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Wednesday, December 20, 1989

Agrahayana 29, 1911 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**First Session
(Ninth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 9)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

12.23 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Wednesday, December 20, 1989/Agrahayana 29, 1911 (Saka)

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 20th December, 1989.

The Lok Sabha met at fifteen minutes past twelve of the Clock

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Honourable Members,

MEMBERS SWORN

It gives me great pleasure to address both Houses of Parliament at this first session after the Ninth General Election to the House of the People. I extend my felicitations to the members of the new Lok Sabha.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Secretary-General may call out the names of the Members who have not yet taken the Oath or made the Affirmation

2. The General Election, just concluded, has demonstrated the maturity of the Indian electorate. The people have given a clear verdict in favour of change.
3. The Government took charge just a fortnight ago and has commenced in right earnest the task of working out the details of various policy initiatives and thrusts which it intends to adopt. In this Address I am confining myself to the broad issues that the Government proposes to tackle.
4. My Government pledges itself to fulfil the mandate given to it by the people. The Government will

Shri Vijayaramaraju Satrucharla (Parvathipuram)

Shri Rameshwar Prasad (Arrah)

Shri Oscar Fernandes (Udupi)

Shri Kankar Munjare (Balaghat)

Shri Harish Chandra Singh Rawat (Almora)

Shri Sarwar Hussain (Bulandshahr)

Shri Rashid Masood (Saharanpur)

work to restore the dignity of the nation and the individual. The Government proposes to adopt an alternative model of governance and development based on socialist ideals of economic equality and social justice, federalism and decentralisation, institutional accountability and human rights. Government will take steps to establish an Inter-State Council and to accord constitutional status to the Planning Commission.

5. My Government is committed to a process of national reconciliation and the evolution of consensus to solve the many problems facing the nation.
6. The Punjab problem has defied solution so far. Over the past few years, we have witnessed widespread violence. There will be no compromise with separatism and no yielding to the extremists, but there is admittedly a compelling need for a national endeavour to resolve the problem. The Government will hold wide ranging discussions with leaders of cross-sections of the people to evolve a national consensus. A beginning has already been made in the All Party Meeting held on 17th December, 1989. Action on the report of the Ranganath Misra Commission of Enquiry will be expeditiously completed.
7. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is extremely delicate and fraught with serious implications. There will be no compromise on the country's unity, sovereignty and integrity. The people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have been second to none in the nation's freedom struggle, will be enabled to play their rightful role in the process of national growth and development. The problems of the people of the state will be taken into depth with a view of finding speedy and durable solutions.
8. The North East region requires our immediate attention. We are committed to the speedy economic development of the region and for the settlement of the issues which concern the tribal people in the region, including Assam, through dialogue and discussion.
9. In recent months, the country has witnessed riots and violence arising from sectarian issues. A secular India is the very basis of our emotional unity and national integrity. Violence has no place in the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of non-violence. The need of the hour is the generation of an atmosphere of amity and goodwill in order to avoid any communal divide. Government seek the support of the people in its unrelenting efforts to promote national unity and integrity. The National Integration Council is being re-constituted and will function as a forum for effective initiatives and interaction on issues of national concern.
10. A healthy and vibrant democracy hinges crucially on the sanctity and strength of democratic institutions. The Government is fully committed to the restoration of the dignity and vitality of institutions which have been weakened in recent years. Power flows from the people. It is imperative that the people themselves should have the final say in governing themselves. My Government will promote on the basis of national consensus a genuine

devolution of powers, functions and resources to Panchayati Raj institutions enabling the fullest participation of the people in the developmental process. It will secure, with the cooperation of the states, adequate representation in these bodies for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and women. Indeed the whole process will be one of strengthening the federal structure of the polity at the Centre, the State, the District and the Panchayat levels.

11. A clean public life is the bedrock of democracy. Over the past few years, there has been a growing erosion of norms and values in public life. The law will take its own course in respect of matters of corruption in high places. The Government will introduce legislation during this session for setting up a Lok Pal, whose jurisdiction will include the Prime Minister also.
12. My Government firmly believes that a participative democracy requires an enlightened and informed electorate. It also believes that an open Government functioning in full public view, will minimise the possibility of wrong doing. The Official Secrets Act will be suitably amended so that people have increased access to information. Doordarshan and AIR will be given autonomy to ensure free flow of information. A bill to this effect will be introduced in this session. The 59th Amendment to the Constitution which seriously jeopardised the citizen's right to life will be repealed. The Postal Bill which sought to interfere with the citizen's right to privacy will be withdrawn. Similarly, the amendments to the Commissions of Inquiry Act which sought to permit withholding of vital information from the people and Parliament will be removed from the Statute book. My Government will, by amending the Constitution, ensure the citizen's right to information.
13. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continue to be the victims of social and economic injustice. Government's primary aim will be to ensure economic and social justice to them so that they can lead their lives with dignity and honour. The reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the legislatures will be extended by a further period of 10 years.
14. Government will take appropriate steps to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission.
15. The problems of ex-servicemen will receive full consideration particularly in regard to their demand for one-rank-one-pension and their post-retirement employment.
16. The Government will spare no efforts to guarantee that minorities live without fear and as equal partners in the country's progress.
17. The Constitution provides equal status to men and women. However, women continue to suffer from discrimination and indignity. My Government will take all steps to provide equal opportunities for women.
18. The youth have a special role to play in the progress of the country. Their vast energies have to be tapped and channelled for the

task of nation building. They are the harbingers of change and it is they who have to lay the foundations of a new and just social order. Government will take steps to facilitate the harnessing youth power for unleashing social forces to transform society. The educational system will be reformed so that it responds to the needs and aspirations of the new generation.

19. It will be the endeavour of this Government to ensure integration of the scientific and technological capabilities with out other efforts for national development. Science and Technology will be used for increasing agricultural production, developing technologies that would lead to employment generation, for the proper utilisation of natural resources, and for generally benefitting the population at the grassroots level.
20. Government will priority to the expansion of productive employment opportunities in the economy. It will strive to ensure appropriately to all citizens the right to work, to enable them to participate in the nation building process.
21. There are disquieting trends on the economic front. Unbridled government expenditure and consequent increase in money supply and proliferation of black money have stoked the fires of inflation. The fiscal imbalance has shown up in the form of a huge budgetary deficit. The balance of payments is under severe strain.
22. The Government attaches the highest priority to curbing inflationary pressures. In recent months, prices of many essential commodities have risen

sharply. This has further impoverished the poor and the underprivileged. Government intends to tackle the problem of inflation in all possible ways.

23. Deficit financing has reached staggering levels. Steps will be taken to reduce wasteful government expenditure. Effective control over Government spending and deficit is an essential pre-requisite for restoring external and internal stability to our economy.
24. A number of medium-term factors have placed a strain on the balance of payments. Much more needs to be done by way of import management and export growth. The Government will formulate an Action Plan which will aim at correcting the imbalance in our external payments position.
25. The rise in prices of essential commodities has affected the common man adversely. The public distribution system will be strengthened and closely monitored. Production of articles of common consumption will be encouraged. These steps will ensure that such commodities are within the reach of the vulnerable sections of the society.
26. Poverty and unemployment continue to confront to the nation. Economic disparities have increased in the past few years. All sections of the people have not shared equally the fruits of growth. Government is committed to redress this imbalance and redirect the benefits of development to the poorer sections of society. The Minimum Needs Programme, aimed at the poor, will be strengthened and in particular, Government will under-

take a time-bound programme to provide all village with potable drinking water.

27. The vast majority of our population live in the villages. There has been a flight of resources—both human and otherwise, from our rural areas. This trend has to be stopped. A substantial portion of Government's investment outlay has to be channelled to rural areas. Government's policies will be designed for the poor and the toiling masses. The Government will take steps to see that the terms of trade for agriculture sector are improved and our farmers receive remunerative prices for their produce. Government will take appropriate steps to provide debt relief for marginal farmers, landless agricultural labourers, artisans and weavers on loans below Rs. 10,000. My Government will revise the existing laws to bring about equitable distribution of land and other natural resources like water and make the tiller of the land its owner. All land reform laws will be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.
28. My Government will promote industrial development in such a way as to maximise employment. An important role will be assigned—and all support given—to small-scale industries, to agro processing industries and industries based on the craft of rural artisans as also village industries of particular benefit to women and rural households. The Public Sector will be streamlined so as to augment the surpluses generated so that they can be ploughed back for future expansion or utilisation for developmental activities. Labour participation in management will be made effective to promote an environment of productivity and industrial peace.
29. In order to prevent the degradation of the environment and consequent erosion of our natural resource base. Government will make preservation of environment a priority area of State Policy. Programmes for regeneration of biomass will receive fullest emphasis.
30. My Government's foreign policy is deeply rooted in the ideals and principles which inspired the freedom struggle. This is reflected in its firm adherence to non-alignment and our struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racial discrimination and all form of domination and exploitation. The rapidly changing international environment presents both challenges and opportunities for India, underlining the need for further strengthening the national consensus.
31. My Government attaches importance to revitalising and strengthening ties with our neighbours in South Asia, and to imparting fresh dynamism to the process of regional cooperation within the framework of SAARC. The Government will spare no effort to resolve outstanding bilateral issues with our neighbouring countries, consistent with our national interests. The Government will further endeavour to usher in an era of stability, confidence and cooperative endeavour in our region. In the pursuit of this objective talks have already been initiated with the Government of Sri Lanka.
32. The process of further understanding and cooperation be-

tween India and China will be continued by my Government. It is hoped that the boundary question can be resolved in a fair, reasonable manner in consonance with our national interests.

33. My Government will further strengthen the traditional friendship with the Soviet Union; build upon the new trends of a constructive and cooperative relationship with the United States; and strengthen economic cooperation with Japan and the European Community.

34. My Government recognises the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to achieve a homeland of their own in a peaceful West Asia. The Government's support and solidarity to this end will always be there. It will also be my Government's endeavour to maintain pressure on the Pretoria regime to commence early negotiations for the dismantlement of Apartheid. The emergence of a united democratic and non-racial South Africa is our objective.

35. Honourable Members, the present session is a short one. Yet it is historic in its importance and is summoned immediately following the constitution of the Ninth Lok Sabha in order to place before Parliament the new agenda of work.

36. I wish you all success in your endeavours.

JAI HIND

12.23 1/2 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Sir, may I have

the permission to introduce the Council of Ministers?

Chaudhari Devi Lal Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Sir, I am on a point of order. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH (Hardwar): I am also on a point of order....

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under article 75 of our Constitution, the Deputy Prime Minister... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. In this connection I would like to submit that this matter is already there in a court of law. I would, request the Hon. Prime Minister to proceed further.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, you know the rules of procedure, please take your seat.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): There is no provision for Deputy Prime Minister in the Constitution. (Interruptions)

[English]

I am also on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: No point of order.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Sir, My point of order in no way infringes the judicial powers of the court. My point is that there is no provision for the office of the Deputy Prime Minister in the Constitution Article 74 provides that...

[*English*]

"There shall be a council of Ministers to advise the President of India."

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have taken note of your point. Please sit down.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: My point is that

[*English*]

Our Hon. Prime Minister cannot introduce Chaudhari Devi Lalji as the Deputy Prime Minister.

[*Translation*]

My second point is that Ch. Devi Lal has not

taken oath of office even as a Minister. As such Ch. Devi Lal is only an hon. Member of this House. My third point is that whatever amount has been spent by the Government of India on his security as the Deputy Prime Minister, should not be borne by the Government but by him personally.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell all of you that Mr. Devi Lal is an elected Member of this House. Even earlier Sardar Patel held the office of Deputy Prime Minister. Mr. Jagjivan Ram also remained Deputy Prime Minister in the cabinet of Shri Shri Moraji Bhai. Therefore there is no point of order. Once again I would request the Hon. Prime Minister to proceed further.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Prime Minister may resume the introduction of Ministers.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:

Prof. Madhu Dandavate	Minister of Finance
Shri George Fernandes	Minister of Railways
Shri Ajit Singh	Minister of Industry
Shri Sharad Yadav	Minister of Textiles with additional charge of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed	Minister of Home Affairs
Shri Arif Mohammad Khan	Minister of Energy with additional charge of Ministry of Civil Aviation
Shri Nilamani Routray	Minister of Health and Family Welfare
Shri I.K. Gujral	Minister of External Affairs
Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha	Minister of Food and Civil Supplies

Shri P. Upendra	Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs
Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan	Minister of Surface Transport with additional charge of the Ministry of Communications
Shri Dinesh Goswami	Minister of Steel and Mines with additional charge of the Ministry of Law and Justice
Shri Murasoli Maran	Minister of Urban Development
Minister of State holding independent charge	
Shri Manubhai Kotadia	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Water Resources
Ministers of State	
Shrimati Maneka Gandhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests
Prof. M.G.K. Menon	Minister of State for Science and Technology

(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am moving a condolence resolution.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of six of our former colleagues, viz. Sarvashri Subodh Sen, Shiva Chandra Jha, Lok Nath

Mishra, Gokul Saikia, Chandra Pratap Narain Singh and Shrimati Savitri Shyam.

Shri Subodh Sen was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84 from Jalpaiguri constituency of West Bengal. Earlier, he had been a member of the West Bengal Legislative Council during 1962-68.

A devoted political worker he worked untiringly for the upliftment of the working class.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Sen passed away at Jalpaiguri on 7 October 1989 at the age of 72.

Shri Shiva Chandra Jha was a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Madhubani constituency of Bihar. Later on, he was elected to Rajya Sabha in April 1978 and continued to be its member till 1984.

A well known political workers, he par-

participated actively in the freedom movement from school days.

A free lance journalist, he was associated with several daily and weekly newspapers published in Hindi and English. He was a prolific writer and had several books to his credit.

A widely travelled person, he attended the 25th Common wealth Parliamentary Conference held in New Zealand in 1979 as a member of the Indian delegation.

An able parliamentarian, he evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions thereto.

Shri Jha passed away while on his way to Madhubani on 8 November 1989 at the age of 60.

Shri Loke Nath Mishra was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India during 1946-49. Later, he was elected to the Orissa Legislative Assembly and was its member till 1951. He represented the Puri constituency of Orissa in the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Mishra participated actively in the freedom movement and suffered imprisonment in 1942.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Mishra was an able parliamentarian who took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Mishra passed away at Puri on 18 November 1989 at the age of 84.

Shri Gokul Saikia was a member of the Eighth Lok Sabha during 1985-89 representing Lakhimpur constituency of Assam.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Saikia was an active social worker. He took keen interest in flood relief work and in removal of unemployment amongst the educated youth. An able parliamentarian, he participated actively in the proceedings of the House. He served as a member of the Committee on

Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House and also on the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

Shri Saikia died on 23 November 1989 at Deogarh in Bihar at a very early age of 38 years.

Shri Chandra Pratap Narain Singh was a member of Eighth Lok Sabha representing Padrauna constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was also a member of Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84. Earlier, he had been a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1969-74.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Singh distinguished himself as an able administrator and held with distinction various portfolios in the Union Council of Ministers. He evinced special interest in rural development.

A widely travelled person and an outstanding parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution to the same.

Shri Singh passed away in tragic circumstances on 26 November, 1989 at Gorakhpur at the age of 54.

Shri Savitri Shyam was a member of the fourth and fifth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 and 1971-77, representing Aonla constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, she had been a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council during 1955-67.

An able parliamentarian, Shrimati Shyam evinced keen interest in the proceedings of the House and served as a member of important Parliamentary Committees like the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Government Assurances.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shrimati Shyam participated actively in the freedom movement in 1942.

A well-known political and social worker, Shrimati Shyam was associated with sev-

eral social organisations in various capacities. She worked untiringly for the development of education and agriculture and for economic justice, prohibition and for propagation of khadi.

Shrimati Shyam passed away on 28 November, 1989 at New Delhi at the age of 71.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The members then stood in silence for a short while

12.38 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Proclamation by President revoking the Proclamation in relation to the state of Karnataka, published in Gazette of India dated 30.11.1989

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Proclamation dated the 30th November, 1989 issued by the President under clause (2) of article 356 of the Constitution revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 21st April, 1989 in relation to the State of Karnataka, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1027 (E) in Gazette of India dated 30th November, 1989 under article 356 (3) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-2/89]

Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1989

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1989 (No. 2 of 1989) (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by the President on the 21st October, 1989 under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3/89]

12.39 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, I have nominated the following Members as members of the Panel of Chairman:-

1. Shri Vakkom Purushothaman
2. Dr. Thambi Durai
3. Shri Satya Pal Malik
4. Shri Jaswant Singh
5. Shri Nirmal Chatterjee
6. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee

12.39 1/2 hrs.

RECOGNITION OF LEADER OF OPPOSITION

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have decided to recognise Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the leader of the Congress-I Party which is a party in opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength in Lok Sabha, as the Leader of the Opposition with effect from the 18th December, 1989, in terms of Section 2 of the Salary

and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in
Parliament Act, 1977.

12.40 1/2 hrs.

12.40 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): I beg to move
for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill further to amend the Representa-
tion of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was added

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I introduce
the Bill.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd

[English]

**Statement giving reasons for immedi-
ate legislation by the Representation of
the People (Amendment) Ordinance**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE
(SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): I beg to lay on
the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi
and English versions) giving reasons for
immediate legislation by the Representation
of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1989.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3/89]

12.41 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Thursday, December 21,
1989/Agrahayana 30, 1911 (Saka)*