj to Nalia but no rail service has been started on that route. There is a big air-base in the western part of our region. Conversion of metre-gauge line into broad-gauge railway line is also necessary for the movement of traffic in that area.

With these words, I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity. I only want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the importance of the Section of the Eastern Railway between Khana and Sainthia which serves Bolpur and Shantiniketan. Sir, you are aware and the hon. Minister is also aware that a very large number of visitors, tourists and even foreign tourists

[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

are going there. But the Railway service is so irregular and so unsatisfactory, because it is only a single-line between Khana and Sainthia which is a loop-line, that hardly there is any satisfactory railway service. So, there is one train which is called the Shanti-niketan Express which goes from Calcutta to Bopur and back. But that is at a time which is not very suitable. It goes in the morning and comes in the afternoon at 1 O' Clock. There are people who are willing to go there for a day's excursion apart from the regular visitors and regular commuters. Therefore, I would very earnestly request the hon. Minister to look into it because last time after the matter had been raised, the earlier Government had directed a survey to be made. They have completed the survey. The survey result is favourable. Now this has to be taken up for the purpose of implementation. Therefore, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to have this matter looked into and consider this sympathetically specially considering the area which it serves.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : (Hingoli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while participating in the debate, I thank Shri Sudam Deshmukh for having moved this Resolution. I would like to seek some clarification from the hon. Minister of Railways.

Sir, some two years back, the then Railway Minister had said that the Government or the Railway Department does not want to encourage conversion of metre-gauge into broad-gauge or narrow-gauge into broad-gauge. What is the policy of the present Government with regard to conversion?

Secondly, earlier the emphasis used to be more on modernisation of station buildings, providing more amenities to the passengers in urban areas than providing facilities to the people or commuters in the tribal

areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what will be the emphasis: whether it will be on the earlier point that was taken up or are they going to give some more amenities to the passengers traveling in the tribal areas.

Sir, here I must mention one thing. In Maharashtra Marwad-Aurangabad line was taken up approximately 11 or 12 years back but it is yet to be completed. I would request the hon. Minister to pay some more attention to this project and see that it is completed earlier. Not only that, I would like him to extend this conversion right up to Adilabad in Andhra Pradesh because Adilabad is being connected to Pipalkhuty, a new broad-gauge railway line which will be helpful in fetching coal for Parie and Puruna and other places. At present, at Parie we have a Super-thermal power station. It will be easy for them to transport it there. I would also suggest one thing. Whenever it is not possible for Government to convert metre-gauge into broad-gauge, will the hon. Minister think of diesellisation. These are the four issues that I wanted to mention and seek clarification from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I must inform the House that by convention 2 1/2 hours were the allotted time. That will end at 5.30 p.m. But we will put the question when we come to 5.30 p.m. I have two more speakers who I can call before 5.30 I will first request hon. Shri Shailendranath Srivastava and thereafter I will be calling upon hon. Member Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

[Translation]

PROF. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to remind the hon. Minister of Railway that he represents Bihar. He has won the elections from Bihar several times and, therefore, it is natural that the people of Bihar will have more expectations from him.

I do not want to seek any favour but I want to seek justice. The capital of Bihar is Patna and there are two famous centres of tourist interest in the State namely Gaya and Rajgir. The distance between Patna and Gaya is only 100 kms. and Rajgir and Patna are also at a distance of 100 kms. Hundreds of tourists visit Rajgir and Gaya every day but it takes them 5 hours to reach either of two places from Patna by train. I would like to demand that fast trains should be introduced between Patna and Rajgir and also Patna and Gaya. The railway line between Patna and Gaya is single and we have been demanding for doubling of this line for years. People have resorted to agitation a number of times for this purpose. Until the Patna Gaya railway line is doubled, the pressure of traffic on this line will not be eased. Similarly, fast shuttle train service should be started between Rajgir and Gaya. This is also one of our demands. There is a railway line between Patna and Digha but it is no use to the passengers. This line is used for goods movement only at present, this should be used for passenger traffic also. Patna is the capital city and keeping in view its increasing population and consequent traffic load, passenger trains should also run on the Patna-Digha railway line. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would like to put forward my hon. friend, Shri Laloo Prasad's point, viz. arrangements should be made for the construction of a bridge between Patna and Paleja Ghat.

I would submit one more point and conclude. Patna is the capital city and its population is increasing day by day. This city is fast turning into a metropolis. Electric suburban trains should be provided there at the earliest otherwise there will be great pressure on roads. Keeping the aforesaid situation in view, we are not able to make arrangements for suburban electric trains as dozens of accidents are bound to occur everyday. We expect from the Minister of Railways of the Welfare State to pay special attention towards this neglected State. Hon.

Member, Shri Kaipanath Rai has perhaps said just now that the railways is the life-line of a country. Therefore, this life line is in your hands today. Therefore, we expect that you should accord special attention to your own State, which you represent.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, by moving this resolution for consideration in the House, the hon. Member has brought to light various problems of the country in this sector.

My first point is that our hon. Minister of Railways is a trade union leader. The person who held this position previously belonged to a royal family. Consequently, there is bound to be difference of approach. It is a fact that the former Minister accorded special attention to certain places of his own State and all facilities were provided there. I hope that our trade union leader, who belongs to a backward area, will pay due attention to these areas. When the Britishers had started laying the railway lines in the country, they had selected the Patna-Gaya stretch for laying the first railway line. This railway line is still a single railway line and it has not been double so far. There have been several Railway Ministers from Bihar but unfortunately, the situation is still miserable. Even today, it takes 6 hours to reach Gaya from Patna. Apart from the Railways, there is no other means of transport available there. It costs only Rs. 3 to travel by train whereas it costs Rs.10 to travel by bus. You tell us whether it is possible for the working class to travel by bus.

Secondly, the Pitrapaksha' fair is held in Gaya. Lakhs of people from far flung areas and even West Bengal attend this fair. The Ministry of Railways should look into the difficulties of these pilgrims.

Thirdly, foreign tourists visit Bodh Gaya frequently. Thousands of such tourists come to this place every year. Keeping in view all

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh]

these things, it is not proper to neglect this railway line. This railway line must be doubled. The question of resource availability should not arise here. The previous Minister, a 'Maharaja', also took shelter under the plea of availability of funds. He used to say that resources are not available. We would say that it is the duty of the Ministry of Railway to raise the resources for this purpose and whatever by the circumstances it has to do it. The work in this regard should be included in the Eighth Five-Year Plan. I have been raising this issue for the past 5 years. I was told that the matter will be seen. It has been investigated and the report has been submitted. It has been mentioned in the report that this railway line must be doubled. Therefore, Shri Fernandes should make due arrangements for mobilising resources for this purpose. If it is not possible to undertake the entire work at a stretch, it can be undertaken in a phased manner so that the people of that area may be convinced that work is in progress.

The Martin Company had constructed the railway line from Fatuha to Islampur which too has also been closed. That railway line should be restored and linked with Bodh-Gaya. It will provide relief to the people. Apart from the railways there is no other alternative mode of transport available there. All these things must be looked into. Little has been done for that areas during the past 42 years. It is a sensitive area. At least 50 people are killed there daily. Terrorists are also holding sway over there. Unless these things are looked into, the situation there will become very serious.

Sir, this line should be doubled and this work should be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI LARANG SAI (Suraguja): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important sub-

ject. I would like to request you to extend the time for discussion on this. If it is not possible to extend the time, some time should be allotted to me for making my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. There is no need to get excited. I was going to take up the same question.

...(Interruptions)...

ONE HON. MEMBER: This is a very important issue. The will of the whole House should be taken into account.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The allotted time for this Resolution ends at 5.30 p.m. I am obliged to seek the view of the House. Do you want to extend the time or do you want the Minister to intervene.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: One Member at a time, please, As such I would like to inform you that there is restriction of time. If we consider the extension of time, this debate will be continued till 6.0' clock and it will be carried over into the next session. Please tell me whether you want the hon. Minister to reply today or at some later date.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: We cannot extend the time in an unlimited fashion. Is it acceptable that we extend the time of the discussion on this Bill by one and a half hours? We can continue the discussion for half an hour more till 6.0' clock today and then for one hour more on the 29th December.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Next week they are likely to take up Bills and not Resolutions.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Patil is saying that the Bill will be brought on the day allotted for the Private Member's Bills. But it has been decided that not bills but resolution will be taken up on that day.

[*English*]

Therefore, it is decided that we extend the time for discussion on this Resolution by one and a half hours. Half an hour today and one hour on the 29th December. Out of this extended time of one and a half hours, the Minister and the mover the Resolution will also have to be given the time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh is very significant, specially for the Railways. Railways provide link to reach every nook and corner of the country. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Railway, Shri George Fernandes that there are still many such adivasis areas where the people have not seen a trains. Such areas should be identified and efforts should be made to provide railway lines there. Provision for laying a railway line-Dahor-Mau-Indore-has been made in the Budget and this is a very important line because all the adivasis areas in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are covered under it. Similarly the Bastar-Rajdhara-Jagdarpur line in Bastar is also very important. The Government should try to implement the proposal for conversion of the narrow gauge lines into broad gauge. A number of railway lines pass through this area and therefore, this becomes all the more necessary. The area covered under railway network in Madhya

Pradesh is far less as compared to other States in the country. I would like to submit that efforts should be made to remove imbalances in railway facilities in the entire country, irrespective of whether it is hilly area or adivasis area. The new schemes for laying new railway lines should be implemented without delay.

With these words I thank Shri Deshmukh. Sir, I thank you also for permitting me to speak.

SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH YADAV (Kannauj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposals made by our colleagues regarding conversion of narrow gauge lines into broad gauge, are all important in themselves. I do not want to undermine the significance of any of these proposals and would myself like to add one. Kannauj in U.P. had been the centre of the late Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia's activities. This area has always remained ignored. So far as agricultural production is concerned more than 33 per cent of the potato crop of the entire State is grown here and it is sent to the markets in Bombay, Calcutta etc. Being a perishable item it gets destroyed very soon. There is broad gauge line in Kanpur. If broad gauge line is provided to Kannauj, it will be linked with Bombay and Calcutta. The area consumes 28 per cent fertilizers out of the total requirement of Uttar Pradesh. But it is difficult to get the fertilizers in time because of inadequate transportation facilities as only a narrow gauge line has been provided here. Therefore, the Government should consider this point. I would like to add one thing more. There is Super Fast Express for Farrukhabad. The hon. Minister will look into it and perhaps the hon. Members will laugh when they are apprised of the fact that this train runs at the speed of a cart and covers a distance of 240 kms. in 16 hours. It is stopped in between for 8 hours and the explanation given by the railway officers is that there is no facility of the track. Thus after

[Sh. Chhotey Singh Yadav]

starting in the evening it reaches the next day at 3-4 p.m. Although this district has given 2 Ministers but they did not take any steps in this direction. I am obliged to you for the time given to me to speak on my request made yesterday.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call the next hon. Member, I would make a request to you to accommodate the maximum number of speakers, which is my intention, please restrict yourself precisely to two minutes. Now, Shri Prem Pradeep may please speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM PRADEEP (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present there is a passenger train service available in Nawada district. I would like to request that a fast-train should be started there. Nawada and Gaya being two reserved constituencies is ample evidence of the fact that there are backward areas. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways that just as he has fought for the cause of his employees, he should take steps for starting a fast-train from Gaya to Delhi also so that the backward class people living there may be benefited. The second point is that the Fatwa-Islampur train running between Patna and Nawada district has been discontinued. It would be proper if that train is restored by laying a railway line from Fatwa station to Gaya. Rajgir should also have a direct link with Gaya so that the travel facilities between Bihar sharif and Gaya may be available to the people.

SHRI M.S. PAL (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I want to submit that the work on the broad gauge line from Rampur to Haldwani in Uttar Pradesh was started in 1971 and the land had already been acquired. The survey of the land was also

undertaken but due to some political reasons, the line has not yet been laid. Similarly laying of a broad gauge line from kashipur to Bajpur is also very important. The main thing in this connection is that due to political reasons a demand for the Uttarakhand State is being made in this region. Therefore, keeping in view the economic aspect, it is essential that a broad gauge line is laid there. This is a border area adjoining Nainital, Almora and Pithoragarh. A survey for laying railway line upto Nepal border has already been conducted. Therefore, attention should be paid to it. A provision for Rampur and Haldwani broad gauge line should be made in the budget for this year.

It is therefore, my special request to the hon. Minister of Railways who is quite familiar with this area. With these words I thank you for having granted me time to speak.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR(Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been given opportunity to express my views on the Resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh. Therefore, first of all, I would like to thank Shri Deshmukh Sir, Bikaner and Ganganagar, both are the border districts and the people of the area expect you to pay more attention to these areas in the matter of development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would first of all like to speak about the Ganganagar Canal loop line of the Northern Railway. There should be a broad gauge line between Hanumanagar to Suratgarh viz. Ganganagar. Broad gauge line exists upto Surajagarh. Broad gauge line is also available between Suratgarh and Anupgarh and between Suratgarh and Bikaner. There are projects of 3 big canals of India in my area. These are Ganga Canal, Bhakra Canal and Rajasthan Canal. Because of these projects we are having bumper crops in these areas and its benefit should also reach the interior areas. Broad gauge line should be laid there. In this regard

my submission is that the conversion of this line which is known as the Canal loop line should be undertaken. Further from the defence point of view also, I would like to State that being a border State, the broad gauge line in Anupgarh should be extended upto Jaisalmer via Gharsana, Khajuwala so that it may also serve our defence needs. With the completion of the first Phase of Rajasthan Canal, the agricultural produce there has been very good. We produce foodgrains worth Rs. 300 crores there. Cotton, wheat and mustard are grown there. In the absence of a railway line there the farmers find themselves unable to avail the market facilities. The farmer's produce is sold at a low price because there is no arrangement to take the produce to the interior areas. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, my submission is that besides the importance from defence point of view, this line is very important for us because the benefits of the development which started there only 5 years back may reach the interior areas also. It is a newly irrigated area where crores of tonnes of foodgrain are produced but despite this all the farmers have to face the problems of transporting the produce to the interior areas because there are no roads there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like that if this Anupgarh line is linked with Bikaner viz Khajuwala and Pugal, the entire area may be connected with the broad gauge. The people there will get employment. This is an extremely backward area...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Shopat Singh, I would request you to be brief so that others get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am making my submission in brief only without repeating anything. I would like to say that four months back the D.R.M. of that area told me that the Bikaner-Sawai Madhopur broad-gauge line has been

sanctioned and work on it will start soon. Why has that work not started till now? With these words I thank you.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): First of all I would like to congratulate hon. Shri Deshmukh for moving a Resolution for conversion of narrow gauge railway lines into broad gauge in this backward area. I fully support the Resolution and take this opportunity to raise some matters pertaining to my constituency. I would like to inform you that there has been a railway line between Kalka and Shimla since British time. There has been broad gauge railway trains between Kalka and Delhi and Kalka and Amritsar since British days. I want to inform the House that out of these trains Amritsar Mail has been cancelled. I wonder as to why that train has been withdrawn. I request you to restore it.

Large projects are under construction in Himachal Pradesh for an estimated production of 1,500 Megawatts of electricity. Survey for a Railway line has been conducted from Nangal to Rampur and steps to acquire land have also been taken. I hope the work of laying the railway line will start soon. Similarly, there was a railway line between Jind and Nalagarh during the British period but now the railway track have been removed. This track should be relaid. When Shri Kamalapati Tripathi was Railway Minister survey was conducted for a railway line between Kalka and Barautwala and an assurance was given by the hon. Minister that work would be started soon. But nothing further had been done about it. I hope the Government will pay attention to this also. Although construction of railway lines in hilly areas is a difficult task, but there are certain areas where railway lines could be laid easily. The work can be started in these areas. The Planning Commission should generously allot funds for the development railways so that the demands of the public can be met.

SHRI GANGACHARAN LODHI (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by hon. Shri Deshmukh. Just now many hon Members have asked for conversion of narrow gauge and metre gauge lines into broad gauge. Unfortunately, I come from a region where there is neither a broad gauge nor a metre gauge line. It is an area which has produced men, whose valiant deeds have been a matter of pride for the whole nation. It is the region where the first war of independence was fought under the leadership of Maharani Lakshmbai in which many young men sacrificed their lives. But unfortunately, Bundelkhand still remains the most neglected and backward area of the country even after 42 years of independence. It is so backward that 50% of the area's population has never seen a railway train in their lives. If a boy happens to see a train in a city, he goes back and relates his experience to the villagers. Railway lines should not merely touch the outskirts of our district, there should be railway routes within the district. Our area has made an important contribution to the freedom struggle by producing person like Pandit Parmanand, Diwan Shatrughan and Swami Brahmanand who sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation. The Government should at least work towards making India, the land of their dreams.

Hamirpur and Harpalpur should have a direct railway line. The Chambal Express, which has been introduced, should be run daily. The Chhapra Express, which the Maharaja of Gwalior has extended upto Gwalior, should be further extended upto Delhi.

SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. I come from Khagaria. Khagaria town is situated on one side of the railway line and the hospital is situated on the other side. If a patient has to be taken to the hospital there is a long wait at the railway

crossing if the gates are closed and this has often resulted in the death of the patient. Similarly, there is a market to the north of Mansi and a National Highway to the South. The Railway station is in between. People find it difficult to go to the market. So, there should be a over bridge there. There should also be an overbridge in Khagaria.

Thousands of people go from Bihpur to Bhagalpur where the railway headquarters are located. There are two Assembly constituencies in that district viz. Bihpur and Gopalpur, It is very difficult to go to Bhagalpur from there. Sometimes steam engines stop on the way due to shortage of coal. People have to go to meet their acquaintances or relatives in judicial custody. So I request the hon. Railway Minister to improve the railway facilities there.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by Shri Deshmukh. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways through you that Rohtas district is an economically backward area even though it is rich in minerals and agriculture. Inadequate transport facility is also one of the reasons behind it. So, I would like to demand from the hon. Minister of Railways that Sasaram-Arrah railway line which was surveyed in 1982, should be immediately converted into broad gauge line. Till then, a train should be run between Mughalsarai and Patna and Delux Train, which stops at Dehri-on-sone, should be given a stoppage at Sasaram also. A stoppage should be provided at Kehra also in Dhanbad area. A survey has already been conducted for construction of railway bridge on the Ganga from Pahle jaghat to Bihraghat in Patna. This bridge should be constructed immediately as it will link the north and south Bihar.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malagaon): I support the resolution moved by the hon. Members Shri Deshmukh. Nasik is a backward area and there are very few

railway stations. There number should be increased. Besides this, a shuttle service should also be started there, as it is an industrial area and there are lot of commuters. There is a long standing demand that Punjab Mail should be stopped at Naga. Since a new railway line Indruk has been laid, I would suggest that a new train should be started connecting Nasik Road, Balsad, Manmad and Malegaon.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI HEERA BHAI (Banswara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the resolution under discussion. Demands are being made to convert the narrow gauge lines into broad gauge. There are a number of important projects and mines in my area. A large variety of precious stones are supplied from there to the entire country.

A survey has been conducted twice or thrice to construct a railway line from Ratlam to Banswara. But it is our bad luck that no one from our area has yet become a Minister or if anyone has become, he has forgotten the area. Banswara has not so far been linked with railway line. I would request the hon. Minister that Banswara should be connected either to Ratlam, Meghnagar or Doomarpur with a railway line. This would enable the people to get remunerative price for their products besides transport facilities and means of livelihood.

We have promised to provide employment to the people in tribal areas. With this arrangement, we will kill two birds with one stone. With the laying of this railway line, lot of workers can be provided employment. I am hopeful that the hon. Minister will accept our demand.

With these words, I support the resolution and once again request that a railway line should be laid in Banswara.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will continue it on the next day.

18.02 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up further discussion on the Constitution (Sixty Second Amendment) Bill, 1989 as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT (Tehri Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a submission. Many hon. Members of our party want to speak on this important issue. Most of the Members have gone back home due to three day holiday. I would like to request on their behalf that they should be given an opportunity to speak on this issue on Tuesday. Those, who want to speak today, should be allowed to do so.

SHRI R.N. RAKESH (Chail): This is an issue relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Anti-reservation agitations are being held in almost all parts of the country. If the discussion is carried after 6 O'clock, it cannot be published in the newspapers. Only the Members of Parliament will know about it.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Hardwar): Those who want to take part in the discussion are not even present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to point out that the discussions held in the Parliament are for Parliament only, and not for the newspapers. Time cannot be changed for the newspapers. Shri Brahma Dutt said that some speakers want to speak on Tuesday. It is the decision of your party. I have no objection to it. But it is not proper, if some Members say that they will speak only when they catch the attention of the press.

SHRI R.N. RAKESH: I didn't mean that. You have failed to catch my point. How will the stand of Members be known? I am speaking in your interest.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, how long will you go on extending the time?... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I call upon Shri A Ashokraj to speak on this subject.

SHRI C. SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): want to speak on the railway lines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, you cannot speak now on the railway lines because I have already called upon Shri A Ashokraj to speak on the Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill. We have gone on to the next item. You can write to the hon. Minister regarding conversion of narrow-gauge lines into broad-gauge lines.

Shri A Ashokraj,

[*Translation*]

***SHRI A. ASHOKARAJ (Perambalur):** Hon. Chairman, Sir, I feel extremely glad to participate in this discussion on the Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill, 1989 on behalf of the AIADMK under the dynamic leadership of Leader Revolutionary (Puratchi Thalavari) selvi Jayalalitha. I wholeheartedly welcome this measure.

Sir, the Enlightened (Perangnar) Thiru C.N. Annadurai and the late lamented Leader Revolutionary (Puratchi Thalavar) Dr. MGR have distinctly contributed a lot for the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. When Dr. MGR assumed office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, he made several selfless sacrifices for the welfare of the poor and the downtrodden. I would be failing in my duty if I miss the occasion to apprise this august House that Leader Revolutionary (Puratchi Thalavar) Dr. MGR and one Leader Revolutionary (Puratchi Thalavari) selvi Jayalalitha used their personal funds earned by dint of hard work for the upliftment of the

poor, the downtrodden and especially the SCs/STs.

There are no doubt certain provisions in the Constitution for reservation for SCs/STs. Nevertheless, the sole credit of providing their special representation through reservation in local bodies like village panchayats, town panchayats and municipalities goes to Dr. MGR. This reservation was provided on a statutory basis. The purpose of telling this here is to persuade the Government to urge upon the State Governments which do not have such reservations in local bodies to follow the example of Tamil Nadu. Hon. Minister is sitting here. I am sure he would take the message to the State Governments concerned.

Sir, when elections are round the corner. Commissions for the welfare of SCs/STs are constituted, for pure political reasons that too for every 10 years. I remember that during the Janata Period, such a Commission was appointed. Whether the Commission gave any report? If so, what were the contents of the report? Whether any action was taken on the basis of recommendations contained in the report? If so, what action was taken? These are enigmas still unanswered in the minds of the people. Even this august House is aware of the details. I must confide that this business of constituting Commissions for the welfare of SCs/STs has increasingly become a matter of periodic ritual. I do not argue that such Commissions should not be constituted. But my argument is that they should be constituted to serve some useful purpose. There should be a proper follow-up action on the recommendations of the Commission.

Experience has taught us that it is wrong to expect too much in the matter of rehabilitating the poor and the downtrodden. Cer. luries old oppression, suppression and discrimination cannot be set right in four decades. True it would take time. But then, when Dr. Ambedkar drafted the Constitution, the Constituent Assembly foresaw that

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

this task could be completed in 15 years. It could not be completed. It was extended for a period of another 10 years. It was further extended for another 10 years. These extensions have not yielded results. Today, the Government is before us asking for another extension for 10 years. This is the pathetic condition. This tells on the performance of the Government. Even after 40 years, their lot has not improved.

I urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister to pay special attention to this serious problem. It is not sufficient to pass laws. The laws should be implemented in letter and true spirit. Not only that. The implementation of the laws has to be constantly monitored. Why 40 years of reservation has not fructified into desired results is a question that has to be sincerely answered. A separate Review Committee must be appointed to go into the lapses in the implementation of the reservation laws. The committee should not only analyse the reasons for the lapses but also should suggest ways and means of rectifying the errors. I hope this would be kindly considered.

Take Tamil Nadu for instance. Today, the SCs and STs are in pitiable condition. When we go to the interior parts of the State, when we go to the villages and small hamlets, we find the SCs and STs are without shelter. There are no vacant lands for providing shelter to them. There are no drinking water facilities. There are no graveyards. Basic amenities are not available to the SCs/STs in the villages.

Sir, it is matter of great worry that in certain parts of the country agitations are going on. These agitations are instigated by a handful of misguided elements for cheap gains. This has to be outrightly condemned. This Government must seriously address themselves to this problem.

If at all this Government is sincere about providing welfare to the poor and the downtrodden, then this Government must definitely concentrate on improving their economic condition. The plight of these people

cannot be measured. Let me repeat what I said earlier. Mere framing of laws would not help the situation. These have to be implemented in right earnest. The benefits envisaged in the laws should reach the poor and the downtrodden in real terms. These must be a positive programme, a pragmatic approach and a dauntless step-forward in the direction of improving the economic condition of these people. Do not add insult to the injuries of these people. Do not keep on nothing them to the corner. That would only add fuel to the fire. A day is not far for these oppressed people to respond with vengeance. Instead I would request the Government to take definite steps to ameliorate the conditions of the SCs and STs. Unless their economic condition is improved, real rehabilitation shall not be there. And again this should be done within the shortest span of time.

With these words, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity and conclude.

[English]

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make it very very clear that on this very important issue, I would like to treat it as a national issue and a national issue alone.

Sir, I come from Meghalaya which is predominantly a tribal State and my people are still backward, are still in a large number illiterate and it would take time for them to understand the exact political opportunities offered by the Constitution of India; and as such I find that my State, my people, feel that there should be a continuation of the reservation policy under Article 334 of the Constitution of India as enshrined in the Bill, which was moved today by the Hon. Minister.

Sir, I dare say that in the North-Eastern region the fundamental understanding of the people is respect of the dignity of the individual. The tribals believe in the dignity of the individual. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister has spoken these words; respect the dignity of the individual, that has been the

[Sh. Peter G. Marbaniang]

tradition of the tribals not only of Meghalaya but of the other sister States in the North Eastern Region. And therefore, this is what we want and all should understand it today. India is a great country. India is a country like a big wall of mosaic and each one of us in diversity contributes to this great country. All of us here want the unity of India. We the tribals and the Scheduled Castes, form part of this great mosaic forming India, having our own tradition and culture. In every State in India, we have Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, not only in the North Eastern, but also in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar Orissa and almost in all States. As such, this very important Bill which has been brought by the hon. Minister shows respect for the dignity of the individual especially of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and this will bring unity, this will peace in and this great country of ours.

Sir, though I come from the North Eastern Region, yet I have been to almost all the States of this great country of ours. If we know how to respect the dignity of the individual, I am very sure that we will be able to get peace, unity and progress. I must say that the Bill which has been brought today allows this special reservation because you cannot deny the fact that many of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are backward, many of them are illiterate and as such, we cannot apply economic criteria to judge on this issue. I appeal to all my good friends here to understand this. All of us are going to contribute to the benefit and welfare of India because we are all part and parcel of this great country. If this good gesture is shown by the leaders here without making a political issue, I am sure, people everywhere in India, be in Allahabad, be in Gujarat, be it anywhere, will understand the special significance of this reservation, because if we are all for political reservation, it follows that there will also be economic reservation, reservation in jobs and reservation in educational institutions. I come from a State where do not even have an engineering college or a medical college and we have to send our

children outside. Therefore, my good friends coming from different parts of the country, must try to explain wherever they go, that this Bill has a great significance. It was done by people like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. Ambedkar. And as such knowing that we have not come upto the standard, we should still be allowed special reservation. With these words, I support this Bill.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Jalore):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing an important issue regarding the extension of reservation period. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons the same reasons have been given for extension of reservation which were there 40 years back, although some progress has been made by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during this period.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, those reasons still hold good. I am emphasising it, because the way Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been neglected in the name of reservations it would do no good to them. I would like to draw your attention to another point. The period of reservation was fixed at ten years only in the first instance and it was suggested by some of the members of the Constituent Assembly that it should be fixed as ten years only, with a proviso that if need be, it may be further extended after 10 years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the amendment regarding extension of this period was not accepted by the great leaders of the Constituent Assembly. I would like to tell you the reason. The reason was that the country had achieved Independence in 1947, and *Achhutodhar* movement was launched by the Congress soon after the Poona Pact in 1932.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, *Achhutodhar* movement, Harijan Sewak Sangh, Khadi programme and *Bhangi Kasht Mukti* movement all were started by Mahatma Gandhi. There was the curse of untouchability also. Many movements were launched and constructive effort was made to remove untouchability from the society. On the one hand, these

movements were continuing and on the other hand, Raja Ram Mohan Roy established Brahmo Samaj, which struck a blow to the social disparities and to the evil of untouchability. Swami Dayanand pointed out that on going through the Vedas it becomes clear that no Hindu scripture mentioned untouchability or ever recognised it. And it was propagated in the eighteenth century that the so-called untouchables should be uplifted and brought into the mainstream. Otherwise, they would become aliens. This campaign was launched in the country by the social organisations working under Vivekananda. On one side Arya Samaj was leading this campaign while on the other, social movements were also contributing to it. Acharya Narendra Dev, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan, Shri Ashok Mehta, Achayut Patwardhan, were the persons who wanted to bring about a change in the society. After independence they wanted to make use of the conducive atmosphere of the dawn of independence for the total elimination of the evil of untouchability. A dynamic movement was sweeping the country which had its inspiration from the Russian revolution in 1917 and there was a general awareness to break the barriers of inequalities based on high and low economic status and caste. All this formed the ground of independence struggle that was won in 1947, and after achieving our independence in 1947, we framed our constitution in 1948. Though the Constituent Assembly had in principle agreed but it refused to accept this amendment for the sole reasons if they did not specify the time limit of 10 years and accepted the amendment to extend it for more than ten years, it would bring in despondency. People were very keen and anxious to put an end to the evil of untouchability in the country. But in view of its utmost urgency, the great leaders and freedom fighters of the country, who were the members of the constituent Assembly, had said some words to express their views on it. However, I would like to quote only the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had said that duration of ten years would be insufficient for the purpose. He said this thing in the following words:

[English]

"It was not inadequate if the leaders of this country put their heads together to bring them up."

[Translation]

Thus, with these words Pandit Nehru had not accepted even that proposition. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regret to submit before you that there has been one and the same ground, for all the constitutional amendments brought after every ten years i.e. in 1959, 1969, 1979 and today in 1989. This ground exists even today. But I would like to ask through you as to who is to be held responsible for all these things that even today discrimination is being made between man and man on the basis of caste. Who is responsible for creating such a situation that man is unable to lead a life of a human being. Harijans have their separate mohallas as big in size as a city but they are not allowed to visit markets, they cannot purchase eatables or clothes of their choice. If they touch vegetables, these things do not remain worth touching by others. These things are shown to them from a distance. They cannot purchase cloth from a public shop, they cannot go to a hotel. We have no doubt, made a number of provisions in the constitution but today I would like to put one thing quite emphatically that in the matter of implementation of reservation, some sort of criminal negligence has been shown in this country. Even after 43 years of our independence, it is on the very basis of one's birth in a particular caste that discrimination is being practised in the name of untouchability in this country. It is not only a matter of shame for us but it lowers the prestige of this country in the world. It is a stigma on it. Therefore, it is my humble submission that atleast this much we can do to day but what at our future? The concerned Minister is not present here but some other Minister has been taking down notes. The Hon. Prime Minister has given emotional statements. But, I would like to know whether these statements of the Prime Minister or the election of some representatives of these people

[Sh. Kailash Meghwal]

to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies on the basis of the extension of this provision of reservation for another 10 years would enable us to eradicate this evil. These are some questions which are being raised. Time and again acrimony against reservations has been flaring up in the youths. I would not blame anybody for this acrimony in the youth, I would blame neither this side or the other side. Also, I would not like to rake up any controversy in this regard. But what is there at its root? Moreover, there is a change in the thinking of the people. Now they do not feel that these people are downtrodden, oppressed and exploited and hence, they should be uplifted as they are also human beings and for that reason they should be given equal rights. This feeling has totally vanished today. All are concerned to get the votes of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to make it a basis for retaining power in their hands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that objection was raised yesterday in regard to the reference being made to the leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Lohia and not to the leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Mr. Chairman, Sir, equal importance can be given to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Before the year 1947 he had a respectable, unique and inspiring personality but in the year 1947 Jawahar Lal Nehru surrendered to the conservative forces and became so helpless that even in a period of 10 years he could not get all those things accomplished during the period of his leadership for which he had earned popularity during the preceding ten years.

What is happening today. Anti reservation movement is gaining popularity among the people. Today they talk of the selection of a few families, but my submission is that it would not be proper to select a few families from amongst about 25 to 27 crores of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people in this country. It is not at all desirable to argue on the basis of only one family from amongst

the crores of people. I agree that when the quota of reservation provided for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the constitution is fulfilled, they themselves would make their selection.

Unemployment has increased in the country due to the policies adopted by the Congress. A demand is being raised in this regard and that is something natural because each and every unemployed wants some job to earn his livelihood. But during these 42-43 years of our Independence we have reached a stage when we have innumerable unemployed persons in our country and for this state of affairs only Congress policies are responsible to a great extent. I would like to submit that Jawaharlal Nehru had a vision that through industrialisation he would be able to take the country to glorious heights of progress. But you are well aware of the results of that industrial progress. In those days the shoemaker, who did not have any land or any other source of income and who used to earn his living by making shoes, chappais and other leather goods to meet the requirements of the society, has now to face the challenge posed by the easy availability of Bata Shoes and chappats in every village. Thus we can see that now-a-days big shoe manufacturing companies are meeting the requirements of the society everywhere in the rural as well as urban areas. It has rendered lakhs and crores of shoemakers in the country jobless and they are on the brink starvation. But there is nobody to listen to their grievances. On the other hand Bata, Dayalbagh, and many other manufacturers of Kanpur shoes are having a smooth business. It has created a big economic crisis. You may very well remembers that 50 years back i.e. in the pre-independence days, Mahatma Gandhi has propagated the use of *Khadi* and made it popular with the masses and he launched a programme for spinning, its weaving and wearing. There was also spinning wheel in each and every home, whether it belonged to a Brahmin, a Mahajan, a Rajput, A Chaudhary, A Jat or a Goojar. Old and elderly ladies used to spin in every house and a weaver used to visit to take the supply of yarn from every house and

used to weave cloth. In this way he used to earn his livelihood for his family members, and also each and every spinning member of the family had his due share of return. But today as a part of Government campaign *Khadi* has become a thing of mere display in the show rooms. Now it has become a thing of show in the country whereas in the past, weaving and wearing of *khadi* was a must for a common man. But today mill cloth is being supplied and sold all over the country. As a result of it, all the weavers have been rendered jobless. It is the result of your economic policies. That is why I would like to submit to you that it would not be proper to single them out and say to the people of this country that the provision of reservation has been extended further for ten years. Though Congress too will be benefited by it. In this way I have put before you certain facts and figures for your consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some of the members have been saying that the Hon. Prime Minister issues one statement while the Deputy Prime Minister Shri Devi Lal issues an other. They should rather see to it as to what has been said and how much of it is correct and what is the motive of Shri Devi Lal's statement and in what context he has said it. It is not good to criticise anybody without going deep into it. Sir, in my first press conference I had consulted my friends on this issue. They had advised me that as a responsible spokesman of the Government it was my bounden duty to convey each and every point that comes to my notice regarding the provision of reservation to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: It has appeared in the press.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: You should read it properly. One thing has been reiterated in this connection. Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I would like to submit that such voices would naturally be raised because we are part of a democratic set up. We have a democratic set up of Government. Today we cannot suppress the voice of backward classes because they are also part of the electorate

and want to have their share in the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, civil services have an attraction and glamour in this country. Here everybody wants to have a Government job and lead a comfortable life. People of service class regardless of their position, be it that of a peon, have been leading a comfortable life. Government service has been so attractive that everybody wants to join it. People will have to be awakened in view of the prevailing circumstances in the society. After all, what is it we want to achieve and accomplish in this country? I would like to submit that there is already provision in Article 336 and 340 of our constitution. I do not want to read out. But these provisions of reservations for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes need to be implemented. Are these provisions making an impact? Are the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes getting the benefit of these provisions? It is a constitutional post and whoever is appointed to this post, has a responsibility to see to it as to what is being done in respect of the reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We have to see as to whether untouchability is being eradicated or not. Six years have gone by. Out of this, for three years Smt. Indira Gandhi was in power, who proclaimed to be the Messiah of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and one and a half year of the regime pertained to Shri Rajiv Gandhi. After all, what is the reason for this.

I would like to place one more fact before the House. For the last six months, a special vigorous recruitment drive was going on. If we do through the advertisement columns of the various newspapers during the last six months, we can find how an extensive special recruitment drive was launched to clear the backlog of reserved vacancies accumulated for the last 40 years in the various Departments such as Railways, Post and Telegraph and L.I.C. etc. The number of reserved vacancies in those departments and Government undertakings runs in lakhs. If the reserved vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have not been

[Sh. Kailash Meghwal].

filled up even in the Central Government, what will be the situation in the States? Who is responsible for it? This itself casts aspersions on Congress Party. Now the people belonging to Scheduled castes are also becoming vigilant. I would like to submit that this problem should be viewed in terms of its implementation. The purpose of filling the reserve seats in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies has been served with this policy of reservation. However, the purpose of filling the reserved vacancies in government departments is yet to be served. As regards reservation in the field of education, without naming anyone, I would like to say that when the leader of Opposition Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Gujarat, he said that the Congress Government would extend reservation in Government jobs on economic ground for another 10 years. It is against the spirit of the Constitution. There is a standing provision in the Constitution for reservation in Government jobs for the educationally and socially backward people only. The then national leaders and founding members of the Constitution did not think it prudent to leave this thing to be done by the future generations because they were not sure that they would do it. Therefore, they made a standing provision for reservation in the Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar deserves to be congratulated for this but a confusion is being created about the constitutional provision for S.C. and S.T. A massive publicity was launched to the effect that if opposition is voted to power, reservation for S.C. and S.T. in Government jobs as well as in educational institutions would be done away with. I would like to ask them as to what are all these things which they are doing for political reasons? What is our thinking on this issue? Our friend Shri Sathe of the Congress has spoken well. I would like to ask him on the basis of information received from Rajasthan whether it is a fact that people belonging to Scheduled Castes were forced to live on the outskirts of a colony named 'Kalpana Swaroop' in Rajasthan? On the basis of my experience of Rajasthan, I can say that during the last 43 years' rule of the Congress Party, colonies

made for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, be it named after Jagjivan Ram or Indira Gandhi or Rajiv Gandhi or for that matter Sanjay Gandhi, have been on the outskirts of the cities. It is a hard fact. These colonies have been made by the Congress Government, so they are responsible for it. Colonies of S.C. and S.T. situated in the heart of the cities and villages were demolished and the land was acquired and they were compelled to settle on the outskirts of the cities. New posh colonies and commercial complexes have been made on the land. It is the policy of the Congress Party. I regret to say that despite maltreatment of the sort, Scheduled Caste people helped the Congress Party to be in power for the last 43 years.

Today, I had an opportunity to go through a document of the Election Commission lying in the Library. According to it, 85 per cent reserved seats in the Lok Sabha have gone in favour of Congress Party, no matter it was Jawaharlal Nehru or Indira Gandhi or for that matter Shri Rajiv Gandhi who held the office of Prime Minister. They were always voted to power with thumping majority with the support of S.C./S.T. people. It means that 85 per cent of the people belonging to S.C./S.T. continued to support the Congress Party. They helped the Congress Party to remain in power.

A number of Governments have come and gone in this country and so are 'Rajas' and 'Maharajas' who ruled the country with the help of the power of sword. It does not matter whether they ruled the country 1500 years ago or 1000 years ago for that matter 500 years ago, but it is a fact that some people helped those Rajas and Maharajas in establishing their kingdom and in return those people were rewarded by allotment of 'Jagirs' by the Rajas and the Maharajas. They are still reaping the benefits of those jagirs which are still in their possession. Thereafter, Britishers came to India. They established British empire here with the help of diplomatic manoeuvring and spread their economic empire. The people who helped them were amply rewarded by allotment of big Jagirs.

They also enjoyed power of the State and control over the exchequer.

The electorates and the representatives belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes helped the Congress party to remain in power during the last 43 years. I would like to ask them as to what is the condition of those people even after 43 years of Congress rule? If you go to a tribal area, you will see that even today Adivasis have no clothes to wear, no food to eat and no house to live in. Providing electricity connection in their huts is a far cry. They can't afford even a bicycle. But our friends belonging to the Congress Party are shedding crocodile tears for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to say that the Congress Party has played a role of protector turned predator. Now the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have awakened. While supporting this Bill, I would like to request the hon. Minister and this House that we have to make efforts to put an end to the feeling of low and high and we should work for humanity.

In our country, we have adopted a democratic system of Government. Every citizen of the country has got right to cast his vote in favour of the candidate of his choice. But some people purchase votes with money and distribute liquor among people. Persons who secure votes for themselves with the help of money and liquor are enemy of this country. They have reduced the value of the vote to one bottle of liquor. Now the people have awakened. These tactics will not pay now. The people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have to be made equal partners in the Governance of the country. If we will not do this, we will also be held responsible after 10 years as we are holding the Congress Government responsible today.

The policy of the Bhartiya Janata party is very clear. Our party has been taking follow up action on the work started by Mahatma Gandhi. It is also carrying out other social reform movements in our country. Shri Vasant Sathe is saying all these things

in a very light manner. The philosophy of Dr. Hegdevar which is a practical one is being put into practice by Vishva Hindu Parishad. Vishva Hindu Parishad has been making all out efforts to ensure the entry of harijans into temples and eradication of untouchability. The Vanvasi Kalyan Parishad is actively working for the welfare of tribals in the country. We have to give momentum to these programmes, no matter we remain in politics or not. The way they make fun of Lord Rama, I would like to tell them that we never Lord Rama and we worship him. Lord Rama reigns supreme in the minds of the people of the country. Some persons make fun of Lord Rama for sake of some votes. The Congress Party has been suitably punished at the hands of the public for its criminal negligence of the people belonging to S.C./S.T. and disrespect shown to Lord Rama. Today the Congress Party is drawing solace in claiming itself to be a single largest party. I would like to tell them that our Government have implemented whatever it has said. I can say with confidence that in the coming years the present opposition party will be wiped out. The youths, weaker sections and people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been cheated by the Congress Party for the last 42 years.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call any other hon. Member to intervene—I have placed them in order—I must take the consent of the House and inform the House that the time available is very limited. A number of members have declined to speak today, choosing instead to participate on Tuesday. I must from here announce that the time available on Tuesday is also extremely limited and it is limited for the purpose of reply by the hon. Minister. The names given to me here run into 20 or 30. I cannot call 30 members to participate today. At the most, the House can sit only till 20 minutes past 7.00 PM. I cannot make the House sit beyond that. I have with me just now a List that I have made in order of the priority in which

these names were given:-

1. Shri Piyus Tiraky.
2. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri.
3. Shri S. Sema.
4. Shri Laeta Umbray.
5. Shri R.L.P. Verma.
6. Shri Piyare Lal Handoo.

I can include one or two names here of those members who have chosen to stay here but I cannot permit an endless debatè on this discussion. Therefore, I would request hon. Members that in their intervention they should please limit their intervention to the shortest possible time.

I call upon Shri Piyus Tiraky.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me to present my views on this Constitution (Amendment) Bill. I support this Bill. I fully agree with the views expressed by Shrimati Subhashini Ali who has already spoken here before me. However, I would like to add a few points which she could not cover or mention. Sir, it is in the very blood of Indians that we think only in terms of caste which is the very base and identity of Hindu religion and without it, the very existence of Hindu religion will be threatened or come to an end. So, here they have prescribed a different profession, code of conduct, way of living and norms of treatment to be meted out in the case of members belonging to different castes and sections of society. There is also a difference even in their language. Hence, the Government of India should ponder over it. From the very first day of independence of our country, neither the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people have been able to avail the facilities meant for the members of these castes, nor they have the freedom of conversion according to their desire. Hon. Minister, Sir, I would like to bring it to your kind notice

that the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, particularly those belonging to scheduled castes, do not enjoy freedom of change of their religion. Even the Government does not allow them to change their religion. They do not have this freedom whereas the people belonging to all other castes have full liberty in this regard. Those scheduled castes people, who have changed over to Buddhism, have been deprived of these facilities. These facilities are available only for those, who are Hindus or Sikhs. But there are many religions, whose people cannot get the facilities as are admissible to the people of Scheduled Castes. A large number of scheduled castes people have changed over to Buddhism due to the atrocities committed on them by the people of Hindu religion in the form of ban on their entry into the temples, manhandling and humiliation of the members of these communities. Moreover, on their conversion, they are, in a way, punished because they are deprived of all those facilities as were admissible to them earlier as the members of scheduled castes. With the change of religion, they lose their identity as scheduled caste.

Secondly, till now, the Government does not know the exact number of people who belong to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. If a member of a schedule caste migrates to another district, he no more remains the member of scheduled castes because every state has its own policy regarding the identification of such persons as to which of the castes will be recognised as scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. This policy also undergoes a change from time to time. So what I mean to say that even the Government of India does not have the exact figures regarding the exact number of people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in India. I doubt that they have the exact figures. It is not so in the case of high caste people such as brahmins because a brahmin remains a brahmin even if he has migrated to some other state but if a members of scheduled caste or scheduled tribe goes to Calcutta or Uttar Pradesh, he is deprived of all the facilities provided to sched-

uled castes and scheduled tribes, because in that state, he is not recognised as a member person belonging to scheduled caste. I expect this Government to direct all the state Governments to adopt the list of backward classes prepared by the Centre for this purpose in their states so that a person belonging to a scheduled caste or a scheduled tribe may be recognised as such in all the parts of India to enable him to maintain his identity with his language, status, customs, traditions and way of life. Even if someone changes his religion he should have the right to retain his language and way of life, etc.

This is the position in respect of their religion and caste, then they are not allowed to exercise their right of vote. I have seen this in many areas of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Moreover, there are many such persons, particularly from the ruling parties, who, on the basis of their money power and muscle power, compel the people of Scheduled Castes to cast their votes in their favour. Though there is a large number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India, they have not been given an equal status with the other sections of people. Instead, to this day they are treated not even as second class citizens of the country. I would expect the new Government to grant recognition to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the basis of their caste to give them their identity, so that wherever they go in the country, they are recognised as such and they may continue to avail all the facilities as have been provided by the Government. During the British period, there was a separate scheduled area for these people. They had their own separate set of rules and regulations and no person from any other caste was allowed to go there. But during the congress regime, attempts were being made to disintegrate and disperse the people of Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes so that they may come to the mainstream and lose their identity, culture and language. Such attempts should be stalled.

After the country attained independ-

ence, states were reorganised on the basis of languages. But there are so many languages in our country. Even Hindi has a number of dialects, and the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have different dialects and these are also the languages of this country. For centuries, these people have had their own culture and language and it will be unfortunate, if they have to lose these things after independence. As a medium of education, they have to opt for one of the 14 languages specified in the Constitution. The dialects of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe areas have not been recognised as yet. Other languages have developed. However, these people have craze for English. So I would like to urge upon the Government to take steps to impart education in scheduled castes and scheduled tribes areas through English medium, so that they may be brought in the main-stream. If they are ashamed of learning any other language and have so much craze for English language, they should pressurize the Government for the provision of education through English medium. Even great Sanskrit speaking scholars have to learn English to come at par with others and if these people start learning Hindi, they will be left behind. When even Hindi, Kannada or Punjabi speaking persons are learning English, why should the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes learn Hindi. So, I would like to request the Government that it should consider the point of provision of English medium education for all the people of these communities in the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe areas right from primary education to higher education level, only then they will be able to come in the main-stream.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been waiting for my turn to speak since 11 A.M. I did not even go for lunch at 2 P.M. and now at 7 P.M. I have got the opportunity to speak. I am happy as it is my maiden speech but at the same time it is a very unhappy situation to see that while we are discussing

[Sh. Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

such a major burning problem of atrocities on the backward classes who are not feeling safe even in their own homes because of the agitation which has been started throughout the country, some hon. Members have left the house so that they could keep avoid expressing their views here. Had all the Members belonging to different parties were present here, they could have known the reality of the allegation that due to reservation of jobs for the backward classes and facilities given to them candidates belonging to other castes could not get jobs and remain unemployed. I would like to remind them as I have the data pertaining to year 1987 with me. According to this, as against a total of 330 posts for reserved for scheduled castes in grade A only 262 were filled. As against 233 reserved posts Scheduled Tribes, only 89 were filled. Similarly, out of 97 posts reserved for Scheduled Castes in Grade B, only 76 posts were filled with S.C. candidates and 28 with Scheduled Tribe candidates. In 1988, in the Group A, the S.T. quota was 189, out of which only 157 posts were filled. In Group A, the Scheduled Caste had a quota of 407 posts, out of which 346 were filled. In Group B, only 111 of the total vacancies were filled up.

19.00 hrs.

Thus we can see that their reserved vacancies have not been filled till now. I regret to say that for the past 40 years, the Congress Party has been making propaganda that such and such measures have been taken for the welfare of the harijans. As a result, not to speak of doing justice to them, it helped in building an atmosphere of hatred against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. Now people are agitating against the reservations in Government jobs made for these people. I hail from Gujarat, where Gandhiji was born. But today it is facing violence. Agitation started in Gujarat as a result of which the homes of thousands of harijans were burnt. The Congress-M.P. Shri Parmar had complained to Shrimati Gandhi against the anti-reservation agita-

tion in Gujarat and the burning of homes of harijans. This was a statement of a Congress M.P. Congress Party has been in power in Gujarat and continues to be so even now. Harijans are attacked there and their houses are burnt.

What will be the condition in the other parts of the country when such incidents are taking place in Gujarat. In 1987, 727 cases of atrocities on harijans were reported, out of which 13 cases were of murder and 18 of rape. When such is the condition in Gujarat and so many people have been killed on one year, what would be the condition in U.P. and M.P. where an agitation is going on. As many as 2879 criminal cases in M.P. and 4378 criminal cases in U.P. were reported during 1987. In U.P. alone, there were 235 murder cases and 208 rape cases in 1987. When this was the number of murders of harijans in U.P., you can well estimate about the other places. In our country, the harijans and the Scheduled Tribe people have been guaranteed security under the constitution. In spite of that so large is number of murders and atrocities committed on them. Therefore, mere provisions of reservation for them does not serve the purpose. Stringent action should be taken against people who commit atrocities on them or start agitations against them.

If this state of affairs is allowed to continue and atrocities continue to be committed on them, it will be very difficult for them to live in villages. The Government will have to post police personnel for the security of harijans in each and every village. In order to avoid such a situation, my submission is that stringent steps should be taken against people who spearhead such agitations.

I also want to submit that the nephews of the ex-Congress Member, Shri Gadhvi, who was a Minister at the Centre and was defeated at the polls this time, committed atrocities on harijans. In his collage, women going outside the village to relieve themselves were stoned at and humiliated. Harijan women were raped. Therefore, no harijan is prepared to live in his village sambarda. 300 people of that village organised

gherao of the collectorate in Palanpur.

I would like to remind you that 3 harijan women had to deliver babies in the open. Even after 40 after of independence, women belonging to scheduled castes have to give birth to child on the roadside. The Government under the Chief Ministership of Shri Amar Singh Chowdhary provided them neither any security nor any assurance, whereas the B.J.P. provided them security. When the time for Lok Sabha elections came, they told them to settle elsewhere as they are apprehending defeat in the elections. People decided that the Scheduled Caste people under the Congress rule.... (*Interruptions*)....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the hon. Member to be brief.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Therefore both the reserved seats of the scheduled castes in Gujarat have been won by the Opposition.

In the end, my submission is that the Government should take steps to check the atrocities being committed on the scheduled caste people, Shri Madhav Singh Solanki has again been made the Chief Minister by the Congress Party. This has perhaps been done to incite agitation once again so that the harijan again face trouble and come to the fold of the Congress Party. Whenever the Scheduled Caste people have left the Congress Party, agitation, murders and atrocities have taken place. I am saying this with confidence on the basis of my personal experience.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for granting me opportunity to speak and I also thank the hon. Members who heard me with patience.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Firstly, I would like to

remind the hon. Members about the time limitation. Secondly, I fully share the pain and concern of the hon. Members that it is a matter of deepest concern to all of us, namely, about the condition and status of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and yet the scope of the present Bill under discussion is a very limited one. The condition and status of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is not under consideration. So, I thought I should remind the hon. Members about that also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House does not have the quorum. Therefore, discussions on such a subject of great importance cannot be continued. When discussion on this amending Bill extending the period of reservation for another 10 years is being held, there is no quorum in the House. This is not Rajya Sabha but Lok Sabha and if the quorum is not there, neither discussion nor proceedings of the House can go on.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the quorum bell be rung.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The quorum bell has been rung twice. I find that the House does not have quorum. However, before I adjourn the House, I would like to read out the list of names of Members who were scheduled to participate this evening and I would like their names to be recorded for consideration of the hon. Speaker so that when the debate resumes on Tuesday, their names may be considered by the hon. Speaker. These are the names of the Members who were here, but have had no chance to speak. These are: Shri K. D Sultanpuri, Shri S Sema, Shri Laeta Umbrey, Shri P L Handoo, Shri Yuvraj, Shri Asim Bala and Shri Amar Roypradhan.

It is for the consideration of the hon. Speaker to take this into account and accommodate them as well if time permits.

As there is no quorum, the House stands adjourned to meet on Tuesday, the 26th December, 1989 at 11 a.m.

19.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 26, 1989, Pausa 5, 1911 (Saka)