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Thursday, March 21, 1985

Phalguna 30, 1906 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday March 21, 1985/
Phalgun 30, 1906 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Prevention of High Rate of Children's
Death

*121. SHRI AMAR ROY-
PRADHAN : Will the Minister of
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
be pleased to state the main reason for
high rate of children's death every year
and remedial steps Government propose
to take in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH
AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI
MOHSINA KIDWAI) : The Main causes
of infant and child mortality are pre-
maturity, disorders of respiratory system,
diarrhoea, tetanus, malnutrition and
fevers. Measures to improve and
strengthen the Maternal and Child Care
Programme during the 7th Plan include
expansion of the existing Health infra-
structure, training of manpower, health
education, adoption of risk approach,
universal immunization of children, con-
trol of diarrhoeal diseases, Prophylaxis
against nutritional anaemia and supple-
mentary nutrition under the Integrated
Child Development Service Scheme.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
Today's children are the future of India.

But what is the figure of life after birth?
According to Food & Agriculture Orga-
nisation, 23 million children are born
in India every year. 3 million of them
are to some extent healthy. 120 out
of 1,000 children do not live beyond
one year. One out of 7 children dies
before the age of 5 years. 7 out of 10
children suffer from malnutrition.

In children's death, India is the top-
most. Its share is 38% of the world's
child mortality. The Integrated Child
Development Scheme and the Mother
and Child Health Scheme have totally
failed to improve the condition of the
children of India.

If you make a review of the Five-
Year Plans from the First Five Year
Plan to the Sixth Five Year Plan, the
Child Development Schemes and the
Child Health Schemes out a sorry
figure.

Before I put my question, I would
like to remind the Hon. Minister through
you of the poem of Mr. Gabriela Mistral,
the Nobel Prize winner of Chile.

"Many of the things we need can
wait,

The child cannot,
Right now is the time his bones are
being formed,
His blood is being made,

And his senses are being developed,
To him we cannot answer 'Tomorrow'
His name is 'Today'."

May I ask the Hon. Minister what is
today's immediate programme for the
betterment of children because today's
children are the future of India.

What is the child mortality rate for 1983-84?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Hon. Madam Minister may tell us her opinion about that poem also.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has rightly said that the infant mortality rate in our country is very high. I would like to inform you that in the Sixth Five Year Plan and in the Seventh Five Year Plan, we have tried our utmost to develop the health infrastructure. Two years back, the National Health Policy was also discussed in this House and it was said during the discussion that we should strengthen our health infrastructure to this extent that its benefit may percolate to the lowest strata of the society. Infant mortality rate per thousand of live births was 127 in 1978, 114 in 1980 and 110 in 1981, which is the latest available figure—

[*English*]

—110 out of 1,000 live births. It shows that it is declining. The progress is not very fast. But it is declining.

[*Translation*]

Our infrastructure and the way in which we are working is very effective. There has been considerable expansion in our mother and child health care programmes. Infant mortality and expectant mother's deaths are inter-linked matters and that is why we have initiated a mass immunisations programme. Till now, we used to give five injections—Triple Antigen, B.C.G. and Polio, but with the beginning of the Seventh Plan, we are starting a new injection of measles, which would be given to children in the age group of 0 to 1 year. Similarly, there is a mass immunisation programme for expectant mothers against tetanus. We hope to complete this programme by 1990.

You are already aware of the infrastructure which we have. You have said

that this is all on paper. I would like to say that a lot of work has been done through this infrastructure and a lot of work is being done in your State also. In this connection, I would only say that such a gloomy picture should not be projected. One should always be hopeful and we all should collectively try to accomplish this task.

[*English*]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : It has been admitted by the Hon. Minister that the child mortality rate in 1980 was 110 per thousand. It is the highest in the world. Can we claim that this is a very good figure for India? It has been rightly said by the Hon. Minister that the question of child mortality should not be taken up alone, it should be taken up along with the health of mother. The danger of "too close, too many, too young" can be seen from the UNICEF's recent survey in India, El Salvador and Argentina. It reveals that 3-4 year gap birth meant an infant mortality rate of 80; it climbed sharply to 200 when the difference was less than a year; in babies born to women below 20, the death rate of babies was double that of above-mid-twenties mothers. So child health means mother's health, age of mother and family planning. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what are the programmes being taken up in the Seventh Plan for mother's health and family planning and what is the amount allocated for this purpose in the Seventh Plan.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : The allocation of the amount for the Seventh Plan has not been finalised yet. I cannot say anything at this stage, as it has to be finalised by the Planning Commission. You have suggested that the number of Primary Health Centres, Sub-Centres and Community Health Centres should be increased. I would like to tell you that the total number of Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres is 76,500 and during the Seventh Five Year Plan, we propose to increase the number by another 50,000.

[English]

At present 6,500 Primary Health Centres are there, and we are proposing to have another 10,250 in the next Plan. These are the steps which we are taking to strengthen this programme. In every village there is a Health Guide and there are ANMs and traditional birth attendants to whom we are giving training to take up the programme in a scientific manner; at the time of child's birth, they should be there, there are ANMs to assist in the *Dats* in difficult cases; they can also refer difficult cases to the district hospitals or Primary Health Centres or upgraded Community Health Centres.

SHRI VAKKOM PURSHOTHAMAN : The Hon. Minister has said that the child mortality rate in 1980 was about 110 per thousand. May I know the rate of infant mortality in India at present and what is the target fixed for 2,000 A.D., when we have to achieve the motto of Health for All ?

I would also like to know the present infant mortality rate in Kerala and if it is less than the target fixed for (2000) AD, I would like to know whether it is a fact that sufficient funds are not being allotted to Kerala due to that reason and will you please be kind enough to allot more funds to Kerala in appreciation of the good work done by them ?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : The Kerala is doing good work in the family planning programme and we are giving them award. I wish Kerala should get this award also. Our target is that by 2000 AD we want to reduce this figure of infant mortality by 60 per thousand births.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : In Kerala to-day the rate is even less than the target you have set for 2000 AD. The complaint is that due to that reason you are not allowing sufficient funds.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : It is not correct. We are giving funds

to Kerala also, and we wish we can give some more to them.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : In remote areas like the North-Eastern Region, the Andaman and Nicobar islands and in Lakshadweep even the general medical care is not sufficiently available. Particularly in Andaman & Nicobar Islands no child specialist is available. Even gynaecologists are not available and now even the General Duty Medical Officer posts are lying vacant. In view of this, will the Hon. Minister assure this House that to control this child mortality some special programme is taken up in such remote and isolated areas to check the child mortality rate during this Plan period ?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : To difficult areas doctors are not ready to go. That is why we have sanctioned Rs. 400 for the doctors who are working in the rural areas—Rs. 250 for their allowance and Rs. 150 for accommodation where they do not get government accommodation. It is an important thing because we want doctors to go there and work in difficult areas. In the North-Eastern region there is the same problem as also in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. So we are finding some solution by giving some incentives. We are giving Rs. 400 extra to the doctors to go to rural areas and also difficult areas.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Is the Hon. Minister aware that in the present arrangement of immunization long queues are there and also not enough medicines are available. You have mentioned universalisation of immunization to be the goal of the Seventh Plan, I would like to know what you mean by universalisation. Upto what administrative level do you propose to start this immunization centres and whether these can be substantially increased than confining it to 0-1 as at present ? Otherwise, it cannot be universal immunization.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : We are not going to start some special

centres for this immunization. In our present infrastructure, in the Sub-centres there are ANMs who are capable of giving injection to children. In the PHC there is the provision for immunization of children and in the District Headquarters there is also some arrangement for this. So through our infrastructure we propose to get all the infants of the age group of 0-1 immunized as well as the expectant mothers.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Is it covered by to-day's arrangement ?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Yes.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : No, no.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Next question.

Rail Line from Ranchi To Korba

*123. **KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have a proposal for the construction of a railway line between Ranchi (Bihar) and Korba (Madhya Pradesh);

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal ; and

(c) whether it is proposed to be included in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) to (c). A Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of Ranchi—Lohardaga narrow gauge line to broad gauge and a new broad gauge line from Lohardaga to Korba was carried out in 1975-76. As per the Survey Report the project was not financially viable. In view of the severe constraint of resources and heavy

commitments already in hand, the proposal will have to await consideration till the resources position improves.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated in his reply that the engineering-cum-traffic survey between Ranchi to Laboardaga and Lohardaga to Korba has been undertaken in 1975-76 and the survey report says that the above project will not be financially viable.

This has been surveyed thrice and assurance was given to us by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, that this line will be taken up as it covers the backward under-developed tribal areas. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will consider this proposal and take it up in the Seventh Plan so that the mineral areas which are at present under-developed can be developed in future ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : It is not possible to take it up in the near future.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, it seems in the Ministry of Railways the king goes and with him the orders also go. Akbar goes and Jahangir comes. Akbar's orders go and Jahangir's orders come. One minister goes and all his orders are cancelled. The new minister comes and he gives new orders which are to be cancelled when another minister comes.

Sir, on the Floor of the House in the year 1981 late Kedar Pandey had promised that Purlia to Kotsila would be turned into broad gauge. I would like to know whether government is going to keep the promise made by late Shri Kedar Pandey. He will be happy to see in the heavens that his promises are being implemented.

SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, it does not arise out of this question.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that in Kerala the train called 307 and 308 was earlier stopping at the station in my constituency...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Thomas, it is not connected with the present question. So, please sit down.

Low Power Generation by Faridabad Thermal Power Station

*124. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the power generation at Faridabad Thermal Power Plant is only 8 M.W. instead of 195 M.W. ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the activities of the workers union have contributed to this situation; and

(d) the remedial measures taken in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) It is not correct to say that the power generation at Faridabad thermal power station is only 8 M.W. The average power generation was 58 M.W. in January, 1985 and 78 MW in February, 1985 as against the installed capacity of 195 M.W.

(b) and (c) The low generation was primarily on account of problem of coal mills, poor quality of raw water and overstaffing, indiscipline & other personnel problems amongst others.

(d) Besides measures being taken to overcome the personnel problems, a comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme to improve the performance of the power station has been taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as regards thermal power station in the country, the example of Faridabad is before you. The Thermal Power Station at Faridabad must have been set up after approval from the Central Electricity Board. In reply to the question about the date of its installation, its capacity and the actual utilisation of its capacity, year-wise, it has been stated that—

[English]

“The average power generation was 58 M.W. in January, 1985 and 78 M.W. in February, 1985 as against the installed capacity of 195 M.W.”

[Translation]

I would like to know how much loss has been incurred due to under-utilisation of the installed capacity and the details of the loss, yearwise. Who is responsible for this and what action has been taken against him? Who is guilty and who has been punished? Have you terminated the services of any of the officers who were responsible for it? I would like to know if anybody is accountable for this or not.

[English]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The installed capacity, as stated earlier, is 195 M.W. A 15 M.W. unit was commissioned in February, 1966. Unit one of 60 MW capacity was commissioned in November, 1974. Unit two of 60 M.W. were commissioned in March, 1976. Three units of 60 MW were commissioned in April, 1981.

It is true that the performance of these units is not satisfactory due to many reasons. Regarding the plant load-factor of the 15 MW unit, I would like to say that during 1984-85, April to February, the plant load factor is 41.80. The plant load factor of the other units are as above :—

Unit No. 1. (60 MW)	14.30
Unit No. 2. (60 MW)	38.40
Unit No. 3. (60 MW)	29.50

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Who is managing it ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Let it be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. SAANKARANAND : His question needs a veeey detailed answer.

The House should expect me to give a detailed answer.

The reasons for poor performance are the following :—

- (1) Poor performance of the hammer type coal mines which require replacement after about 100 working hours.
- (2) Poor quality of raw water from Gurgaon canal which is causing algae growth in the cooling tower and also chocking of condenser tubes
- (3) High axial shift due to salt deposits on the blades or HP rotor in case of 60 MW units.
- (4) Frequent failure of economiser and platen tubes.
- (5) Erratic coal flow to the mills from bunkers.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I request that this may be laid on the Table of the House. The reply is lengthy.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If the Minister is lengthy, he may be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Steps are being taken to put proper persons in proper places to manage the affairs of these units.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What happened for all these years ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I asked for reason why the generation at Faridabad Thermal Power Plant is only C.M.W. He has not answered that Mr. Deputy-Speaker, will you kindly ask the Minister to reply to my question ? I have put a specific question and I request him to answer this question and also inform us about the role of the management. Let him answer these questions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARUN NEHRU : Sir, in Haryana, last year, the plant load factor was 34% which was very poor. The Hon. Member will be happy to know that in the month of February, it was 48% which is a substantial improvement.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I have to put my second supplementary.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have already put the question.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, he has given certain reasons—

[*Translation*]

—When did you come to know about these reasons and how much time did you take for correcting them ?

[*English*]

SHRI B. SAANKARANAND : Sir, I have already given the years of commissioning.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : When did you come to know of all these reasons ? What steps did you take to rectify them ? Sir, he has only said that these are the reasons.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : My friend is imagining that all these things have come to my notice all at once which is not possible. They have com-

to our notice whenever they occurred. But with a view to improve performance a comprehensive renovation and modernisation programme for the power station had been prepared under the Centrally sponsored scheme for renovation and modernisation. The programme is expected to cost about Rs. 39.66 crores, out of which Rs. 19.39 crores will be given as central assistance. The scheme has been considered by the Central Electricity Authority.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : Sir, the point is really very interesting. Why is it that in these power stations, the generation is only a fraction of their installed capacity? You have given the various reasons for this. Were these not considered at the time of the project plan was prepared? Did they not foresee the difficulties that have now cropped up? Were they sudden unforeseen happenings which could not have been foreseen by them? You have not answered one important question that was put by him. Has anybody been found responsible for the failure of this power station? If so, what steps did you take against him or in connection with the shortfall or is it merely that nobody has been found responsible?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I have already given the plant load factor. My colleague has already given it and how it has improved. It has come to 48%. That means that there is improvement in the functioning of station.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : I have put a very clear question. Who was responsible for this failure? Was this not foreseen when the project was prepared?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Please listen to me fully and have patience. The problems of the various power stations are envisaged when they are put up and due care is always taken to see that such problems do not arise later. But in spite of it, certain problems do arise for which no indi-

vidual person is responsible and the question of taking any action against anybody does not arise.

SHRI H.M. PATEL : This is not the correct reply. This is a blatant evasion of the reply. I really put to him this question. There are so many power stations in this country. I want to know how many power stations that have been installed have failed to generate such a small fraction of their installed capacity. Even if the actual generation of power by this station were to be doubted; it would still be only a fraction of the total installed capacity. How many such stations are there in the country with such low generation?

You say that various relevant aspects are considered before setting up power stations and if they fail, they fail for no reason and nobody is responsible. How is it possible? I may tell you that I have been myself responsible for a number of power stations when I was Chairman of an Electricity Board. And certainly if there had been this kind of performance, there would have been serious trouble for any number of people.....(*Interruptions*). I am astonished. Minister must be good enough to give an honest reply. If he is unable to give a satisfactory reply, he may say that he has no answer for it.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I am happy to know that the Hon. Member was Chairman of an Electricity Board himself. I do not know, he said that himself. And I do not know whether he wants to say that he was responsible for what had happened in these power stations. I do not take it that way... ..(*Interruptions*).

I have given reasons for poor performance and I have never said that the power station is performing in a good way. This is not my contention. I have said that it is not performing very well. I have given reasons also for the poor performance and I have also told the House what action I am going to take to improve the situation.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Hon. Minister let the House know whether the Government is aware of the fact that there was a demand from the engineers of the HSEB that the HSEB should be headed by a technocrat? Since its inception it was being headed by bureaucrats. Has there been any improvement after the Board is being headed by an engineer? Is it also a fact that there is some sort of a tussle because of the wholesale transfers of engineers, not one, but about eighty, by the HSEB authorities and it has adversely affected the functioning of the plants?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is not correct to say that it is because of these personnel problems that the performance is very poor (*Interruptions*). He mentioned about the wholesale transfer of engineers. I do not think, this is the reason for the poor performance.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is not the answer.

New Line Connecting Jalpaiguri with Siliguri Jn.

*125. **SHRI ANAND PATHAK**
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal for construction of a new Broad Gauge-cum-Metro Gauge line connecting New Jalpaiguri with Siliguri Junction via Rangapani and thus avoid frequent traffic jams in the heart of Siliguri town; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the above proposal in the larger interest of the people of North Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No Sir, However, as an alternative to construction of road over bridge

in replacement of level crossing on Hilcart Road in Siliguri, N.F. Railway submitted a proposal to divert the existing MG/NG lines between Siliguri town and New Jalpaiguri stations along the east bank of the Mahananda river to avoid traffic congestion in Siliguri town.

(b) As the diversion of Railway line is in lieu of Road Over Bridge, the State Government of West Bengal has been requested to agree to share 50% of the cost as per extant rules.

SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Sir, the reply is very vague. My question has not been adequately answered.

Siliguri is a fast developing town and in a sense, it is called the gateway of North Bengal. Thousands of people from different parts of North Bengal, North-Eastern region, Sikkim, Bhutan and other places pass through Siliguri and all the essential commodities etc. are also transported for these areas through Siliguri. The level crossing and the railway gate near Siliguri town Station have stood as stumbling blocks for the smooth flow of traffic. The gate remains closed quite frequently, several times during the day as well night. This causes serious traffic congestion in the busiest business centre of the town, and the road communication is dislocated for hours together.

All the people, mass organisations and political parties of the North Bengal have been demanding removal of the rail gate and diversion of the line from Rangapani. I would like to know whether the Government will consider this most vital demand of the people and adopt remedial measures immediately.

SHRI BANSI LAL : It can be done only if the State Government pays 50 per cent, except the land cost.

SHRI ANAND PATHAK : It is stated that the NFR is also in favour

of such diversion and this proposal has been forwarded to the State Government. I would like to know from the Minister what the reaction of the State Government is and whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has accepted the proposal.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The State Government has not conveyed its approval so far.

SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether the extant rule made in the statement of the second part of the reply would be followed for all the States or exemption is made in the case of some States, and if so, the reasons thereof and the names of such States.

SHRI BANSI LAL : The rule is applicable to all the States.

Manufacture of Quality Drugs

*126. **SHRI R.P. DAS :**



DR. SARADISH ROY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 15 per cent of the samples of Indian drugs tested in Government laboratories are proved to be substandard ;

(b) if so, how Government propose to ensure quality of drugs manufactured by the indigenous manufacturers;

(c) if, no such proposals are there, by what time some working arrangement for manufacture of quality drugs would be evolved by Government; and

(d) steps proposed to penalise the erring drug companies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The specific measures taken by the Government to ensure the quality of drugs manufactured in the country include amendment of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in 1982 to provide for additional powers for drug inspectors as well as stringent penalties for certain offences, appointment of a Task Force to go into the entire problem of spurious and sub-standard drugs, conducting training programmes for drug inspectors and drug analysts and assisting the States in carrying out inspections of manufacturing firms, approved drug testing laboratories, blood-banks etc.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Drugs and Cosmetics Act contains adequate penal and administrative provisions against the manufacturers whose products have been found to be sub-standard. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act has recently been amended in 1982 to make the penal provisions more stringent.

SHRI R.P. DAS : Sir, this question of sub-standard and spurious drugs was raised in the House several times in the past two-three years and each time, the Ministry gave the same reply in different languages. The intended measures are never equal to the situation of growing incidence of manufacture, distribution and sale of sub-standard and spurious drugs all over the country. At long last, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was passed and the Government got it amended in 1982. After that, the Government formed one Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri S. Mani. It gave a few good recommendations which were considered for a long time. After the Government came the conclusion that these recommendations could not be accepted *in toto*. Now the Minister says that adequate penal administrative provisions have been made to tackle the growing incidence of manufacture of sub-standard and spurious drugs,

although the situation is quite otherwise.

In view of this, may Task the Hon. Minister how many manufacturers and their associates have so far been put behind the bars after the Drugs & Cosmetics act was given effect to; and whether such a situation has ever been brought down to the bearable limit?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

The Hon. Member complained that the question and the reply are the same. If the questions are same, the replies will always be the same. I cannot change my reply if the same question comes today or tomorrow. But about the specific question which the asked, I can give information to the Hon. Member from the years 1978-79 to 1982-83 or if he wants information about a specific year, I can give. During 1982-83, the number of prosecutions launched was 53; the number of prosecutions decided was 27; there was an imprisonment in 13 cases and a fine in four cases and acquittal in 10 cases. Now, if he wants information about the previous year, I can give or if he wants I can lay the whole statement on the Table of the House—whatever the Deputy-Speaker decides.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let it be laid on the Table of the House all the information whatever he has got.

SHRI R.P. DAS : I think the Mani Committee recommended abolition of lone licensee forthwith; and it was of the opinion that lone licensees are the fountain head of all such sub-standard, spurious drugs all over the country. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this system will be abolished forthwith.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I will require a separate notice for this. It is a question which does not rise from this.

SHRI R. P. DAS : But the government have accepted the Mani's Com-

mittee recommendations. It is very much with the measures that the government have to take about spurious drugs. (*Interruptions*) There should be a reply from the government at least about lone licensees. We should know what has been done about these lone licensee? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
That does not arise from this question.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In answer (a), the Minister said, Yes. When was this percentage discovered? Was it before the Act was amended in 1982; if so, has there been an improvement since the amendment to the Act was brought forward?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I have got the figures upto 1984. In 1979, it was 15.41 per cent, in 1980-81, it was 15.06 per cent; in 1981-82, it was 18.3 per cent; in 1982-83, it was 17 per cent; in 1983-84, it was 14 per cent. So, in almost all cases, I said, it is the same.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : After the amendment to the Act was brought forward, the percentage increased to 18 per cent.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
It has not increased; and this does not indicate that all drugs are spurious or sub-standard because samples are drawn from the market.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It has been reported that some drugs which have been banned in the Western countries are being sold in our country. I would like to know whether the Government have come across such reports and if so what action has been taken?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
No such drugs are imported into the country.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I said, that

certain drugs which have been banned in the Western countries because they are pernicious to human health are in circulation in our country. There were such reports. Have you come across any such reports? If so, what action has been taken? If not, will you kindly examine the problem?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
This also does not flow from this question. But I can certainly examine the problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV :
I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how many such cases, including the production of sub-standard and spurious had been brought to his notice during the year 1982-83 in U. P. and what action has been taken by the government thereon?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I have all India figures.

[*English*]

—But no information is available in regard to Uttar Pradesh.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, I want to know whether it is a fact that in the international market, according to the W. H. O. guidelines there are 27 drugs which have not been banned actually, but it is left to the respective countries to use them or not, depending upon their geo-physical conditions. Out of those 27 drugs 21 have been banned in India, but the remaining six drugs, are in circulation in India, as they are suitable to our geo-physical conditions.

Secondly, I have heard the Minister's reply to the Question, and I want to mention that generally, the drugs and pharmaceutical laboratories—which are growing like mushrooms in the country—are not producing any standard products. I want to know whether sufficient number of qualified

people with B. Pharm qualification and other expertise are available in the country, to check them, say at least in a proportion of 1:15, so that the people of the country will be aware of the fact that spurious drugs and sub-standard drugs are available in the country, even through the C. G. H. S. Also, our own Government firms like the IDPL and other companies which are producing such drugs must maintain standard and produce good drugs.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : To say that IDPL is also producing spurious drugs.....

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I did not say 'spurious'. I had said 'sub-standard drugs'.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI :
So far as the question of production of sub-standard drugs is concerned, fifteen percent samples are taken to find out where the sub-standard drugs are being manufactured. In the existing infrastructure, the Central Government, of course have a responsibility, but the State Government also have a responsibility separately. The State Governments should maintain well-equipped laboratories for this purpose. The Central Government has two laboratories—one at Calcutta and the other at Ghaziabad where we test the drugs and the samples sent by the States are also tested. All the States have been asked to appoint qualified Drugs Controllers in their respective states, but barring a few States, the remaining ones have not done so. The purpose of the amendment made in the Act is to strengthen the law and to increase the testing facilities and qualified staff so that more and more States could themselves undertake this work in their own States.

So far as such drugs, are concerned as have been banned in other countries,

but are in use have.....(*Interruptions*)
Kurien Sahab had mentioned about it.

I was saying that doctors here prescribe medicines and drugs keeping in view the climate our country. It is not that they will not prescribe the banned drugs. There is a ban on D.D.T. in other countries, but we spray D.D.T. in our country. Similarly, there are certain other drugs also, but I do not have details about them at present. But if the Hon. Member wants, he would be furnished the information.

[*English*]

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Whenever the Government finds the drugs of sub-standard quality, apart from taking action against the manufacturers and stockists, etc. What is that they do with the stock? Do they seize it or destroy it? Does the stockist continue to sell the drug?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is destroyed.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : What is the total value of the drugs which were destroyed in the last three years?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : That figure is not available with me.

People Affected by Drug Abuse

*127. **SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey on the nature and extent of abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances at the national level with particular reference to the people affected by it and those vulnerable to drug abuse; and

(b) whether Government have taken proper steps with the co-opera-

tion of Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Health and Family Welfare to formulate programmes, for concrete publicity and imparting education on the harmful effects of such drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR : (a) 11 research studies in the field of alcoholism and drug abuse were sponsored by the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare through universities and other educational institutions. Fresh studies in nine university centres have recently been sponsored and are likely to be completed by the middle of 1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Government has been continuously making efforts to educate people about the evils of drinking and drug abuse by publicity through mass communication media and also by encouraging voluntary organisations through grants for educative publicity.

Sponsored radio programmes entitled "NAYA SAVERA" and "AKHIR KYON" have been launched to disseminate message against drinking and drug abuse.

For the direct benefit of the student community, essay and debate competitions against drinking and drug abuse have been sponsored by the Ministry at University level.

To make the publicity more interesting, TV play competitions have been sponsored by the Ministry in the Universities coresponding to 9 regional TV stations. Cash prizes of the value of Rs. 5,000/-, Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 2,000/- have been offered to the top three prize winning teams in each

region. Besides, a grant in aid of Rs. 5,000/- has been offered to each host University. The top two prize winning plays in each region will be recorded and televised.

The State Governments/UT Administrations have been impressed upon to request the University authorities to mount a special vigil against dinking and drug abuse in the University campuses/hostels. It has been further requested that whenever information regarding the abuse of these drugs in educational institutions comes to their notice, the law enforcement agencies in the State may be promptly informed. The State Government have also been requested to undertake mass educational and motivational programmes so that the people could be weaned away from the habit of consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

To ensure co-ordination among the concerned Ministries/Departments, an Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted by the Ministry to review and monitor the drug abuse situation in the country and to advise on the measures that may be required in the field. The representatives from the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare, Finance, Home Affairs, I & B and Education are member of the group.

SHRI N. DENNIS, Abuse of drugs has become a world wide menace. It is on the increase and a serious situation is created in our country too. It has greatly eroded our educational institutions. In the answer only educative and persuasive approach alone is mentioned. That alone cannot be taken as an effective step to prevent this menace. Easy availability of harmful drugs, mild punishment given for smuggling of drugs, multiplicity of legislation to deal with the menace and the loopholes therein aggravated the spread of this menace to this magnitude in our country. So, may I know whether a comprehensive legislation at the nation-

nal level would be enacted at the earliest for effective prevention of these harmful drugs and medicines? Whether drugs which are harmful and without medicinal value would be prohibited.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : There is going to be a comprehensive legislation on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances which will tighten the existing controls and substantially increase penalties. This is under the consideration of Finance Ministry.

SHRI N. DENNIS : A national policy to check this menace effectively is highly necessary. So, may I know whether an integrated National Advisory Board would be constituted with Social Welfare Minister or Health Minister as Chairperson or Chairman and also whether unauthorised channelling and selling of drugs would be prevented effectively?

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : Regarding the National Advisory Committee, we have an inter-ministerial committee set up towards the end of last year.

Since the Ministry of Social and Women's Welfare is the nodal Ministry, we have the responsibility. Representatives of other Ministries are also there in this committee.

We have been having frequent meetings. Just few days back also one meeting was held.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Minister may be aware that Hippies in Goa create a lot of menace by taking all sorts of narcotic drugs and other substances and they move naked in the villages of Anjuna and Vagator. I would like to know whether the Government has considered this special aspect and have taken any measures to cure this menace so that the local people and their culture is not affected.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : The law enforcement agency is tackling this problem and they do not allow any such thing come into the country, and if anybody is found indulging in such activities, action is taken against him.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, will the Hon. Minister kindly answer whether the Government has received any information that the young students in universities, particularly the medical students are addicted to narcotic drugs because of its easy availability from various dispensaries and outdoor departments.

SHRIMATI M. CHANDRA-SEKHAR : As I said in replies, which have been laid on the Table of the House, study that was made clearly shows that it is not very predominant in our universities. The study was mainly centred round the universities. We are having a repeat studies are made at the same places to find out how much improvement has been there. We are concerned more not only about the students where the drugs can be abused but also about the industrial areas and other sectors.

New Railway Line between Chengannur and Trivandrum

*128. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been conducted for the construction of a new broad gauge Railway line from Chengannur to Trivandrum;

(b) if so, when the survey would be completed; and

(c) the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The survey is in progress.

(b) The survey is likely to be completed in 1986.

(c) This new line is being surveyed via Kottarakara as an alternative to direct doubling via Quilon.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I am happy that the survey is in progress but the Ministry is aware of the complaint from the State of Kerala that adequate consideration is not given to the legitimate demands of Kerala. Railways should be an instrument for minimising regional imbalances. The national average kilometres of railway line is ten whereas in Kerala it is four kilometres only. That means we are not having even 50 per cent of the share we should have. I would like to know the reason for this kind of step-motherly attitude towards Kerala and also whether the Minister will reconsider his present stand of not allowing any new lines to the State of Kerala.

SHRI BANSI LAL : There is no discrimination against Kerala. The line survey is in progress and as soon as the report comes, we will take that into consideration.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Since the line survey is in progress, I would like to ask a specific question that once the survey is completed, is the Hon. Minister prepared to take up the construction of this railway line.

SHRI BANSI LAL : I Cannot commit at this stage.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I would like to know what proposals are there before the Union Government from the Government of Kerala regarding construction of new lines in Kerala.

SHRI BANSI LAL : This does not arise out of this question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

**More Passenger Trains between
Birbhum and Calcutta**

*122. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems being faced by passengers travelling from Birbhum District to Calcutta because of inadequate rail services;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to introduce more trains;

(d) if so, when and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) Sir, there are already 11 pairs of trains including 6 pairs of Mail/Express directly connecting Birbhum District with Calcutta.

(c) to (e) Due to lack of resources like coaches, locomotives, inadequate line capacity on sections enroute and terminal facilities at the terminals, introduction of new trains is not feasible at present.

Demands of D.T.C. Employees

*129. SHRI LALIT MAKEN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations of the High-Level Committee, set up to consider the demands of the Delhi transport Corporation employees after the one day strike of DTC on 23 March, 1983 have been accepted ;

(b) whether many a recommendation, including about the pension scheme, have not been implemented so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Government in principle subject to specific consideration where financial implications are involved.

(b) and (c) . Many recommendations have already been implemented. Some are in the process of implementation and in a few of them, involving financial implications, including the pension schemes, a final view has yet to be taken. The various factors affecting the pace of implementation are procedural and legal requirements, consultations with multiple unions, internal budgetary constraints, etc.

**Delay in Completion of Irrigation
Project**

*130. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Nav Bharat Times dated the 17th February, 1985 under the heading 'Sinchai preyojanai lagoo hone tak keroraon rupai badh jate hai'; and

(b) If so, what effective measures are being taken by Government for speedy completion of irrigation projects to save extra expenditure due to escalation of cost of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKRANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir ;

(b) Since Irrigation is a State subject, the projects are planned, funded and implemented by State Governments. Government of India have been urging the State Governments to complete the one-going projects expeditiously by providing necessary funds for such projects on priority. To assist the States in completion of the projects expeditiously, the Central Water Commission monitors selected projects, in which bottlenecks and difficulties in supply of scarce material such as cement allocation for irrigation and power sector are indentified. Assistance for such supplies, and other technical assistance is arranged for the State Governments. Central Government also arranges for credit/loan assistance from external lending agencies such as World Bank, IFAD and other bilateral agencies to assist the States in getting additional plan assistance.

Central Assistance for Development of Minor Ports in Seventh Five Year Plan

*131. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide Central assistance in the Seventh Five Year Plan for development of minor ports in the country;

(b) whether any such plan for the development of minor ports in Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra has been included; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). The Seventh Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. However, the Working Group on the Port Sector has recommended selective Central Assistance for development of minor ports.

Increase in Passenger Fares

*132. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will

the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the Indian Railways has increased the passenger fares during the last 10 years; and

(b) the proportion of increase in freights and passengers fare during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Passenger fares were increased on seven occasions during the last 10 years i.e. between 1974-75 to 1983-84.

(b) The increase in passenger fares and freight rates during the above period was of the order of 85% and 168% respectively.

Incentives to Medical Graduates to Work in Rural Areas

*133. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of unemployed medical graduates in each State as on the 31st December, 1984;

(b) how Government propose to tackle this situation vis-a-vis lack of medical personnel to man hospitals/dispensaries particularly in rural areas;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that there is lack of qualified medical personnel to man dispensaries in rural areas of the country;

(e) whether Government have any scheme to encourage the medical graduates to serve in rural areas and also to introduce mobile dispensaries for rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details of the scheme and when it is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI-MATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) to (f) As per available information, the number of Medical Graduates (including Post-graduates) on the Live Register of Employment Exchanges of 21 States and 7 Union Territories excluding

Sikkim, Dadar and Nagar Haveli stood at 19,954 as on 30.6.1984. State-wise details are given below. It is clarified that all the Medical Graduates/Post-graduates registered with the Employment Exchanges are not necessarily unemployed since registration with employment exchanges is voluntary.

States		Number on Live Register as on 30.6.1984
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3539
2.	Assam	125
3.	Bihar	1413
4.	Gujarat	618
5.	Haryana	291
6.	Himachal Pradesh	124
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	5
8.	Karnataka	1690
9.	Kerala	949
10.	Madhya Pradesh	308
11.	Maharashtra	1846
12.	Manipur	6
13.	Meghalaya	3
14.	Nagaland	—
15.	Orissa	456
16.	Punjab	407
17.	Rajasthan	533
18.	Sikkim*	
19.	Tamil Nadu	2016
20.	Tripura	6
21.	Uttar Pradesh	1051
22.	West Bengal	1555

1	2	3
<i>Union Territories</i>		
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		—
2. Arunachal Pradesh@		
3. Chandigarh		307
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli **		
5. Delhi		2483
6. Goa		76
7. Lakshadweep		5
8. Mizoram		—
9. Pondicherry		142
All India Total		1999+

NOTE :— 1. * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this state.

2. * One Employment Exchange is functioning in this Union Territory, but data are yet to be received.

3. @ No full-fledged Employment Exchange is functioning. Some Employment Cells are functioning, data relating to which are yet to be received.

According to available information, as against 31,247 posts of doctors (including doctors of Indian System of Medicine), 28,953 doctors are in position in rural areas. This excludes information in respect of the States of Andhra Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

On the recommendation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Eighth Finance Commission has agreed to allocate funds to the tune of Rs. 89.80 crores to all States/UTs during the Seventh Five Year Plan period for :

(i) construction of residential quarters for doctors serving in the rural areas;

(ii) grant of rural health allowance of Rs. 250/- per month to doctors working in Primary Health Centres ;

(iii) grant of House Rent Allowance of Rs. 150/- per month where Government accommodation is not provided; and

(iv) provision of additional equipment to Primary Health Centres for better professional satisfaction of the doctors working in the rural areas.

The rural health infrastructure is being strengthened. It is expected that by the end of the Seventh Five Year

Plan, a total of 30,000 Primary Health Centres and 1,30,000 Sub-Centres would be established. Mobile dispensaries are organised by the States wherever necessary

[*Translation*]

Central Financial Assistance for
Narmada Valley Project

*134. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of financial assistance made available to Madhya Pradesh Government by Union Government for various projects under Narmada Valley Development Project ;

(b) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has utilised the entire amount within the stipulated time; and

(c) if not, the amount which remain un-utilized and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKRANAND) : (a) No financial assistance has been made available to Madhya Pradesh Government for its projects in the Narmada Valley Development Scheme.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Setting up of State Electricity Board
in Tripura

*135. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tripura Government have submitted any proposal to the Union Government for setting up a State Electricity Board in Tripura;

(b) if so, whether the Union

Government have approved the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKRANAND) : (a) to (c) : When the proposal of the Tripura Government to constitute a Electricity Board in the State was received in 1979, the Committee on Power appointed in December, 1978 was examining all aspects of the functioning of State Electricity Boards and Central Organisations engaged in electricity generation, transmission and distribution, including organisational structure, management practices, planning systems, efficiency of operations, financial performance, tariff structure and legislative framework. In view of the recommendations of the Committee on Power and the legal aspects under the Electricity Supply Act, 1948, the matter is now being re-examined.

Major Railway Production Units

*137. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major railway production units established in the country;

(b) the location thereof;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to open some new railway production units;

(d) if so, where such units are proposed to be located; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the efficiency of the existing units ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) There are five major railway production units in the Railway Sector in the Country of which one is under construction,

(b)	<i>Name of the Units</i>	<i>Location</i>
	Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	Chittaranjan
	Diesel Locomotive Works	Varanasi
	Integral Coach Factory	Madras
	Wheel and Axle Plant	Bangalore
	Diesel Component Works (under construction)	Patiala

(c) and (d) : Yes, Sir. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) had been assigned the task of preparation of detailed project report and the location survey for setting up of the New Coach Factory in the Railway Sector. Recommendations for the location and other aspects, as received from the RITES in their report, are under study.

(e) Constant monitoring and watch on quantity and quality of output is exercised on the units. A proposal is under consideration to create a separate Department under the Ministry of Railways on the lines of Department of Defence Production for the management of Railway Production Units. This is expected to further improve their efficiency.

Stopping of Package Inserts by Drug Companies

*138. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Drug Companies have done away with package inserts on grounds of cutting costs ;

(b) whether such inserts are essential as most of the Doctors have little time to read medical journals and to keep themselves upto date on drug information;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend the Drugs and

Cosmetics Act accordingly to make such omissions punishable with fine and imprisonment both;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is desirable.

(c) to (e) : There is no proposal to amend the Drugs and Cosmetic Act/ Rules at present to provide for inclusion of package inserts compulsorily in the packages of medicines. There are several aspects, including the pricing of medicines, which are required to be examined caarefully before making such a provision.

De-Recognition of Degrees

*139. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of de-recognition of degrees from the Colleges which have not come upto the required standards under the powers acquired by the University Grants Commission within the purview of the amended University Grants Commission Act;

(b) the decisions taken at the meeting held in Bombay on 10.2.85 by the University Grants Commission with

the representatives of various States in this regard; and

ges. These discussions are still to be held.

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) : The amendment made to the University Grants Commission Act does not empower the Commission to derecognise the degrees obtained from any college. The amended provision enables the Commission only to prohibit colleges which violate the provisions of the regulations framed under Section 12-A of the UGC Act from presenting any student for the award of the qualification concerned. The Commission has not so far invoked this provision.

(b) and (c) : The Commission has appointed a Committee to frame regulations under the amended provision. This Committee had a meeting at Bombay on February 9, 1985 at which discussions were held with the representatives of the Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat, and also the Principals of some unaided and self-supporting colleges. A similar meeting was held at Bangalore on February 26, 1985. After these meetings, the Committee decided to have further discussions with the representatives of the managements of selected private colle-

Allocation for Mentally Retarded People

*140. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to help the mentally retarded;

(b) the allocation made for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to see that it is properly utilized and reaches the deserving persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) to (c) : The Central Government provides financial assistance to voluntary organisations for promoting education, training and rehabilitation of the mentally disabled persons. During the last three years the following amounts have been released to voluntary organisations :

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
			(Rs. in lakhs)
Voluntary Organisations	31.53	40.27	46.30

2. A National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped has recently been set up at Hyderabad. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs each was released to the organisation during 1983-84 and 1984-85.

3. The Ministry runs a special

school for mentally handicapped children viz Model School for the Mentally Deficient Children in New Delhi. During the past three years the following amounts have been released to the School :

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
			(Rs. in lakhs)
School	6.90	7.24	8.47

4. Scholarships are given to the mentally handicapped children in Class-IX and onwards for pursuing academic and vocational studies.

5. Special employment exchanges register mentally handicapped persons for placement in jobs.

6. Grants are given to voluntary organisations for service programmes on the basis of audited accounts for the past year and recommendations of the State Government. The accounts of the National Institute, the Model School and the scholarship Scheme are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Cancellation of Driving Licences for want of Photographs by Delhi Traffic Police

661. SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the new rule being followed by the Delhi Traffic Police cancelling all valid driving licences for want of photographs of drivers;

(b) whether Government are aware that even drivers of over 10-12 years experience with valid licences are being required to go in for Learners Licences; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to redress the grievances of such valid licence holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The Motor Vehicles Act was amended in 1982 whereby a special provision made in Section 11 of the M.V. Act 1939, makes it mandatory to have the photographs of drivers affixed on all new licences as well as licences issued prior to the amendment within a stipulated period.

(b) and (c) : Licences-holders who have not got the photographs affixed on driving licences during the stipulated period cease to hold a valid driving licence.

However, in such cases, the Delhi Administration is condoning the period of 60 days of learners licence prescribed under Rule 2.14 of Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules and issuing fresh licences on completion of formalities laid down under Section 7 of the Motor Vehicle Act.

Trains Hauled by Electric Engines

662. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details regarding the trains being hauled by electric engines in the country at present ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : Average number of mail, express and other passenger trains hauled by electric locomotives per day on different Railways is as under :—

Central	84.5*
Eastern	117.0
Northern	103.4*
Southern BG	48.0
MG	44.3*
South Eastern	92.7*
South Central	37.3*
Western	54.0

*The number of trains is not whole on account of averaging of the trains some of which do not run daily.

The number of goods trains run by different types of tractions is maintained section-wise on each Division. Cumulative sum of the trains run in each section will, therefore, give a distorted

picture as a number of trains run through from one section to another and other Railways also. In view of this, the figures of goods traffic hauled by electric traction in terms of net tonne kilometres for the year 1983-84 are furnished in lieu thereof;

	<i>Net Tonne Kilometres (millions) Elec. Traction</i>
Central	3,825
Eastern	12,137
Northern	13,878
Southern BG+MG)	1,905
South Central	2,878
South Eastern	16,483
Western	2,765
Total	53,871

**Import of Equipments for Power
Generating Units**

663. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are inclined to import equipments for power generating units in the country ;

(b) if so, whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is opposed to this idea ;

(c) the reasons for the opposition by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited ;

(d) whether Government propose to reconsider their stand in view of the opposition from the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (f) : The endeavour is to maximize the utilization of manufacturing capacity developed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and, therefore, primary reliance for procurement of power generating equipment continues to be on the indigenous manufacturers. Import is resorted to only selectively and on merits, depending on the totality of circumstances.

The import of power generating equipment is regulated by the provision of the present Import-Export Policy.

Harbhangi Irrigation Project in Orissa

664. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) The amount sanctioned by the Government for the construction of Harbhangi Irrigation Project in Ganjam District, Orissa ;

(b) the estimated cost of the project ; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite its execution ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Irrigation being a State subject, Government of Orissa provides funds for the execution of this project. The State would be spending about Rs. 10 crores on this project by the end of Sixth plan.

(b) The latest estimated cost of the project is Rs. 34 crores.

(c) The Government of Orissa has proposed an allocation of Rs. 24 crores in its draft VII Five Year Plan to cover the entire balance cost of the project so as to complete the project by the end of the Seventh Plan.

Protocol Signed by India and Soviet Union in the Fields of Medical Sciences and Public Health

665. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on new areas of cooperation in the field of medical sciences and public health;

(b) if so, what are the new areas that will be undertaken under this agreement;

(c) whether the two countries also agreed to exchange delegation and specific plans of cooperation between the two countries during 1985-86; and

(d) by what time the agreement is likely to start implement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) : An Inter-Governmental Agreement on co-operation in the field of Medical Sciences and Public Health was signed between India and USSR on 14th March, 1979. The Second Meeting of the Joint Indo-Soviet Standing Committee, under the said Agreement, was held in New Delhi from February 4 to 9, 1985. On the conclusion of this Meeting a Protocol was signed between the two sides. It has been agreed in the Protocol to develop cooperation in certain new areas namely, Liver Cell Transfusion Therapy, Traditional Systems of Medicine, Occupational Health and monitoring the health aspects of environment.

(c) and (d) : A plan of cooperation for 1985-86 to implement the Agreement was also adopted at the meeting. The plan envisages continued periodic exchange of specialists between the two sides in various problem areas in the field of Health and Family Welfare and conclusion of specific work plans in

these areas. This plan has already become operative.

Schemes for the Women's Welfare During Seventh Plan and Amount Fixed for Each Scheme

666. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 262 crores outlay has been proposed for the Seventh Plan for schemes regarding Women's welfare and development;

(b) if so, what are the main schemes that are likely to be undertaken in the Seventh Plan for the women's welfare;

(c) what is the amount fixed for each scheme;

(d) to what extent these plans will help the women; and

(e) whether any employment opportunities have also been provided for them in the plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) : The details of the programme for women's welfare for the Seventh Five Year Plan beginning from 1985 are in the process of being finalised.

Railway Production Units Under a Separate Department

667. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the major railway production units have been brought under the purview of a separate Department;

(b) if so, whether the Department would be an autonomous body on the lines of Department of Defence Production;

(c) if so, to what extent this decision has helped in the production in these units;

(d) if so, the other steps being taken to improve the efficiency of the Department;

(e) whether these units needed toning up; and

(f) to what extent these measure have helped production ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (f) : No, Sir.

There is, however, a proposal to bring all the major Railway Production Units under the purview of a separate department to be created on the lines of Department of Defence Production. This is considered necessary and it is expected that the performance of Production Units will further improve when the aforesaid measure is implemented.

Central Subsidy to Calcutta Port Trust

668. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Calcutta Port Trust which is consistently in the red for more than a decade will lose the entire subsidy from the Union Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has decided to adjust the subsidy payable to Calcutta Port Trust against its defaulted debts;

(c) whether the Ministry has refused to release any subsidy in the current financial year; and

(d) whether this step was necessary because the Calcutta Port Trust has been in a financial mess for more than a decade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) and (b) : According to existing orders covering the period upto 31.5.83 Calcutta Port Trust is eligible to get 90% of the cost incurred on items directly related to river dredging and river maintenance and the maintenance dredging of shipping channel leading to Haldia as a subsidy from the Union Government. A request for continuation of the subsidy beyond 31.3.85 has been received from the Calcutta Port Trust.

It was decided in 1978 that 50% of the subsidy payable to the Port would be adjusted against the defaulted debts of the Port from the year 1978-79 onwards.

(c) and (d) : No. In 1984-85, the Government has released Rs.21.50 crores as subsidy and an amount of Rs. 10.75 crores has been adjusted against the defaulted debt in terms of extant orders.

[*Translation*]

Retrenchment of Employees of Pancheshwar Project

669. SHRI HARISH RAWAT Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the employees working in the Pancheshwar Project have either been retrenched or transferred elsewhere; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. As investigations on Panc

on the Indian side have been mostly completed, surplus staff has been transferred to other projects of the Central Water Commission. One work-charged employee, who was not willing to accept alternative employment, has been retrenched.

[*English*]

Bridge Over Ganga at Patna

670. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of bridge over the river Ganga at Patna is pending with the Government since long ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to complete the construction of the bridge ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) : Engineering Field survey for conducting a feasibility study of the Bridge has been completed and recess work is in progress, along with the traffic survey. A final decision will be taken in consultation with the government of Bihar after receipt of the detailed Survey Report and the same examined, in all its aspects, subject to availability of funds and clearance by the planning commission.

[*Translation*]

Delay in providing Medical Aid to the Accident Victims of G.T. Express

671. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the time taken in providing medical aid to the injured passengers of the 15-Dn. G.T. Express which met with an accident on January 6, 1985 ;

(b) the reasons for delay in providing medical aid to them ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avoid such delay and lapses in future ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) : Prompt medical attention was given to the injured passengers of 15 Down G.T. Express, which met with an accident on 6.1.85, by railway doctors who reached the site at 7.05 hours. There was, thus, no undue delay in providing medical aid.

(c) Railways take due care invariably in moving the medical relief train expeditiously to the accident site for rendering prompt medical attention. Besides, medical aid is also requisitioned from all possible sources in and around the vicinity of the accident sites.

English

Facilities to School going Disabled Children

672. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state what facilities Government propose to extend in favour of the school going disabled children ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : A statement on the facilities extended to school-going disabled children by the Central Government is enclosed.

Statement

To enable disabled students to pursue education from class IX onwards the Government of India provides scholarships. Scholarships are also given for technical and professional training, correspondence courses of study and on-the-job training. In addition readers' allowance to the blind, prosthetic/transport allowance to orthopaedically handicapped are

available. Assistance is also given for purchase of books stationery and special equipments.

2. Disabled persons, including students, are provided with necessary aids and appliances for their physical rehabilitation. The value of the aids ranges between Rs. 25/- and Rs. 1500/-. It is provided free of cost if the income of the family of the disabled is less than Rs. 750/- per month and at 50 per cent cost if the income ranges between Rs. 751/- and Rs. 1500/- per month.

3. Facilities for integrating disabled children in normal schools are available. The Scheme of Integrated Education of disabled children provides for additional special teachers, resource rooms and other facilities to those schools who offer education to handicapped children.

4. Financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations to conduct special education and training programmes for disabled students. The assistance extends to construction of school buildings, construction of hostels, provision of equipments, maintenance of the school, maintenance of the hostel, transport, etc.

Setting up of Two more General Cargo Berths at Haldia

673. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust requested the Government to set up two more general cargo berths at Haldia ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the steps so far taken by the Government thereon ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) to (d) : The Port had proposed the construction of one General Cargo Berth at Haldia. The Working Group on Port Sector for the Seventh Five Year Plan has recommended it for inclusion in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised.

Financial Assistance to Private Shipping Companies for Purchasing New Vessels

674. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the All India Shipper's Council have urged the Government to provide financial assistance to private shipping companies for purchasing new vessels ; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : This is already the policy of the Government.

Introduction of Super Fast Trains from Gauhati to New Delhi and Bombay

675. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce superfast trains from Gauhati to New Delhi and Bombay to bring the North Eastern Region into the national mainstream ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : Sir, This proposal has been examined but not found feasible due to lack of resources and line capacity constraints on the section enroute.

Foreign Expertise for Road Modernisation

676. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to seek foreign expertise for quality control relating to road construction ;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is considering the proposal of the Planning Commission in this regard ;

(c) if so, what were the suggestions made by the Planning Commission for road modernisation in the country ;

(d) whether the Planning Commission's suggestions in this regard were considered by his Ministry ;

(e) if so, to what extent the Ministry has agreed ; and

(f) the steps being taken to seek the foreign expertise for road modernisation in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) : No, Sir.

(b) to (f) : Do not arise.

Central Control of Universities

677. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to initiate legislation to bring

all the universities in the country under the Central control ; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the salient features of the said proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (K.C. PANT) : (a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

Absorption of Project/Open Line Labourers

678. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for absorption of Project/Open Line labourers in the Railways into regular employment ;

(b) number of casual labourers in Indian Railways in project/open line who are awaiting absorption in regular employment ; and

(c) whether casual labourers in the Railways enjoy the facilities/amenities available to regular employees like pay scale, free pass, medical facilities/leave etc. ?

THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Casual labour are not automatically, by mere passage of time, absorbed in regular employment. Their absorption in regular service depends upon factors like availability of vacancies in the relevant unit of absorption, suitability for regular service and length of service as casual labour. However, with a view to enlarge the number benefiting by such absorption, virtually all Group 'D' (Class IV) vacancies (with a few exceptions like workshops and appointments made on compassionate grounds, against sports quota etc.) are at present being filled from amongst screened/empannelled casual labour and substitutes. For this purpose, instructions exist that after working out vacancies for each

unit of absorption, all casual labour who have put in a minimum of 120 days continuous service whether on the open line in the Division or on adjacent construction projects, should be listed for screening, seniority being reckoned on the basis of cumulative aggregate service as casual labour.

(b) There are at present about 2.20 lakhs casual labour on Railways who, as per instructions currently in force, will be eligible to be considered for absorption on the basis indicated above, further, extant instruction also provide for consideration of discharged casual labour borne on current casual labour. Register if they approach the Administration at the time of screening.

(c) Casual Labour working on the open line are granted temporary status on completion of 120 days' of continuous employment. Project casual labour also have since been made eligible for temporary status on completion of 360 days of continuous employment, the benefit being extended to them in phases.

On the grant of temporary status, casual labour become entitled to many of the benefits granted to regular temporary railway employees, such as railway passes, P.T.Os, leave, medical facilities and regular time scale of pay. Casual labour on projects who have completed 180 days of continuous employment become eligible for monthly consolidated wages at the minimum of the scale plus dearness allowance and nine holidays in a year.

Exemption of Import Duty on Items of Hospital Equipment

679. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the Particulars of items hospital equipment which are allowed to be imported duty free in terms of

Ministry of Finance Notification No. 279/83-Customs dated the 30 August, 1983 [GSR No. 767 (E)]; and

(b) the particulars of hospitals including those under construction/ Medical colleges/Institutions/Research Centres which had applied for duty exemption in respect of various items and had been cleared by his Ministry/ Director General Health Service after the issue of the above Notification till date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) All equipments/apparatus and appliances including spare parts and accessories thereof excluding consumable items which are not manufactured in India and are considered essential for patient care are allowed to be imported duty-free.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-599/85].

Loss Sustained by Shipping Corporation of India Limited on its Vessel M.V. Chidambaram due to Fire.

680. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) total loss sustained by the the Shipping Corporation of India as a result of the fire on its vessel M.V. Chidambaram;

(b) the amount for which the Shipping Corporation of India's ship was insured and what is the likely amount to be received from the Insurance Company;

(c) whether the fire-ravaged ship will be scrapped or it will be repaired and again but on the high seas; and

(d) the estimated cost involved on repairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) The total loss sustained by SCI will be known only after the Surveyor's report is received from Salvage Association who have been appointed as Surveyors on behalf of the ships under-writers (Insurers).

(b) The vessel was insured for Rs. 10.15 crores subject to deductible excess of Rs.6 25 lakhs for each accident. The amount to be received from P & I Clubs will be known only after the claims have been duly processed by the P & I Clubs.

(c) No decision has been taken by the Government.

(d) Rs. 1.15 crores.

Movement of Steel for South

681. SHRI R. ANNANMBI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the engineering industry in South is facing severe crisis due to non-availability of iron and steel following the recent decision of the Railways, limiting movement of steel to one rake per day for entire South;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that one rake a day (i.e., 30 wagons of 22 tonnes each) is totally inadequate compared with the minimum estimated requirement of at least four rakes a day;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to allot adequate number of rakes to move steel to South India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a), (c) and (d) Engineering Industries in the

South have been representing recently for increasing the movement of steel to the South. The movement to the South was badly affected during November and December, 1984 due to breaches caused by cyclone resulting into heavy backlog in movement of steel, foodgrains, coal and other essential commodities.

During January and February, 1985 on an average daily over 1.5 rakes loaded with the steel material have been despatched to destinations in South from Steel plants. During this month efforts are being made to step up steel despatches to South to the extent requires.

(b) The normal composition of rake loaded with steel material is 30/35 bogie wagons with each wagon having a carrying capacity of about 55 tonne.

Progress of the Construction of Second Hooghly Bridge

682. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
SHRI NARAYAN CHOU BEY :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that the construction of Second Hooghly Bridge Project in West Bengal is delayed too much resulting in escalation of cost;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) what amount of fund has been released by the Union Government for construction of the bridge to date; and

(d) the progress of the project made to date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Second Hooghly Bridge falls on a State Road and as such West

Bengal Government is primarily concerned with all matters pertaining to this project. The Government of India is only providing loan as a special case to the tune of Rs.150 crores. The execution of the Project continues to be by the State Government Agency, viz. the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners, Calcutta.

The State Government authorities have intimated that the progress of work on some of the segments of the Project is not strictly according to the schedule. However, the bridge is expected to be completed by December, 1987.

(b) There has been delay mainly due to :—

- (i) Getting possession of land on Calcutta and Howrah sides which pass through highly congested areas.
 - (ii) Persistent constraints on procurement of essential construction materials and labour problems.
 - (iii) Differences between foreign consultants on design points for the main bridge.
- (c) Rs.7912.61 lakhs have been released to the State Government upto 5.2.1985.

(d) Physical progress of the Project is as under:—

- (i) Calcutta Side Approach 61%
- (ii) Howrah Side Approach 32.5%
- (iii) Main bridge 42%

Number of Employees in Indian Railways

683. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees including gangmen working in Indian Railways till date ;

(b) the number of the same in each plan period ; and

(c) the number of officers in the Railways in each plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : The Staff strength on Indian Railways is maintained on the financial year basis i.e. (as on 31st March of the year). The Staff strength as on 31st March, 1984 together with the strength as at the end of each Plan is given below :—

Staff Strength in thousands

	Group A & B (Class I & II)	Group C (Class III)	Group D (Class IV)	Total
<i>At the end of :</i>				
Ist Plan (31.3.1956)	2.7	373.3	648.8	1024.8
2nd Plan (31.3.1961)	4.4	463.1	689.5	1157.0
3rd Plan (31.3.1966)	6.6	550.7	795.0	1352.3
Inter Plan (31.3.1969)	7.5	562.4	784.0	1353.9
4th Plan (31.3.1974)	8.8	622.4	801.0	1432.2
5th Plan (31.3.1978)	9.5	662.9	822.4	1494.8
Rolling Plan (31.3.1980)	10.5	707.4	832.5	1550.4
As on 31.3.1984 (Fourth year of 6th Plan)	12.0	778.0	803.3	1593.3

Unrecognised Medical Colleges

684. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR
YADAV :
SHRIMATI PATEL RAMA-
BEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has decided to refuse to register students passing out of unrecognised Medical Colleges in the country ; and

(b) if so, which are the colleges so un-recognised and reasons for not giving recognition to each of these colleges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Medical Council of India does not register doctors passing out of un-recognised medical colleges in the country.

(b) The following medical institutions which do not conform to the minimum requirements as prescribed by the Council for imparting undergraduate medical education, are yet to be approved/recognised by the Medical Council of India.

1. Kampegowda Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore.
2. Siddhartha Medical College Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.
3. M.S. Ramaiah Medical College, Bangalore.
4. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore.
5. Medical College, Trichur.

Fire in Shipping Corporation of India's Ships

685. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently there has been heavy loss of life and property due to fire on Shipping Corporation of India's passenger Ship M. V. Chidambaram in mid-ocean ;

(b) whether there have been similar losses earlier to cargo and passenger ships belonging to Shipping Corporation of India ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether there has been lack of supervision in maintenance of ships and in many cases old and dilapidated ships have been purchased by Shipping Corporation of India ; and

(e) whether Government propose to enquire into the various aspects and streamline the working of Shipping Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : Apart from the case mentioned in part (a), no other incident of fire on *passenger* ships of SCI resulting in loss of life and property has taken place during the last five years. Details regarding losses to *cargo* ships belonging to SCI due to fire during the last 5 years are indicated in the statement attached.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Statement

Sl. No.	Particulars	Approximate Loss		Persons/ Luggage
		Ship	Cargo	
		(in rupees)		
1.	Aradhana—29.11.81 Fire in engine room at Mangalore	6,40,00	—	—
2.	State of Madhya Pradesh 1.1.81. Fire at Calcutta	—	5,00,000	—
3.	State of Uttar Pradesh 1.2.81. Fire at Calcutta	5,000	3,00,000	—
4.	A.K. Azad—4.8.81. Fire at Savannah	99,85,000	—	—
5.	Baruni-18.3.82 Fire at Sasebo Shipyard, Japan.	4,83,32,000	—	10 Japanese Work- shop persons died and two were injured.
6.	Vishva Pankaj— 18.6.82. Fire in officers accommodation.	18,50,000	—	—
7.	Vishva Bhakti— 19.11.82. Fire in Engine Room.	6,04,000	—	—
8.	Shompen—24.9.83 Fire on way to Port Blair.	—	6,00,000	—
9.	Motilal Nehru— 19.5.83—Fire in Engine room at Singapore.	5,00,000	—	—
0.	Lejoat Raj— 24.10.84—Fire at Bombay	3,00,00,000	75,00,000	8 Ship's staff died
1.	Vishva Mohini— —9.10.84 Fire at Calcutta.	1,00,000	—	—

Second Super Thermal Power Station at Manuguru (AP)

686. SHRI SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO :

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether an indication was given by Government of India that Manuguru will be better suited for the second pit-head Super Thermal Power Station ;

(b) whether Government have indicated that the site selected by the Government of Andhra Pradesh could be considered for locating the second Super Thermal Power Station at Manuguru ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in regard to locating second pit-head Super Thermal Power Station at Manuguru ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) : A Site Selection Committee constituted by Govt. of India to identify sites for location of large thermal power stations in the country had, inter-alia, recommended two sites in Andhra Pradesh, namely, Ramarundam and Manuguru.

(b) and (c) : Government have asked National Thermal Power Corporation to undertake a feasibility study for Manuguru super thermal power project.

Introduction of EMU Coaches between Asansol and Bardhaman

687. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MAŁIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the growing number of passengers on the Asansol-Bardhaman Section of Eastern Railway,

Government are considering the demand of the people of West Bengal to introduce EMU coaches between Asansol and Bardhaman ;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(c) steps taken so far by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : The demand for introduction of EMU services between Asansol and Bardhaman has been examined but not found feasible as considerable investment is required for raising of platforms, foot-over bridges, shifting of structures and provision of additional crossovers on Bardhaman-Asansol section. Furthermore, due to acute shortage of EMU coaches in Calcutta area, extension to Asansol is not feasible.

New Power Generation Schemes of Gujarat Awaiting Clearance

689. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and name of new power generation schemes submitted by the Gujarat Government pending clearance of the Central Electricity Authority/Planning Commission ;

(b) the year of submission of these schemes, stages of progress, pending with Central Electricity Authority/Planning Commission and reasons for long delay in giving clearance ; and

(c) whether the Government would expedite the clearance in view of Gujarat facing acute power shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : Five power

generation schemes, received from the Gujarat authorities stand referred for investment decision after techno-economic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Two schemes are presently under techno-economic appraisal in the C.E.A. The details of these schemes are contained

in the Statement.

(c) Project proposals can be accorded approval after the availability of relevant clearances, essential inputs; clarifications of the State authorities and resources in the State Plan, as the case may be.

Statement

I. Schemes referred for investment decision :

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Receipt of Report in CEA	Date of clearance by CEA	Present status
HYDRO :				
1.	Sardar Sarovar (Jt. Project)	July, 1983	10.1.1984	The Project remains to be cleared from the environmental angle.
2.	Panama Canal	Feb., 1983	26.3.1984	Resources constraint in the State Plan.
THERMAL :				
3.	Kutch Lignite Extension	May, 1981	6.11.1982	—do—
4.	Gandhinagar Extension	June, 1982	26.3.1984	—do—
5.	Utran Replacement	May, 1984 (revised)	3.12.1984	—do—

II. Schemes under examination in the Central Electricity Authority :

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Receipt of Report in CEA	Present status
1	2	3	4
THERMAL :			
1.	Sikka Extension	July, 1983	—Coal linkage is yet to be established. —Environmental clearance is awaited.

1

2

3

4

—Clarification furnished by the Gujarat Electricity Board on 9.1.1985 regarding soil investigation and cost estimates are under examination in the CEA.

2. Sabarmati Replacement-cum-Modernisation Scheme (Modified) April, 1984

Clearance from the Department of Environment and the Gujarat Water and Air Pollution Central Board are awaited.

Restoration of the Stoppage of Coalfield Express at Bardwan

690. SHRI SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the people and Passengers of Bardwan are agitating for restoration of the stoppage of Coalfield Express at Bardwan ;

(b) whether Government have received any letter regarding this ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the steps taken so far by Government for restoration of the stoppage of Coalfield Express at Bardwan which was withdrawn by the Railway authorities some time back ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from various quarters for restoration of stoppage of Coalfield Express at Barddhaman.

(d) There is no proposal to restore the stoppage of Coalfield Express at Barddhaman as compensating non-stop EMU services has already been introduced between Barddhaman and Howrah

on more or less the same timings as Coalfield Express.

Realisation of Dues from the Shipping Companies Hiring Ships from Shipping Corporation of India

691. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to State :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large amount of money is to be realised from shipping companies which are in arrears for hiring ships from the Shipping Corporation of India ;

(b) if so, the names of the Companies from whom the dues are to be realised and the year from which it is due to them ;

(c) whether any of those companies are using Shipping Corporation of India's ships at present ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) An amount of Rs. 142.52 lakhs is outstanding at present from the various Shipping companies who had taken ships on hire from the Shipping Corporation of India Limited.

(b) Details are as follows :

Sl. No.	Name of Shipping Company	Amount outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)	Outstanding from
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	M/s Salgaocar Bros. Pvt. Limited	7.66	1977-78
2.	M/s. Govlandris Shipping Company, U.K.	14.74	1975-76
3.	M/s. Shinwa Kaun Kaisba, Japan	2.86	1977, 78, 79
4.	M/s. Japan Lines, Japan	4.44	1977-78
5.	M/s. Oceanic Shiffabnts	2.86	1979-80
6.	M/s. P.J. Octkar, Hamburg	7.26	1980-81
7.	M/s. Nippon Shipping Company, Japan	4.86	1977-78
8.	M/s. Cerrigina-Maxitina	3.92	1980-81
9.	M/s. Cobolfrat-N.V.	3.61	1977-78
10.	M/s. Maritime Transport Overseas, West Germany	1.55	1979-80
11.	M/s. Poompuhar Shipping Corporation	47.33	1980-81 & 1982-83
12.	M/s. China Trade Transport Corporation, China	2.91	1980-81
13.	M/s. Ahjui Shipping, Seoul, South Korea	2.88	1981-82
14.	M/s. Svedel Ges of Paris	3.49	1982-83
15.	M/s. Navrtrans	12.04	1980-81
16.	M/s. Flota Colombia, Colombia	2.66	1981-82
17.	M/s. IBIS Line, Tehran	11.87	1980-81 1981-82 & 1982-83
18.	M/s. Sanko Shipping Company, Japan	1.94	1977-78
19.	M/s. Central Gulf Lines	3.64	1983
		<u>142.52</u>	

(c) and (d) : Yes. Only one shipping company M/s. Poompuhar Shipping Corporation (a Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking) is continuing to have 3 vessels of the Shipping Corporation of India on charter viz., M.V. Hargobind, M.V. Harkishin and M.V. Har Rai.

Scheme for Driving Training to Women

692. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently launched a scheme for women learn driving ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to make this scheme more popular among private vehicle owners so that they can be more aware of the traffic rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) : While Government do not have a training scheme exclusively for women drivers, a Drivers Training School has been set up in 1984 at Shahdara, in Delhi, to impart training to both men and women trainees. Other States/Union Territories have also been requested to develop similar facilities. The scheme at Shahdara provides for comprehensive training with the aid of latest training equipment on well designed tracks, qualified instructors etc.

(c) Efforts are being made to widen the coverage of this scheme to include all categories of vehicles including appointment of female instructors for women trainees.

Health Check-up Facilities Clinics in Delhi

693. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who availed of the facility of the Health Check-up Clinics in Delhi during the last three years ; and

(b) the reasons for the under utilisation, if any, of the services of such Clinics ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) The number of persons who availed of the facilities of the Health Check-up Clinic of the Central Government Health Scheme in the past three years is as follows :—

(i)	1982	1222
(ii)	1983	947
(iii)	1984	1036
(iv)	1985	194 (till 16.3.1985)

(b) There is no under-utilisation of the services because the Health Check-up Clinic is conducting Medical Examination for Group 'D' employees on first appointment in addition to the Health Check-up of the CGHS beneficiaries.

Major and Medium Irrigation Projects in Gujarat

694. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to State :

(a) the number of unfinished major and medium irrigation projects waiting for completion in Gujarat ;

(b) the total amount earmarked for this purpose in Seventh Plan outlay ; and

(c) by what time these projects are expected to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) 111 major and medium

schemes were awaiting completion during the Sixth plan period.

(b) and (c) Since the 7th of the State is yet to be finalised, it is difficult to indicate the time by which the schemes could be completed.

Major Irrigation Projects in Orissa

695. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the name and the number of major irrigation projects under execution in Orissa ;

(b) how many of those were

expected to be completed by the end of the Sixth Plan ;

(c) the estimated cost of each of those projects ; and

(d) the progress made in the completion of those projects ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) The details of major irrigation projects under execution in Orissa, their estimated cost and progress made thereon are given in Statement enclosed. Two major projects i.e. Mahanadi Delta and Salandi are expected to be completed during the Sixth Plan period.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Latest Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Likely Expenditure upto 3/85 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
I. Pre-Sixth Plan Schemes :			
1.	Mahanadi Birupa Barrage	9265.0	497.799
2.	Upper Indravati :		
	(a) Dam	10035.0	2117.91
	(b) Irrigation	832.68	876.15
3.	Rengali :		
	(a) Dam (Irrigation share)	3192.0	292.53
	(b) Irrigation	7923.93	4358.22
4.	Mahanadi Delta	7056.41	7056.44
5.	Salandi	1637.91	1637.91
6.	Anandpur	1217.84	1150.33
7.	Upper Kolab :		
	(a) Dam (Irrigation share)	4194.39	2858.79
	(b) Irrigation	7541.60	1635.83

1	2	3	4
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II. *New Schemes of VI Plan :*

1.	Somakoi	8239.52	116.49
2.	Kanupur	7721.15	51.96
3.	Lower Indra (Indra Dam)	6493.79	63.12
4.	Ong Stage-II (Chiroli)	5264.03	55.86
5.	Additional Spillway to Hirakud Dam	606.00	1.00
6.	Subernarekha	39149.00	350.45

Proposal to Restructure Medical Courses to Meet Need for Medical Attention in Rural Areas

696. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to restructure the medical course and make it possible that many can get the benefit of this education so that the need for the medical attention in rural areas could be fully met ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in China the problem of meeting rural needs for medical care has been met through restructuring the course ; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto and when this is going to be done ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :
(i) The Medical Council of India which has been statutorily charged with the responsibility of maintaining uniform minimum standard of Medical Education in the country has been reviewing and revising the undergraduate curriculum from time to time so as to meet the needs of the country including the needs of people in rural areas. The Government of India had also set up a Medical Education Review

Committee in September, 1981 to review and to make recommendations for effecting necessary changes in the present Medical Education System. In their Report, the Committee has, inter-alia made recommendations relating to additional credit for service in rural areas, training of interns in rural areas, and additional incentives to doctors for service in rural areas. On receipt of the Report of the Review Committee, an Empowered Committee was appointed which submitted its Report to the Government. The report is being further processed.

(b) No such information is available with the Government of India.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Multi-Purpose Irrigation Projects of Uttar Pradesh

697. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of multi-purpose irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh pending with the Union Government for approval and since when each of these projects is pending ;

(b) the number of the projects, out of them, pending due to inter-State disputes; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Ministry to resolve the inter-State disputes ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : Four multi-

purpose irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh are pending for approval of the Centre as shown below. Two of these projects are pending on account of inter-State issues.

Name of the Proposal	Year of Receipt
1. Kishau Dam Project	1978
2. Lakhwar Vyasi Pariyojana (Revised Project)	1979
3. Tehri Dam Project (Revised Project)	1980
4. Panchnad Dam Project	1980

(c) Kishau Dam Project requires the concurrence of Himachal Pradesh for submergence in their territory. The basin States are also to come to an agreement about sharing of available waters of Yamuna upto Okhla (Delhi). The Centre has been assisting the States to come to an agreed solution.

Panchnad Dam Project is on Yamuna River in its lower reaches. Centre has requested Uttar Pradesh to obtain the concurrence of the concerned Governments namely Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan for taking up of this Project.

[English]

Recommendation of the National Commission on Teachers about Promotion System

698. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission on Teachers has recommended a two-tier system of promotion for college and university teachers ;

(b) whether Government have considered the recommendation ; and

(c) If so, the details thereof and the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) The report of the National Commissions on Teachers I & II is awaited.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

'Central' Status for Patna University

699. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government contemplate to take up Patna University as a Central University;

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) : No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Policy Regarding Changes in Catering Restaurants

700. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy of Government to make changes in the present catering restaurants at present in the railway stations ;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so where catering to the public is not upto the mark ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : Constant endeavours are being made by the Railways to improve the quality of food and catering services at the stations as well as in the trains. To this effect, regular frequent inspections are conducted by Officers and Inspectors at various levels and suitable deterrent action taken against those found guilty. Moreover, with a view to further improving the catering standard, India Tourism Development Corporation have also been commissioned as consultants for modernising catering arrangements at New Delhi Railway Station as a Pilot Project which may be extended to other stations in the light of the experience gained.

Import of Generating Equipment for West Bengal

701. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Centre has rejected the two proposals from the West Bengal Government for the import of power generating equipment ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : Government have not agreed to the proposals of West Bengal Government to import power generating equipment as the equipment is available indigenously on reasonable terms.

Electrification of Jalarpet—Bangalore Railway Line

702. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is great need to electrify Jalarpet—Bangalore Railway Line for the speedy movement of traffic ; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take up the electrification of Jalarpet—Bangalore line in the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b) : The Railways have approved the electrification of Jolarpettai—Bangalore Section, but the actual execution will depend on the availability of funds after meeting the requirements of others higher priority sections. For the time being, the electrification of Jolarpettai—Bangalore Section is deferred due to inadequacy of funds.

Measures to Ensure Fair Deal and Equality of Status and Opportunity for Women

703. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken or proposed to take any specific measures for ensuring fair deal for women as announced recently by the Prime Minister and if so, what are the details thereof.

(b) whether Government propose to make any reservations in jobs for women and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government contemplate to take specific steps for ensuring and enforcing equality of status and opportunity for women and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI M. CHANDRASEKHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposed measures include integrating women into development programmes in all sectors such as providing greater opportunities for employment, greater access to education and vocational training, etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(b) The Constitution provides for equal opportunities for women and prohibits discrimination. The Equal Remuneration Act was passed; in 1976 to provide for the payment of equal remuneration to men and women for the same type of work and to prevent discrimination on the grounds of sex against women. State Governments and Union Territories have been addressed for stricter implementation of legislations affecting women.

Container Handling Complex at Calcutta Docks

704. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the fate of the proposed container handling complex at the Calcutta Docks ; and

(b) the progress made so far, if any, in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) : The proposal for provid-

ing container handling facilities at Calcutta Port at an estimated cost of Ra. 10.36 crores has since been sanctioned by the Government.

New Trains to be Introduced

705. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number of new trains, route-wise, proposed to be introduced during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : There is no proposal at present to introduce any new passenger carrying train during the remaining period of current financial year viz. 1984-85.

Steps to Popularise Homoeopathic Treatment, Number and Location of Homoeopathic Hospitals in the Country

706. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and location of homoeopathic hospitals functioning in the country ;

(b) the number of beds in each such hospital ;

(c) whether there is a great demand to open more homoeopathic hospitals in the country ; and

(d) if so, what is the Government's proposal to popularise the homoeopathic treatment in the country and to open more homoeopathic hospitals during the Seventh Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) : As per information

available in this Ministry there are 120 homoeopathic hospitals with a total bed strength of 3,771 in the whole country on 1.4.1983.

(c) and (d) The demands for opening new hospitals are considered by the respective State Governments as opening of hospitals for providing health care is primarily a State subject.

For the development of homoeopathic treatment a sum of Rs. 1,175 lakhs has been proposed in the 7th five Year Plan in the Central Sector.

Number and Location of Ayurvedic Colleges in the Country

707. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and location of ayurvedic colleges functioning in the country ;

(b) whether there is any hospital which is attached to an ayurvedic college, if so, the location and the number of beds in each such hospital ;

(c) whether it is a fact that this treatment is very popular in the rural areas of the country ; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to popularise this treatment and open more ayurvedic colleges in the country in near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) : As on 1.4.1983, ninety eight Ayurvedic Colleges were functioning in the country. The location of colleges, and of hospitals attached/linked to such colleges with number of beds in each hospital is given in the

statement laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-600/85].

(c) The treatment is popular in the rural areas, as well as in urban areas.

(d) A sum of Rs. 44.00 crores approximately has been proposed in the Central Sector in the Seventh Five Year Plan for the development of Ayurveda in the country. Opening of Ayurvedic Colleges is primarily a State Subject and as such is within the purview of respective State Governments.

Publication of Books in South Indian Languages by National Book Trust

708. SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the National Book Trust is proposing to establish a branch at Bangalore to bring out books in South Indian Languages quickly;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) How many books, either original or translations, in South Indian languages are pending publication for want of press and other difficulties; and

(d) the number of books published so far by the National Book Trust, language-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) : Yes, Sir; the National Book Trust has already opened a Regional Office at Bangalore for the Southern region on 21st June, 1984. This regional office has been opened with a view to expediting the editing and printing of its publications in South Indian languages through close liaison with translators and language presses. This office will also be responsible for the sale and promotion of its publications as well

as for organising book exhibitions, seminars, workshops and related book promotional activities in the region.

(c) The number of titles in south Indian languages pending publication as on 15th March, 1985 are as under :—

Telugu	:	54
Tamil	:	33
Kannada	:	27
Malayalam	:	50

(d) The number of titles, language-wise, published since the inception of the Trust in 1957 to February 1985 is as under :—

English	515
Hindi	485
Assamese	144
Bengali	215
Gujarati	175
Kannada	139
Marathi	184
Malayalam	111
Oriya	164
Punjabi	151
Tamil	146
Telugu	176
Urdu	231
Sanskrit	1
Sindhi	4
<hr/>	
Total	2841
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Cochin Shipyard to Manufacture Oil Tankers

709. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cochin Shipyard will be manufacturing oil tankers soon; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) : The Shipping Corporation of India have placed a letter of intent on Cochin Shipyard Limited for construction of three oil tankers of 86000 DWT each. The specifications of these tankers have not yet been finalized.

Proposal Submitted by Cochin Shipyard for its Expansion

710. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cochin Shipyard has submitted any proposal to the Government for expansion in ship-building and ship-repairs etc.; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Certain proposals, for the expansion of its ship-building/ship-repair facilities, received from Cochin Shipyard Limited, were considered by the Working Group set up by Government for the formulation of VIIth Five Year Plan on Ship-building and Ship-repair industry.

(b) Since the content and size of the VIIth Plan are yet to be finalised, the picture will be clear only after finalisation of the overall VIIth Five Year Plan and the detailed economic and financial viability of such schemes.

Budge-Budge-Namkhana Rail Line

711. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what would be the fate of Budge-Budge-Namkhana Railway line which is pending with the Government for several years;

(b) when its construction would start; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : This project has been appearing in the Budget but it has not so far been cleared by the Planning Commission for want of resources. Necessary further action will be taken on receipt of the clearance.

Extension of Sahibgunj and Tara-peeth Passenger Trains upto Howrah/Sealdah

712. DR. SARADISH ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for extension of the Sahibgunj passenger and Tarapeeth passenger right upto Howrah or Sealdah for which the passengers of Birbhu District are agitating since long;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) progress so far made in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (d) : The feasibility of extension of 317/318 Tarapeeth Passenger and 325/326 Sahibganj Passenger to/from Howrah/Sealdah has been examined but not found feasible due to lack of resources

like coaches, locomotives, spare line capacity enroute and terminal facilities at Howrah/Sealdah.

Allotment of Railway Rakes for Foodgrains

713. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to allot a sufficient number of railway rakes in order to build up a buffer stock of foodgrains in the North Eastern Region for the monsoon months ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c) : The movement of sponsored foodgrains from Northern Region to deficit States including North Eastern Region is done on the basis of monthly plan drawn up by the Food Corporation of India in consultation with Northern Railway. The total quantity of foodgrains planned for movement to Assam and other States located in the North Eastern Region has been raised to the level of 1.40 lakh tonnes per month from September, 1984 onwards. Prior to September, 1984, the allocation was in the region of one lakh tonne. During the period April, 1984 to February, 1985, Railways have been moving more than one lakh tonnes of foodgrains almost every month. While the Railways have some marginal problems of capacity via Farakka, difficulty is also experienced by the Food Corporation of India to release more wagons at Broad Gauge terminals. Coordinated steps have been taken to move adequate foodgrains to Assam and other North Eastern States to build up buffer stocks before monsoon and no serious difficulties are anticipated.

**Providing a Stoppage of Krishna/
Golconda/Narsapur Express Trains
at Garla**

714. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any memorandum demanding stoppage of Up and Dn Krishna/Golconda/Narsapur express trains at Garla, Andhra Pradesh in South Central Railway ;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering the demand favourably ; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) to (c) : The demand has been received and examined but not found justified due to meagre long distance traffic offering from Garla station.

**Representation Regarding Conces-
sional Seasonal Tickets**

715. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum dated the 19th February, 1985 addressed to the Prime Minister has been received from Railway employees working in Railway offices in and around Madras and residing far away from the offices for extension of Frse Zone upto 100 Kms. from Madras Central and extension of distances upto 150 Kms. for concessional season tickets ;

(b) whether such concession is available to the general public ;

(c) if so, whether the same facility would be extended to Railway employees also ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The general public are entitled to monthly/quarterly Season Tickets and not Concessional Season Tickets as available to railway employees.

(c) and (d) do not arise.

**Inland Container Depot At New-
Jalpaiguri/Siliguri**

716. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an Inland Container Depot at New Jalpaiguri or Siliguri for the transportation of cargo to and from North Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government so far regarding this proposal ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :**

(a) to (c) : There is no proposal at present to set up an Inland Container Depot at New Jalpaiguri or Siliguri. Consideration of such a proposal will depend upon the traffic potential available in the region for containerisation, suitability of the location and other relevant factors which have to be studied by the concerned agencies.

**Introduction of a Superfast Train
between Bolpur and Howrah**

717. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for introduction of a superfast train

between Bolpur (Shantiniketan) and Howrah to ease the passenger rush on this Section ;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) to (c) : At present there is no proposal to introduce any additional train between Bolpur and Howrah due to line capacity constraints on Khana-Sainthia Section and paucity of coaching stock and lack of terminal facilities at Howrah and Bolpur. However, Bolpur and Howrah/Sealdah are already connected by 8 pairs of trains including 4 pairs of Express trains which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic.

Advice to Pregnant Mothers in Gas Affected Localities of Bhopal for Termination of Pregnancy

718. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pregnant mother in the gas-affected localities in Bhopal have been advised to go in for medical termination of pregnancy keeping in view the possible hazards created by the exposure to toxic MIC gas ;

(b) whether any survey has also been conducted in this regard in the gas-affected areas and noted that a few babies born in January, 1985 had the problem of a paralysed limb, bleeding toe, eyes were affected, babies had clots of blood in eyes and other common complaints; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Government have not advised the pregnant mothers in the gas affected localities in Bhopal to undergo medical termination of pregnancy (MTP).

(b) and (c) : A study on growth and development among new born of the MIC affected areas has been initiated at Bhopal since 1st January, 1985 by the Indian Council of Medical Research. Approximately 100 babies were examined during the first week who were 7 to 40 days old. Most of these babies are full term but low in birth weight with an average of 2 kgs. Mother's weight ranges from 40 to 45 kgs. and they are generally malnourished. Development wise, the babies appear to be normal. Three new born babies had minor birth anomalies, such as periauricular nodule and hernia. However, this incidence is not any higher than those reported in general population.

Another Direct Train between New Jalpaiguri and New Delhi

720. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the introduction of another direct train from New Jalpaiguri to New Delhi and back ; and

(b) if so, when the Government purpose to consider and implement the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :

(a) and (b) : Sir, This proposal has been examined but not found feasible due to lack of resources and line capacity constraints on the section enroute.

**Indo-Bangladesh Talks on Sharing
of Ganga Waters**

721. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SINGH MALIK :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION
AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has recently approached the Government of India to discuss the complex issue of sharing of Ganga waters as the January-May Ganga flow agreement has expired on January 31, 1985 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : Arrangements for sharing of the available flows of the Ganga at Farakka, as per the Indo-Bangladesh Memorandum of Understanding—October, 1982, has expired on 31st May, 1984. The Government of Bangladesh has approached the Government of India recently for discussing the issue of sharing of Ganga Waters. In December, 1984, the Ministers of Irrigation of India and Bangladesh have discussed the subject of sharing of the dry season flows of the Ganga at Farakka between the two countries and the question of augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga at Farakka. Recognising the need for continuing the dialogue they have agreed to meet at an early date in Dhaka.

**Funds for Ernakulam-Alleppey and
Alleppey-Kayamkulam Lines**

722. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to allot more funds for Ernakulam-Alleppey and Alleppey-Kayamkulam railway lines ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) : The funds allotted for Ernakulam Alleppey and Alleppey-Kayamkulam railway line were Ra. 3.01 crores during 1984-85. No additional funds are proposed to be allotted during the current year. The proposed outlay for those two lines during 1985-86 is however, Rs. 2 crores.

**New Broad Gauge Line Between
Kuttippuram and Trichur**

723. PROF. R. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the construction of new broad gauge line between Kuttippuram and Trichur via Guruvayoor; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir. Not at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Rural Electrification in States

724. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SINGH MALIK :
SHRI AMARSINH RAT-
HAWA :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the Rural Electrification Programme is considerably behind the schedule in various States;

(b) if so, the names of States where the programme is lagging behind the schedule;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Union Government propose to issue any directives to the State Governments to achieve the Rural Electrification Programme particularly in adivasi and backward areas of the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b): While the targets for village electrification for the Sixth Plan have already been exceeded, the programme of energisation of pumpsets may not be fully achieved in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) The factors contributing to shortfalls in fulfilling targets include the lack of infrastructural facilities in certain areas, short supply of construction materials, difficult terrain in hilly and tribal areas and cost escalation.

(d): In order to accelerate the pace of electrification in backward and Adivasi areas, schemes are sanctioned under liberalised terms and conditions and reduced viability criteria. The State Governments have already been advised that while formulating schemes for new areas, Harijan Bastis should necessarily be simultaneously covered alongwith the main villages.

Progress of Narmada Valley Development Project

725. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the project-wise progress made so far in Madhya Pradesh under the Narmada Valley Development Project as per the Prime Minister's Award ;

(b) whether the progress made is consistent with the Award;

(c) if not, the reasons for slow pace of progress;

(d) whether slow progress has put all the projects in bad shape financially and a review of each of them is necessary;

(e) whether the Union Government have ever assessed the loss;

(f) whether Government propose to set up any monitoring agency in Madhya Pradesh to over see the progress of work of Narmada Valley Development Project; and

(g) if so, by what time and what will be the composition thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SAANKARANAND):(a) to (g): There has not been any Prime Minister's Award in this regard. Hence, the various questions do not arise. However, the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal has given its Decision in this respect, according to which the inter-State Sardar Sarovar Dam and the Narmada Sagar Dam of Madhya Pradesh are required to be completed within a period of ten years from the date of publication of the decision of the Tribunal.

Late Running of Trains

726. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the chronically late running trains have been identified ;

(b) if so, the name of such trains; and

(c) the specific measures taken to ensure timely running of trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCIENDIA) :
(a) Some long distance Mail/

Express trains whose punctuality performance has not been satisfactory for sometimes have been identified.

(b) The name of such trains are as under :

- (1) 15/16 Madras—New Delhi G. T. Express.
- (2) 21/22 Hyderabad—New Delhi Dakshin Express.
- (3) 121/122 Madras—New Delhi Tamil Nadu Express.
- (4) 123/824 Secunderabad—New Delhi Andhra Pradesh Express.
- (5) 125/126 Trivandrum—New Delhi Kerala Express.
- (6) 127/128 Bangalore New—Delhi Karnataka Express.
- (7) 905/906 Nizamuddin—Bangalore Express.
- (8) 907/908 Kanyakumari—Jammu Tawi Himsagar Express.
- (9) 911/912 Cochin—Gorakhpur Express.
- (10) 145/146 Ahmedabad—Madras Navjeevan Express.
- (11) 107/108 Varanasi—Jhansi Bundel Khand Express.
- (12) 903/904 Ahmedabad—Trivandrum Express.
- (13) 1/2 Howrah—Bombay V. T. Mail.
- (14) 59/60 Howrah—Bombay V.T. Gitanjali Express.
- (15) 141/142 Madras—Howrah Coromandal Express.
- (16) 901/902 Trivandrum—Gauhati Express.

- (17) 155/156 Gauhati—New Delhi Tinsukia Mail.
- (18) 191/192 New Delhi—Patna Magadh Express.
- (19) 85/86 & 3/4 New Delhi—Barauni—Dibrugarh Assam Mail.
- (20) 101/102 New Delhi—Howrah Rajdhani Express.
- (21) 173/174 Jammu Tawi—Howrah Himgiri Express.
- (22) 915/916 New Delhi—Puri Express.
- (23) 175/76 New Delhi—Puri Neelachal Express.
- (24) 137/38 Amritsar—Bilaspur Chhatisgarh Express.
- (25) 77/78 Nizamuddin—Puri Utkal Express.
- (26) 143/144 Nizamuddin—Puri Kalinga Express.
- (27) 177/178 Jammu Tawi—Pune Jhelum Express.
- (28) 5/6 Bombay V. T.—Firozpur Punjab Mail.
- (29) 57/58 Amritsar—Dadar Express.
- (30) 149/150 Jabalpur—Nizamuddin Kutub Express.

(c) The following steps are being taken to improve the punctuality of trains :

- (i) Monitoring of selected Mail/Express trains has been intensified at the Railway Board, Zonal and Divisional Level.
- (iii) Cases of avoidable detentions to trains are being analysed and corrective action taken.

(iii) Liaison with concerned State Government is being maintained for arresting the incidences of alarm chain pulling; hose pipe disconnection and other miscreant activities.

Fund for Control of Blindness During Seventh Plan

717. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the achievement made in the implementation of the National Programme for the control of blindness during the Sixth Plan, (Year-wise);

(b) whether Government has a proposal to continue National Pro-

gramme of blindness during Seventh Plan as 100 per cent Centrally-sponsored Scheme;

(c) if so, the approximate amount proposed to be earmarked during Seventh Plan for the above purpose; and

(d) the details of steps proposed to be taken for the prevention of blindness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) Year-wise achievements made in the implementation of the National Programme for the Control of Blindness during the 6th Plan are as under:

Services developed	At the beginning of 6th Plan	Achievements					Total
		1980-81	1981-82	1983-83	1983-84	1984-85	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Central Mobile Units	30	15	—	20	15	—	80
2. Strengthening of PHCs	1100	500	—	70	—	330	2000
3. Strengthening of Distt. Hospitals	150	50	50	66	44	44	404
4. Distt. Mobile Units	—	—	—	—	—	30	30
5. Upgradation of Ophthalmic Deptt. of Medical Colleges	26	—	4	10	11	9	60

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6. Support to Regional Institutes	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
7. Training Schools for Ophthalmic Asstts.	—	—	—	18	19	—	—	37
8. State Ophthalmic Cells	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	18
Cataract Operations performed (inlacs)	—	—	—	5.5	9.04	10.69	7.63*	32.86

*Upto January, 1985

(b) Yes.

(c) The Allocation for the Seventh Five Year Plan has not been finalised.

(d) Besides continuing the existing service units already set-up at various level, it is proposed to set up eye banks. It is also proposed to augment health education activities. Prophylaxis against blinding malnutrition through distribution of Vitamin 'A' to children in the age group of 1-6 years is to be continued.

[*Translation*]

Road Proposals in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh Pending Approval

728. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of Uttar Pradesh Government regarding construction of roads in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh pending approval in his Ministry; and

(b) when these proposals are likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) : The Government of India are primarily concerned with the roads declared as National Highways only. The roads in question when constructed would form a part of the State Road network under the charge of the State Government. Hence the question of any proposal regarding construction of these roads pending in this Ministry does not arise.

[*English*]

Review of Implementation of P.F.A.

729. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of prevention of Food and Adulteration Act and identified some bottlenecks in its effective implementation;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the detailed steps taken to remove those bottlenecks; and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes.

(b) As a result of the reviews done the bottlenecks identified are in the food production and control system, infrastructure and other related matters like inadequacies in the research and development efforts, public awareness etc.

(c) In the light of the recommendations of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare, the State Governments have been advised as under :—

- (i) The laboratory and enforcement services at State Level should be augmented by providing adequate funds for appointment of technically qualified staff and improved facilities.
- (ii) The State Government should set up and develop at their Headquarters Advisory and Extension Services for food handlers and food industries on matters of food laws and hygiene.
- (iii) The licensing and hygienic conditions in the manufacturing units and other food establishments be periodically checked. Special attention be given to the quality of food sold in the vicinity of the Schools and Hospitals.
- (iv) Consumers education and information through mass media should be intensified for promoting consumer participation.
- (v) The delays in trial of cases should be curtailed and legal units should be established at the State Headquarters.
- (vi) The licensing conditions for hygienic quality at manufacturing, storage of sales levels be strictly enforced.

(vii) Regular training and refresher courses for various functionaries be organised.

(viii) The functionary organisation be activated for educational programmes and for certain public awareness.

(ix) Special courts be set up for P.F.A. cases.

(x) Consultative committees be established at State/District level. During the 7th Five Year Plan also the Central Government has taken suitable measures for removing the bottlenecks identified by strengthening the enforcement machinery at Headquarters for better coordination and guidance to the States on the one hand and for monitoring, surveillance and evaluation on the other. Suitable provisions have been made or gearing up the education, public awareness and training programme.

De-Recognition of Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research

730. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for de-recognising Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of post Graduate Medical Education and Research by the Indian medical Council at its meeting held in New Delhi on February 4, 1985; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to wind up this premier institute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Under the Indian Medical Council Act 1956, the power to de-recognise the medical qualification of any Medical

Institution in India vests with the Government of India.

(b) No, sir.

Winding up of the National Road Safety Council

**731. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for winding up of the National Road Safety Council which had been established under an Act of Parliament;

(b) the recommendations made by the three-day Seminar on Road Safety which was concluded in New Delhi on the 28th February, 1985; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) No National Road Safety Council has as yet been set up. The question of its having been wound up does not arise.

(b) It is learnt from the Delhi Police authorities who were the organisers of the Seminar that the main recommendations of the Seminar related to the need for proper data collection, investigation of road accidents, safety features as a part of the original model of vehicles, setting up of a National Road Safety Council; strict enforcement of provisions of Motor Vehicle Act, 1939 etc.

(c) It is for the organizers of the Seminar to send copies of the detailed report of the Seminar to the authorities concerned for appropriate action.

Gherao by Research Scholars of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

732. SHRIMATI GEBTA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of

EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether research scholars of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi gheraoed the Director of Indian Institute of Technology on 2 March, 1985;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken to redress the grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) : The research scholars of IIT Delhi had gheraoed the Director of the Institute on 2nd March, 1985, in protest against denial of the revised rates of scholarship to the scholars admitted to the Ph.D. programmes with post-graduate degree or equivalent in Science or Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/Technology but who had not come through an All India Test.

(c) The Government of India after consideration of the references received from the IITs and other institutions, decided to extend the benefit of the revised rates of scholarship to all those students who are in these programmes, where an All India Test had not been prescribed earlier.

Wagons for Movement of Slack Coal to Gujarat

733. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the quota of wagons per month fixed for movement of slack coal to Gujarat for the year 1985;

(b) whether this quota is quite inadequate to meet the requirements of brick manufacturing units in Gujarat as due to rapid industrial development a large number of brick manufacturing units have come up in urban as well as rural areas in Gujarat;

(c) whether State Government has represented for increased allocation of quota of wagons for slack coal; and

(d) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) The slack coal quota for Gujarat State for the year 1985 is 260 wagons per month.

(b) to (d) : State Government have been representing for increase in quota of wagons for slack coal. Considering the total availability of slack coal, transport capacity and pressing demands from other sectors/States it was not found feasible to increase the present allocation for Gujarat State. Further, the full quota of slack coal during 1984 was not utilised by the consumers of Gujarat State.

Superfast Train between Ahmedabad and Bombay

734. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide a superfast train between Ahmedabad and Bombay to cope with the tremendous rush on the Section; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) and (b) : There is no proposal at present to introduce a Superfast train between Ahmedabad and Bombay due to capacity of resources like coaches, locomotives and constraints on line capacity on the sections enroute.

Coach Manufacturing Unit in Gujarat

735. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Gujarat represented in 1981 to Union Government for locating the proposed Railway Passenger Coach Manufacturing Unit in Gujarat;

(b) whether the proposal for setting up a new Railway Coach Production Unit has been cleared by the Planning Commission and that Railway India Technical and Economical Services Limited (RITES) has been asked to prepare a Project Report which would include location survey cost estimates, etc.;

(c) whether, on providing information by the State Government, RITES have taken detailed notes on Pethapur and Kashipur locations;

(d) whether RITES have finalised location survey Report;

(e) if so, whether a decision on location has been taken; and

(f) details of locations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) to (c) : Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) : Recommendations for the location as received from the RITES in their Report are under Study.

World Bank Assistance for Sardar Sarover in Gujarat

736. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to give loan for the Sardar Sarovar to be build at Navagaon in Gujarat under the Narmada Irrigation Project;

(b) if so, the amount of loan, rate of interest, number of years for repayment and other conditions etc.; and

(c) whether a part of the loan has been disbursed and if not, when will it be disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) : Recently an agreement has been negotiated with the world Bank for a credit assistance of SDRs. 99.7 million (equivalent to \$ 100 million) and US \$ 200 million loan respectively for the Narmada (Gujarat) River Development—Sardar Sarovar Dam and Power Project and a credit assistance of SDRs. 149.5 million (equivalent to US \$ 150.0 million) for the Narmada (Gujarat) River Development—Water Delivery and Drainage Project.

The IDA credits under the two projects have 50 years repayment period with grace period of 10 years. The credit carries no interest but a service charge of 0.75% p.a. is levied on the disbursed balance and a commitment fee of 0.5% p.a. on the undisbursed balance. The IBRD loan is repayable over a 20 year period, including 5 years' grace period, and carries a 6 monthly variable rate of interest (currently at 9.29%) in addition to a commitment charge of 0.75% p.a. on the undisbursed balance.

The Agreements with IDA and IBRD for the projects have not yet been signed. IDA/IBRD will start disbursing the credit/loan to Government of India after the agreements are signed and the credit/loan declared effective.

Providing Public Address System In Long Distance Trains and Wireless Service between all the Stations

737. SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Railways had introduced Public address system in vestibuled long distance trains, which was used for playing music and relay of news etc.;

(b) if so, the number and names of the trains which were provided with this

facility and expenditure incurred thereon for the last three years;

(c) whether the public address system has been discontinued in many of these trains and if so, reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to provide the facility of public address system in all vestibuled long distance trains; and

(e) whether Government also propose to provide wireless service between all the Stations to replace/buttruss phone system ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) (i) Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Howrah;
 (ii) Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Bombay;
 (iii) Tamil Nadu Express;
 (iv) Sarvodaya Express;
 (v) Garib-Nawaj Express; and
 (vi) Andhra Pradesh Express.

Expenditure incurred during the last three years—Rs. 9.56 lakhs :

(c) Facility provided in the following trains has been discontinued :—

- (i) Tamil Nadu Express;
 (ii) Sarvodaya Express;
 (iii) Garib-Nawaj Express; and
 (iv) Andhra Pradesh Express.

Facility was discontinued for operational reasons and difficulties of maintenance namely (i) the system works satisfactorily only in AC Coaches and such Coaches have to be adjacent to each

other, (ii) the accommodation blocked by equipment and staff for operation and maintenance purposes, reduces the accommodation available for use by passengers and (iii) divergent public opinion, including serious criticism of this facility.

(d) No, Sir. It is proposed to continue to provide the facility in Rajdhani Trains only.

(e) No, Sir.

Revision of Delhi Transport Corporation Bus Fares

738. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to revise the fares of Delhi Transport Corporation buses in the near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) No decision regarding this has been taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Water Transport Service between Haldia and Patna Via Farakka

739. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the water transport service between Haldia and Patna via Farakka; and

(b) by what time the project will be completed and water transport service would start on the National Waterway ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) River services by CIWTC are already in operation between Haldia and Farakka. Due to non-completion/commissioning of the navigational lock at Farrakka, the river services could not be extended further upstream of Farakka.

(b) A scheme has been sanctioned for providing river conservancy works, aids to navigation, channel markings establishment of terminals etc. between Haldia and Farakka. A similar scheme for developing the stretch between Farrakka and Patna has been formulated and is under process for sanction. These two schemes are scheduled to be completed in 1986-87. The navigational lock at Farakka, is expected to be commissioned by December, 1985 and as such, river services could be extended further upstream of Farakka thereafter.

Railway Terminal at Vikhroli

740. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a plan to have a rail terminal at Vikhroli (Western Railway), Bombay;

(b) the proposed investment towards this project;

(c) whether the Railway Reforms Committee has suggested that the terminal should not be located at Vikhroli;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken a final decision on this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) : The acquisition of land for the

proposed rail terminal at Vikhroli is an approved work. Its present cost will be about Rs. 10 crores. The work for the first phase of the terminal station costing about Rs. 24.38 crores is proposed in the Budget for 1985-86.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) : The Railway Reforms Committee has recommended development of new facilities in new Bombay area for dispersal of population. These recommendations are under examination.

Rural Electrification

741. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA :
SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of villages electrified in each State by the end of 31st March, 1984;

(b) what is the target fixed for electrification of villages during the year 1984-85 in each State;

(c) the total amount earmarked for rural electrification State-wise during the year 1984-85; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (b) : A Statement containing information in respect of the total number of villages electrified and targets and outlay for 1984-85, is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of State	Number of villages electrified as on 31.3.1984	Target of village electrification during 1984-85	Outlay for rural electrification during 1984-85 (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21,661	1,190	21.00
2.	Assam	9,555	3,000	5.97
3.	Bihar	32,794	3,000	19.80
4.	Gujarat	14,930	1,200	17.51
5.	Haryana	6,731	—(*)	8.40
6.	Himachal Pradesh	13,664	538	5.79
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	5,529	270	5.41
8.	Karnataka	21,242	1,560	20.66
9.	Kerala	1,268	—(*)	2.90
10.	Madhya Pradesh	36,777	3,010	28.90
11.	Maharashtra	32,024	1,100	45.06

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Manipur	532	60	1.19
13.	Meghalaya	1,138	156	2.53
14.	Nagaland	580	33	1.34
15.	Orissa	22,520	1,125	14.08
16.	Punjab	12,126	—(*)	8.10
17.	Rajasthan	18,565	940	16.75
18.	Sikkim	154	52	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	15,673	20	12.28
20.	Tripura	1,705	180	1.82
21.	Uttar Pradesh	58,029	3,432	38.47
22.	West Bengal	18,320	1,950	19.80
Total (States)		3,45,517	22,916	297.76

*—Cont per cent village electrification already achieved.

**—The outlay is exclusive of institutional financing.

Note : (i) There is also a lump-sum provision of Rs. 92.00 crores under REC for SPA programme.

(ii) There is also a provision of Rs. 10.00 crores under Rural-Co-operative.

Setting up of Four Hydel Projects on Teesta Barrage

743. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government propose to approve the proposal of Government of West Bengal to set up four hydel

projects on the on-going Teesta Barrage Irrigation-cum-Flood Control Project; and

(b) if so, whether the Government would move for its immediate clearance by the Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) : Project reports for construction of three power houses based on Teesta Canal Falls, received from the State authorities have been cleared by Central Electricity Authority and the Department of Environment. They have been recommended to the Planning Commission for inclusion in the State Plan.

World Bank Loan to Railway

744. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Paying for nothing' appearing in the 'Indian Express', New Delhi dt 5th March, 1985;

(b) if so, the facts of the case ;

(c) the reasons for not availing of the World Bank loan for the modernisation of Railway Workshops and railway electrification leading to the levy of 'commitment charges' of Rs. 70,000 per day ;

(d) the action taken to fix responsibility for this lapse ; and

(e) how it is proposed to deal with this matter to prevent further loss to the Exchequer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS : (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (e) : A statement is attached.

Statement

A loan for 280.7 million US dollars for Railway Electrification and modernisation of workshops was

signed between the World Bank and the Government of India in May, 1984. The amount was to be drawn in stages (as required) over a period of Six Years till 1990.

2. Payment of commitment charges is an inbuilt feature of all World Bank Loans. These are a nominal percentage of the loan amount payable on the portion of the loan not drawn. On the amount drawn, interest at a much higher rate as compared to the commitment charges is payable till the loan is paid back. The closing date for the loan for Railway Electrification and Modernisation Project is Sept., 1990. The projects are being progressed.

3. Selection of a collaborator for Operation Information System (OIS) was accepted as a condition to the effectiveness of this loan. OIS is a highly complex project—first of its kind in the country without any guiding precedents. For this reason, the Government had appointed a high level inter-Ministerial Committee to pursue the selection of a collaborator for this project and frequent consultations with the concerned Ministries had to be carried out at every stage. In the process selection of a suitable collaborator for OIS took somewhat longer than originally anticipated.

However this delay has not caused any financial loss to the exchequer.

4. Constant monitoring of the Projects is being done to ensure timely implementation.

Manufacturing of Wagon by Private Manufacturers

745. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have placed orders for manufacturing wagons to private manufacturers when the capacity of Government undertaking is

being under utilised for want of orders from Government; and

(b) the details of orders for wagons placed to various manufacturers during last two years and the price quoted by them separately thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) : Annexure indicates the details of orders placed on Wagon Building Units in the Public as well as Private sector. It will be seen from the statement attached that, with reference to the annual production target for 1984-85, all Units in Public

as well as Private sector have load adequate for ever three years.

Out of the total targetted production of 11,812 wagon in terms of 4 wheelers during 1984-85 the share of the Public sector is 6280 four wheelers or 52% of the total target.

As regards prices offered by the wagon builders, it is stated that there is no system of calling tenders from them. Prices are settled through negotiations with Wagon India Ltd.; keeping in view the norms recommended in the report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices on Fixation of Wagon Prices, which have been accepted by the Government.

(Figures in four-wheelers Units)

S. N.	Name of Wagon Building Unit	Outstanding load as on 1.4.84.	Orders placed through formal Contracts/Letter of Intent in the last 2 years.	Total load available from 1984-85 on wards.	Target for 1984-85
1	2	3	4	5	6
PUBLIC SECTOR					
1.	M/s Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd., Muzaffarpur.	965	867.5	1832.5	490
2.	M/s Bharat Wagon & Engineering Co. Ltd., Mokameh.	1145	875	2020	590
3.	M/s Braithwaite & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.	4022.5	880	4902.5	1290
4.	M/s Bum Standard Co. Ltd., Burapur.	4537.5	1670	6207.5	1670
5.	M/s Bum Standard Co. Ltd., Howrah.	4650	2317.5	6967.5	1890
6.	Jessop & Co. Ltd., Calcutta.	892.5	355	1247.5	350
				Total	6280

Carried forward....

1	2	3	4	5	9
	PRIVATE SECTOR			Brought forward	6280
7.	M/s Central India Machinery Manufacturing Co., Bharatpur.	4550	935	5485	1530
8.	M/s Hindustan General Industries, Nangloi, Delhi.	1940	187.5	2127.5	350
9.	M/s Modern Industries, Sahibabad.	1702	255	1957	537
10.	M/s Texmaco, Calcutta.	6755	4190	10945	3115
	Total			Total	11812

Loss of Shipping Corporation of India During 1983-84

746. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has run into a 50 crore loss during 1983-84; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) The loss incurred by Shipping Corporation of India during 1983-84 was Rs. 51.64 crores.

(b) This was due to the global recession in the shipping industry leading to fall in freight rates.

Recommendations made by Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs

747. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Parliament Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes vide its 43rd report (1983-84) stated that in respect of its 15 recommendations it was not satisfied with the replies of the Government;

(b) whether Government have since reconsidered the recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) if so, what is the Government's decision in particular about (i) cut off point for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students (para 1.10 of the above report), (ii) restriction on number of children per family entitled to post-matric scholarship (para 1.16), (iii) availability of data from Central Universities (para 2.31), (iv) inclusion in Selection Committee (para 2.12) ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) : The Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, vide its 43rd Report (1983-84) had referred back to the Government 15 reconsideration for reconsideration. On some of these recommendations, Government's views have been communicated to the Committee. One of these is regarding the lowering of the cut off point for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates appearing in the Joint Entrance Examination. Government's earlier views on this issue have been reiterated. Other recommendations are under reconsideration in consultation with various authorities concerned.

National Waterway on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River

748. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Waterway on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river showing the expenditure involved;

(b) whether the navigational lock-gates of the feeder canal at Farakka were supposed to be completed by July, 1984;

(c) if so, whether the Project has been completed and navigation started by now;

(d) if not, what are the reasons for the delay and when it is expected to operate;

(e) whether the delay in the execution will result in extra expenditure;

(f) whether Government contemplates having such other waterways in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

(a) The river stretch between Haldia

and Allahabad of the river Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly has been accorded the status of a National Waterway. With a view to developing this National Waterway for introduction of river services, it has been divided into three stretches namely Haldia-Farakka, Farakka-Patna and Patna-Allahabad. A Scheme (costing Rs. 189.50 lakhs) for providing infrastructural facilities between Haldia and Farakka stretch has been sanctioned. A similar scheme costing Rs. 390 lakhs to develop the stretch between Farakka and Patna has also been formulated and is under process. As regards the stretch between Patna and Allahabad, a Pilot Project at a cost of Rs. 978.60 lakhs has also been sanctioned for an indepth study and identification of problems for developing this stretch for introduction of river services.

(b) to (d) : The date for completion of the navigational lock and other ancillary works at Farakka has been shifting from time to time. It was expected to be completed by December, 1984. However, according to the latest indications, due to delay in finalising the modification of the Caisson stop logs, the navigational lock is now expected to be completed by December, 1985, after which a through navigation between Patna and Farakka will be possible.

(e) The cost of the navigational lock at Farakka has recently been revised and its completion by December, 1985 will not involve any extra expenditure.

(f) and (g) : The working Group on Inland Water Transport for the 7th Five Year Plan 1985-90 has recommended the following waterways for declaring them as National Waterways :—

- (i) The Brahmaputra
- (ii) The Godavari
- (iii) The West Coast Canal
- (iv) The Sunderbans
- (v) The Krishna.

The 7th Five year Plan is however yet to be finalised.

Cause of the Fire in 327 up Nagpur Passenger Train

749. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
 SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK :
 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
 SHRI K. PRADHANI :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
 SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the cause of the fire that broke out in two coaches of the 327 up Nagpur Passenger on Rajnandgaon-Dongargarh Section of South-Eastern Railway on February 23, 1985, and

(b) if so, the findings thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) : Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Eastern Circle has been conducting inquiry into the fire accident to 327 up Nagpur Passenger, which occurred on Durg-Dongargarh Section of South-Eastern Railway on 23.2.85. He has not yet finalised his report.

12.00 hrs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, you can follow the same procedure that the Hon. Speaker follows. He allows us to make submission and gives the ruling. Let me make the submission and gives the ruling. Let me make the submission and you can give the ruling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, what is that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
 Sir, through you I want to bring to the notice of this House a very serious episode for which I have already given a notice. Today's Gujarati Papers from Ahmedabad carried a very important news that two important person Chandrakant Amin and Ashutosh Nana-vati representing a big industrialist from Ahmedabad Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna who is very close to political quarters, were caught hold of by the Customs authorities at Sahar Airport on 19th March and dollars worth Rs. 48 lakhs were recovered from them.

They admitted that these were handed over to them by the Ahmedabad Industrialist Mrugesh Jaikrishna to deposit them in the Hong Kong Bank. They were already taken charge of. This has been flashed in all the Ahmedabad papers today. It is a serious matter. Gujarat members know that this industrialist is close to high political quarters Therefore, I have given a Calling Attention Notice as well as an Adjournment Motion. I would like you to give your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have received the Calling Attention.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong) : Do not discriminate; you must allow everybody.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will come to you. Please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
 Since the charge of discrimination is raised, let me go on record that I have given two notices the adjournment motion and the Calling Attention. So, I defend your right.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The adjournment motion is ruled out. I will consider the Calling Attention.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : No discrimination.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UDDIN SOZ (Bara-untila) : Sir, you have rejected my adjournment motion on the situation in

Ahmedabad. But I have given two other notices, a Calling Attention and a motion under rule 193. There is loss of life and property to both the communities. But, perhaps, in my opinion, much more important is the fact whether we are maintaining and strengthening the ideals of secularism. I want a full-scale discussion in the House. Irrespective of the fact whether the Minister makes a statement this afternoon or not, there should be a discussion, at least under rule 193. You have rejected the adjournment motion. So, under rule 193 there should be a full-scale discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister is going to make a statement. Please take your seat.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I will take my seat. That is natural. But, what about the discussion under rule 193 ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will consider it. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All of you sit down.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) :
 I have given a notice. You must have seen it. A part of India has been declared independent by TNV guerillas, who are operating in Tripura. The State Government has not been able to perform even the elementary law and duty. Many people belonging to our security forces have been killed by TNV guerillas. Today it has come out in the newspaper...*(Interruptions)* that 7 persons have been killed. Now that we have a precedent in the House on Gunjarat perhaps you are going to permit a debate—we want a debate on Tripura, regarding the failure of the Government to maintain law and order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am not allowing anyone.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions) * **

12.05 hrs.

**STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION
ARISING OUT OF ESCALATION OF
IRAQ-IRAN WAR**

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Hon. Member are no doubt aware of the extremely serious escalation that has taken place in the past few weeks in the tragic conflict which has been going on between two fellow non-aligned countries, Iran and Iraq, for more than four and a half years. The most unfortunate recent development has been the extension of the hostile operations by both countries to civilian targets and residential areas, with direct attacks even on the capital cities and many other urban centres, resulting in the loss of civilian lives and properties. There are even allegations of the use of chemical weapons.

We, as India and as Chairman of NAM, are deeply concerned and alarmed at these developments. Our endeavour, from the beginning of this conflict has been to persuade the two countries, with both of whom we have traditional and friendly relations, to cease the hostilities and settle their differences through negotiation and peaceful means. Such large scale military operations can only benefit those outside forces which do not want the region to enjoy peace and stability. Last week, I sent a personal appeal to their Excellencies, the Presidents of Iran and Iraq, for cessations of hostilities and, as a first step, to stop attacking civilian targets as they had both agreed to do in their agreement with the UN Secretary-General of 12th June, 1984. I followed it up by sending special emissaries at Secretary level to the two capitals on Sunday, the 17th March, who have delivered my personal messages to the two Presidents.

On Tuesday, the 19th, I had a long discussion with a Special Envoy from Iran who brought me a message from his President. I have also received a reply from President Saddam Hussain.

Since the hostilities showed no signs of abatement, I have sent a high-level delegation to Baghdad and Tehran. Shri Khurshid Alam Khan, MOS in MFA, left yesterday, accompanied by Shri Romesh Bhandari, Foreign Secretary. He will visit the two capitals and convey to the two Presidents the grave concern of the entire NAM. He will urge them, in India's name and in the names of all fellow non-aligned members, to immediately agree, on reciprocal basis, to cease hostile attacks against civilian targets as a first step to complete cessation of hostilities, to exchange Prisoners of war, and not to attack civilian ships in the Gulf.

I know the House will join me in sending good wishes to the mission of Shri Khurshid Alam Khan.

12.10 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report of and Review on University Grants Commission for 1983-84 etc. and Annual Accounts of and Audit Reports on Malviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur, Maulana Azad College of Technology, Bhopal and Karnataka Regional Engineering College Surathkal for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARA NAND) : On behalf of Shri K. C. Pant I beg to lay on the Table :

1. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84, under section 18 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of University Grants Commission, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

2. A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library See No. LT—532/85].
3. A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur, for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—534/85].
4. A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mau'ana Azad College of Technology, Bhopal. for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT—535/85].
5. A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Karnataka Regional Engineering College Surathkal, for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—535/85].

Review on and Annual Report of Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited, New Delhi for 1983-84 and a Statement

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

1. A copy each of the following paper (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 Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the

year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—536/85].

2. A statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining the reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturapathy for the year 1983-84 within the stipulated period of the nine months after the close of the Accounting Year. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—537/85].

Notifications under Post Trusts Act, Review on and Report of Indian Road Construction Corporation Ltd., New Delhi for 1983-84. Annual Accounts etc. of Paradip Post Trust for 1983-84 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : I beg to lay on the Table :

1. A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 :

- (i) Notification No. G. S. R. 829(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1984 approving the Kandla Port Employees (Conduct) Third Amendment. Regulations, 1981.
- (ii) Notification No. G.S.R. 74 Published in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 1985 approving the Bombay Port dated the 19th January, 1985 approving the Bombay Port Trust's Docks (Amendment) Bye-laws, 1981. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—538/85].

2. A copy each of the following

[Shri Z. R. Ansari]

Papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 6197. of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the Year 1983-84.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the Year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—539/85].
3. A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, for the year 1983-84 and the Audit Report thereon, under subsection (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—540/85].
 4. A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1983-84. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—541/85].
 6. A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Panambur, for the Year 1983-84. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—542/85].

Review on and Annual Report of Hindustan Latex Ltd. for 1983-84 and a statement redelay in laying the papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGEDRA MAKWAYA) : I beg to lay on the Table :

1. A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English ver-

sions) under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Latex Limited, for the Year 1983-84.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

2. A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—543/85].

2.12 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Bill, 1985, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th March, 1985.”

BHOPAL GAS LEAK DISASTER (PROCESSING OF CLAIMS) BILL

As Passed By Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims)

Bill, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.14 hrs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : When you have listened to a few Members, why should others be discriminated against. This is a discriminatory practice. You should allow other also to make submission.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let Shri Shivraj Patil make his statement.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : This is not a proper practice. This is a discriminatory practice.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : You have allowed some of us to make submissions, why don't you allow others ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : I will not sit down, if you do not allow me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will listen to you.

SHRI K. K. TEWARI (Buxar) : Let me complete, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Yesterday, we were promised a Statement by the Home Minister on Ahmedabad situation. The Statement has not come as yet. We should be told why this dilatory tactic is going on with respect to the placing of the Statement here. The Statement must come in time and a discussion must also be stated today itself, so that the discussion is timely, light-

bearing and fruit-bearing. We are not told why the Statement has not come as yet. When is that expected ? It must be during the course of the Day and the discussion should also take place during the course of the day.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yesterday we had discussed it. At that time the Prime Minister informed the House that the Home Minister had gone to Ahmedabad and after his return he would make a Statement. He has not returned.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA ? He has returned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will enquire. Please sit down.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Enquire, When ? This is a matter which concerns the life and property of our people .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Swell what do you want to say ?

(Interruptions)

PROF. K. K. TEWARI : You have not heard me completely. Just let me complete.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you all stand like that how can I hear you ? Let Mr. Swell say what he wants to say.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would like to submit that it appears that the question of the security of this country has taken a back seat in this House. For the last 2-3 weeks I have been sending notices of Call Attention and all that about certain things that are happening on our borders or near our borders and none of them has been entertained. You are aware that in the month of December Chief Minister of Manipur escaped death by the skin of his teeth and four of his security men were killed. This was followed a month later by the slaughter of about 14 of our security men by the Naga hostiles and after that more killings have taken place. Here the Govern-

[Shri G. G. Swell]

ment is conducting negotiations with Mizo National Front. The leader of the Mizo National Front is here. Well, just two weeks ago the Mizo rebels raided the police camp in Manipur and went away with large quantities of explosives—I am told 17,000 detonators and gelignite and all that right from within the camp of the Manipur Rifles, and a truck was intercepted by the Army while going to Mizoram towards Aizwal. It was said that the amount of explosives that was taken away was enough to blow up the entire Aizwal town, if you know, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, where Aizwal is, a truck was intercepted by the Army and arrested fully loaded with all these explosives and it was said that many of these explosives were taken there from Rajasthan. I would like to know whether these things are happening, whether the Government is aware of these things and whether the Home Minister will come forward with a statement on these issues.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Have you given notice regarding this ?

PHRI G.G. SWELL : I have given all the notices. Kindly read all those notices.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will look into it. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, what I was saying was also related to what Mr. Swell said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Have you given the notice regarding this ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Sir, I have given notice. Part of Tripura has been declared independent of India and this has been done by the TNV guerillas. The State Government.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you have given a notice, I will look into it. Now, Mr. Shivraj Patil will make a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is making an important statement. Please listen.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : I am from Tripura. Kindly allow me....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. The time is over for this. I have already heard so many Members. Now, I have called the Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil, to make his statement.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, on Integrated Policy Measures on Electronics the Statement is a little longish. I crave the indulgence of this House and I hope that I would be allowed to read the entire Statement.

Hon. Members are aware of the beneficial effects electronics has improving productivity and efficiency in different sectors of our national economy. In fact, electronics can contribute significantly in improving the capital output ratio of several of our projects and investments.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he is making a statement. It is a 10-page statement. It may be laid on the Table of the House. It is a 10-page statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : By listening to such a long statement, we cannot digest, you see.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot stop it like this. He is reading out the statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If you are

interested that it should be laid on the Table of the House. I will request the Minister. Do you want to place it on the Table of the House ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : At the beginning itself, I asked for the permission to read the whole statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now only they are asking so. I want your opinion.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : It is a matter of policy. We are interested in hearing the statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want to lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I may be permitted to read.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He wants to read.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We require to digest Rs. 10,000 crores or something like that cannot be decided by just reading out a statement. There should be a discussion.

(Interruptions)

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Are they very keen that time of the House should be saved ? It is a matter of policy and we want the statement to be read out by the minister, in full.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is reading the statement. Please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Then, to the Members.

12.22 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. INTEGRATED POLICY MEASURES ON ELECTRONICS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Hon'ble Members are aware of the beneficial effects electronics has in improving productivity and efficiency in different sectors of our national economy. In fact, electronics can contribute significantly in improving the capital output ratio of several of our projects and investments. It is, therefore, necessary that we use this opportunity to give an added impetus to the economy through this technology. Day by day, the software content of electronics is increasing and India is most appropriately placed to take advantage of this.

Taking all these reasons into account, the Government have decided that there is a need to accelerate the use of electronic equipment such as communication equipment including mass communication, computerised control equipment, data communication and data processing equipment. A large country such as ours cannot afford to continue to import such equipment. As such it is proposed to set a target of local production of Rs. 10,000 crores in the year 1989-90. To achieve this, several integrated policy measures are proposed :

1. *Broad banding of Industrial Licences :*

Henceforth, to optimally utilize the investments, 'broad band' licences will be issued for the following :

(i) Entertainment electronics, covering

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

radio receivers, tape recorders, two-in-one, amplifiers, record players, record changers, TV sets—black & white and colour, CCTV systems, but excluding those reserved for small scale industry;

(ii) Electronic toys, including radio controlled ones and games;

(iii) Computer peripherals ;

(iv) Electronic test and measuring instruments, excluding those reserved for small scale industry; and

(v) Discrete semiconductor devices.

2. Policy for VCR/VCP and Microwave ovens :

Keeping in view the approach of producing electronic equipment at near international prices, Government is drawing up an Industrial and Licensing Policy for the manufacture of Video Cassette Recorders/Video Cassette Players and Microwave Ovens on the basis of the following :

VCR/VCP

The Department of Electronics or its designated agency will purchase technology for VCR / VCP, including the technology for manufacture of Deck Mechanism. Deck Mechanism including Head/Drum Assembly will be manufactured by a Public Sector Enterprise to be designated by the Department of Electronics. In addition to this, another unit in private sector has already been approved for the manufacture of Deck Mechanism.

The existing licensed/registered units which wish to enhance their capacity will be asked to apply afresh and their applications will be considered along with other applications.

A minimum complement of production and test equipment, as decided by

the Department of Electronics, from time to time would be required to be installed in each production unit.

Microwave Oven

The Department of Electronics or its designated agency will purchase technology for this item. The same approach as given for VCR/VCP Policy will be adopted.

3. Digital Electronic Watches :

The existing industrial and technology policy for electronic watches had reserved the marketing of Digital electronic watches (DEW) to the Central and State Public Corporations. In view of the changed technology, as a result of which very cheap digital electronic watches are now available internationally, the following has been decided :

(a) Semiconductor Complex Ltd. (SCL) would be allowed to manufacture and sell low cost DEW modules to DEW assemblers, both in the State public sector and small scale units, as well as other units engaged in the manufacture of mechanical watches, handicrafts, etc.

(b) The small scale units may be permitted to sell low cost DEW or other DEW module based products directly in the market.

If the demand out-strips the capacity of SCL, a second unit in the private sector will be permitted to manufacture these modules.

4. All consumer durable products mentioned in para 1 (i) above would be de-licensed for applicants who will not draw on the resources of Financial Institution.

5. Quality and Reliability :

Government will set up adequate

facilities for quality certification of electronic consumer durable goods so that consumers are assured of reliable products.

6. *Liberal Growth :*

At the time of issuing industrial licences for any new product, the anticipated demand in the foreseeable future, as well as the techno-commercial viability, will be kept in mind. The Government will insist on a minimum investment in capital equipment to ensure adequate added value in the country and technology absorption and development. A minimum production capacity will be insisted on. Once a licence has been issued, the licence holder will be assured of liberal upward growth.

7. In approving phased manufacturing programmes, the Government will ensure that reliance on imported populated printed circuit boards is reduced and genuine manufacture within the country is encouraged.

8. Indian companies including those with foreign equity of 40% or less, will no longer be debarred from any field of electronics which is open to the organised private sector, only because of their foreign equity holding.

9. *FERA Companies :*

Government would welcome foreign equity companies (i.e., those having more than 40% foreign equity) to set up manufacturing facilities for electronic components, materials and other closely held high technologies, where the country has not been able to invest sufficiently in research and development.

10. Import of technology would be permitted freely to develop an appropriate electronics in the country. However, industries will be encouraged to establish inhouse technology base so that repeated import of technologies does not have to be resorted to.

11. Centralised purchase of technology will be resorted to only if a variety of technologies renders the indigenous products costly in comparison with international prices, because one of the objectives of this policy is to make equipment available at near international prices.

12. *Location :*

Electronics industry will be allowed to be established in any of the permissible locations, Greater efforts will be made to develop electronics industry in the hill districts on a larger scale.

13. *Exemption from Sections 21 and 32 of MRTP Act :*

Electronic components (other than all types of integrated circuits, viz; VLSI, LSI, MSI, SSI Semiconductors, Photo-voltaic components etc), computer peripherals, computer software, magnetic types for use in computer, video equipment, hard discs, floppy discs and diskettes for computers and test and measuring instruments, are already exempted from Sections 21 & 22 of MRTP Act. This exemption will be extended to the following items—material for electronics, computers, broadcasting equipment, control instrumentation and industrial and professional electronics, and communication equipment.

14. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has removed excise duty on 24 types of electronic components. This is another step in reducing the prices of locally manufactured electronic goods bringing them closer to international levels.

15. *Manpower Development :*

Electronics is a knowledge-intensive area and is characterised by rapid innovation as well as obsolescence. A regular supply, in large numbers, of specialised and trained manpower and a continuous updating of the skills of this manpower stock are,

[Shri Sivraj V. Patil]

therefore, of crucial importance for the growth of electronics, of crucial importance for the growth of electronics, be it in the field of research and development, production, maintenance, servicing of applications. In the context of Government's declared objective of bringing about a rapid development of the electronics sector, the urgent need to devote attention to manpower training in the electronics sector has been increasingly engaging the attention of Government. The various initiatives, steps and programmes being undertaken in this crucial area are summarised below :

- (i) Teachers training programme is being initiated at the 5 major institutions, viz., the four IIT's at Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur and Madras, and at Jadavpur University, for training teachers in computer science.
- (ii) *Teachers Training Programme for Diploma in Computer Application* :
This programme has been initiated at six institutions across the country. Training for teaching DCA courses is provided through 4 modules of six weeks' duration each.
- (iii) Master of Computer Application programme has been initiated in 14 centres.
- (iv) The Master's programme in electronics is expected to be started in three Universities next year. In addition to the traditional Maths., Physics and Chemistry combination available now at B.Sc. degree level, the introduction of Electronics as a separate subject in different combinations has also been finalised.
- (v) 28 centres have been identified for starting one-year Post B.Sc.

Diploma in Computer Application, out of which 17 centres have started this course.

- (vi) *18-Months Post-Polytechnic DCA Programme in Polytechnics* :

This programme has been introduced at 16 centres.

- (vii) Training Course in the Industrial Training Institutes (IIT's) in two trades—"Console operator-cum-Programmer Assistant", and "Data Preparation Assistant" has been finalised for 13 centres.

- (viii) *Continuing Education Programme at IIT, Delhi* :

The programme aims at providing modular courses of short duration to computer professionals from industry and teachers from academic institutions. 60% of the seats are reserved for teachers. The programme has been started in December, 1984.

16. To plan this industry in an integrated manner and to ensure minimum drain on our foreign exchange, it is necessary to have detailed data from all electronic manufactures, both in the organised and the small scale sectors. It is, therefore, proposed to introduce a compulsory single proforma which would be submitted by the industrial units, once a year, to the Department of Electronics.

17. In order to speed up scrutiny of proposals by financial institutions, they would be encouraged to set up separate cells for electronics and would be invited to participate in the projects appraisal committees of the Department of Electronics.

18. The Computer Policy announced on 19th November, 1984, will be suitably

extended and applied by the Department of Electronics to electronic control instruments, instrumentation and systems, industrial and professional electronics, and data communication equipment.

19. *Components :*

Electronic component industry has already been de-licenced vide a Press Note issued by Ministry of Industry and Company Affairs on 16th March, 1985. In light of this, entrepreneurs wishing to set up component industries to produce components could register with the D.G.T.D.

20. Government had earlier announced that components need to be manufactured in large volume; it is, therefore, proposed to de-reserve some of the components which today are reserved for the small scale sector.

21. Normally, manufacture of components is not permitted from intermediate levels. However, in the case of bipolar, linear and digital integrated circuits where heavy investment are called for, industry will be permitted, to begin with, to assemble from intermediate stage, provided an investment of at least Rs. 5 crores is made.

22. *Communications :*

In the area of communications, certain product lines were thrown open to the private sector as announced by the Deputy Minister for Electronics in March, 1984. As a result of this policy, 5 Letters of Intent for electronic PABX, and 27 Letters of Intent for electronic telephone instruments have been issued for the private Sector. One Letter of Intent for the manufacture of electronic teleprinter, two for the manufacture of public telephones, and two for telephone answering and recording machine have also been issued to the Private Sector. It was proposed earlier that for switching systems, private party's participation beyond 49% would not be permitted; however, considering the limitations

of the Government's resources and the gap in availability which is likely to emerge in the switching area, it is now proposed to set up an ESS factory using the technology that is being developed indigenously by the Centre for Development of Telematics (CDOT). The investment of the Government in this venture would be restricted to 26%, 25% would be offered to a private sector party and 49% would be thrown open to the general public. Necessary action to modify the Industrial Policy Resolution will be taken.

23. *Research and Development :*

In order that our electronics industry in the Eighth Five-Year plan does not have to depend largely on foreign technologies as is the position today, the Government has taken up several major research and development programmes. It has set up a Centre for Development of Telematics (PDOT), it has been encouraging research through the National Radar Council, it is rendering financial assistance for research in educational institutions and public sector enterprises through its Technology Development Council. It has recently announced the setting up of a National Micro-electronics Council and proposes to set-up a Centre for development of materials for electronics.

I am sure, with this wide set of measures, the electronics industry should be able to deliver appropriate electronic equipment so vitally needed to improve our productivity and accelerate our economy.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Shillong) :
Now that the affliction is over, I request that this important document be circulated to all the members so that we can read and digest it at leisure.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :
There is nothing for the public sector. Everything is going to the private sector.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta

He has not left anything to the public sector.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Only Prof. Ranga has been able to digest. We have not been able to.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There must be a discussion on the statement. The Minister did not say anything about the silicon facility.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mrs Mohsina Kidwai.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

- (i) All India Institute of Medical Sciences New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Question is :

“That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The Motion was Adopted

- (ii) Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of clause 3(vii) (a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tuberculosis Association of India, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of clause 3 (vii) (a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Tuberculosis Association of India, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India.”

The Motion was adopted.

- (iii) Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of Section 5(g) of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 5(g) of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The Motion was adopted.

12.32 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Third Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th March, 1985."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 20th March, 1985."

The Motion was adopted.

12.34 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) Demand for raising the monthly allotment of Kerosene oil to Kerala

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat)** : Sir, kerosene is used mainly as fuel cooking, lighting, industrial and agricultural purposes, and its demand is for outstripping the supply. The result is that the poor folk in the villages are either not getting kerosene at all or getting a very meager quantity. The quantity supplied by the Centre is not sufficient to meet the actual demand. The Centre is presently supplying 15,750 metric tonnes of kerosene. Apart from meeting the requirement of the public, Kerala has to feed the requirements of industry, agriculture, fishing craft and also titanium products. The fishermen of Kerala are agitating for more kerosene since they use it for working traditional fishing crafts fitted with engines.

Therefore, it is essential that the monthly allotment of kerosene to Kerala should be raised. I would request the Government to increase the allotment to 18,000 metric tonnes per month.

- (ii) Need to expedite construction of the proposed rail-road bridge between Chhitauni and Bagaha railway stations

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the North East part of U.P. and North-West part of Bihar are divided by Badi Gandak into two parts mutually inaccessible. As a result, there is no possibility of development of these extremely backward areas. One crore people of these two States are living below the poverty line. The area has become a sanctuary for anti-social elements on account of its backwardness as also its being adjacent Nepal. It is becoming a very sensitive area from the international point of view

**The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri Madan Pandey]

also Lack of roads in this area and a bridge on Badi Gandak and non-conversion of narrow gauge line is the main cause of the pitiable condition of this area.

Years back, the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had laid the foundations stone of a rail-road bridge on Badi Gandak between Chhitauni and Bagaha but construction work has not made any headway. This has caused not only unrest among the people but also national loss due to non-development of the area.

In the interest of all-round development and industrialisation of this area and national security, I request that construction of the proposed rail-road bridge between Chhitauni and Bagaha stations of North-Eastern Railways, which has been pending for quite a long time, should be completed and the gauge of the Railways line from Muzaffarpur to Bagaha and Gorakhpur to Chhitauni should be converted so as to pave the way for the development and industrialisation of this area.

- (iii) Drought condition in Himachal Pradesh and need for more financial assistance for meeting the loss to crops, etc.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, due to failure of rains in Himachal Pradesh, all the crops are withering and people are feeling helpless. Crops have been totally remove and because of heavy losses the condition of the people is so bad that they cannot have even two square meals a day. I, therefore, demand that the Government should pay more money as compensation to remove unrest among the people and the Railways should provide concession in freight to apple-growers and seed-potato growers of Himachal Pradesh in the same way as concession has been provided to sugarcane-growers so that the people of hill areas who are agriculturists may be benefited. This work should be done on priority basis. I would request the Minister of Agriculture to pay immediate attention to this demand.

- (iv) Need to sanction additional central assistance for early completion of the upper Kolab Multi-purpose project in Orissa

SHRI K. PRADHANI* (Nowarangpur) : The Upper Kolab Multi-purpose Project, Orissa, on completion, would have an installed capacity of 240 MW and irrigation for a net area of 1.10 lakhs acres. The first unit of power generation was anticipated to be commissioned by the end of the Sixth Plan. But it has not been completed so far.

The Sixth Plan outlay for Upper Kolab irrigation project was only Rs. 8 crores. With this limited outlay it was not possible to complete the project during the Sixth Plan period. It was estimated that with an additional outlay of Rs. 5 crores over and above the plan outlay of Rs. 8 crores, it would have been possible to provide irrigation to about, 12,000 acres at the end of the Sixth Plan in Koraput, a tribal district. The completion of this project needs the urgent attention of the Government of India.

Government of Orissa has requested the Union Minister of Irrigation for a central assistance of an additional Rs. 5 crores for this project. I urge upon the Government of India to sanction the additional required amount for the early completion of the Upper Kolab Multi-purpose Project.

[English]

- (v) Demand for grant of permission to instal *Son-et Lumiere* at Konark

SHRIMITI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present the Sun temple, Konark, is lighted from four corners. The Government of Orissa have proposed to Archaeological Survey of India for granting permission to have *Son-et Lumiere* at Konark. Permission is being refused primarily on the ground that it was a temple. In a clarification to the

*The Speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

Archaeological Survey of India, the State Government have maintained that King Narasingh Dev had built this temple not only for the Sun God but also as a memorial heralding his victory from north to south. Konark is not a living memory any more. In fact, installation of sound and light will have a binding effect on the visitors to stay at Konark which will increase its acceptability. It may be relevant to mention that sound and light system has been installed in Red Fort where a living mosque exists. Such a system has also been allowed in certain other places in the country. It would, therefore, be in the larger interest of the conservation of the temple, increasing its acceptability and promotion of tourism if formal permission is accorded for installation of *son-et-lumiere*.

As such, I request the Hon. Prime Minister to grant permission for installation of *son et lumiere* at Konark.

(vi) Need to complete the fencing of India-Bangladesh Border

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : The villagers of Indo-Bangladesh Border on Bangladesh side are armed with self-loading rifles and 303 guns are determined to resist the fencing of the border by India, resulting in an average forty to fifty Bangladeshi is entreing into India from Bangladesh daily, which became a matter of great concern. Even though the Government of India have decided to erect fencing ultimately the work has been stopped due to exchange of fire by the Bangladesh Border Security Forces. It is reliably ascertained that the Border Security Force of Bangladesh are imparting training to these villagers to resist the fencing by India using automatic fire arms. If the work of fencing is stopped it will ultimately be great threat to the nation's security.

I would, therefore, request the Government to start the fencing of the border and complete it at the earliest to protect the security of the nation.

(vii) Need to replace the existing manual telephone exchange at Diamond Harbour with an automatic telephone exchange and connect it with Calcutta through micro-wave

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, about two years ago a programme of upgrading the telephone exchange of Diamond Harbour was supposed to be taken up with the two-fold object of installation of an automatic exchange in place of existing manual exchange and also to connect the exchange to Calcutta through micro-wave system.

At the request of the communications department, the West Bengal Government at its own expense constructed a black top approach road to the telephone exchange wide enough to carry loaded trucks in order to facilitate the building Programme within the telephone exchange. Although the road work was taken up and completed more than a year ago the exchange is yet to be upgraded as programmed. The telephone authorities at Calcutta have stated that the new automatic exchange equipment has not been and will not be available for quite some time more. This is happening inspite of the fact that new telephone exchange was to have been delivered in course of 1983. This ditatoriness on the part of the telephone department has created great frustration amongst the local people.

The Minister of Communications should take an early action to get the automatic exchange equipment installed at Diamond Harbour without delay.

(viii) Need to advise Planning Commission to provide more funds for digging wells and for lift irrigation from Defence Channel canal in the border area of Jammu

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) : Sir, I want to raise a question of grave importance namely the situation that has arisen because of the non-availability of adequate irrigation facilities in the broder area of Jammu. There are no adequate facilities for

the farmers to irrigate their lands and it is very difficult for to get full benefits of their labour although the lands are very fertile and the farmers could get three crops if adequate irrigation facilities are provided there. There could be a green revolution and a major increase in food-grains production by which the farmers, State and Central Government and other people will be benefited. Moreover, the Central Government has also financed the digging of tube-wells in that area for providing irrigation facilities but they too are not providing sufficient water for irrigating the fields in that area. It is, therefore, requested that the Planning Commission be advised to provide more funds for digging wells and also provide for lift irrigation from defence channel.

It is, therefore, requested that Government should take appropriate steps to provide adequate irrigation facilities to those areas.

(ix) Demand for constituting a Pepper Board on the pattern of the Cardamom Board

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Pepper is the most important foreign exchange earner among the spices and it accounts for 50% of the total export earnings from spices. But; due to the absence of perspective planning and proper appreciation of the problems, being faced by the growers, pepper growers are suffering.

The severe drought in 1983 had destroyed large areas of Pepper cultivation in Kerala. More than 80% of the growers of Pepper in Kerala are small growers and it is they who suffered most by the drought. The crippling effect of the drought continues and the growers are in distress.

The Pepper growers had taken huge loans and today they are not able to repay these loans. The authorities have not moved in so far to help them. Therefore, I demand that a Moratorium on the repayment of loans be declared immediately.

Similarly, Government should give them subsidy on interest as it is beyond the capacity of the growers to pay the heavy interests.

Pepper plants are affected by a disease called Footrot. According to an estimate, 40% of the crop was destroyed during 1980-81 due to this disease. This necessitates the urgent need for accelerated research work in this field and finding of remedial measures.

These and similar problems can be effectively dealt with only by the creation of an autonomous body. Demand has been raised for the constitution of such a body. It may be recalled that India's Share in the world Pepper Trade has gone down from 80% in 1947 to 21% now. This must create the necessary awareness among the authorities about the need for more attention being paid to Pepper.

I would therefore request the Government to set up a Pepper Board on the pattern of the Cardamom Board and save this most important spice from distress.

(x) Need to replace the Low Power Television Transmitter at Kurseong with a High Power T.V. Transmitter

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : There was a long-standing demand for the setting up of a High Power TV transmitter at Kurseong for expansion of TV coverage in the North Bengal districts of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

A month ago, a Low Power TV Relay Centre was set up at Kurseong, although an assurance was given on the Floor of this august House, that a High Power TV transmitter of 10 K.W. would be set up at Kurseong to enable the people of the border areas near Bangladesh to see the Indian telecasts instead of Bangladesh, keeping the national point of view; and this is a must. But, due to this Low Power TV transmitter and also the relaying of the programmes on the same channels both from Kurseong (India) and Rangpur (Bangladesh) nothing is visible except a ray of light or

mixed programmes. For example, Ravi Shastri is shown batting in Melbourne and simultaneously, within a second, a Bangladeshi girl is seen singing. It creates confusion and it also appears that the TV is joking? Under these circumstances, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting about these facts for immediate improvement of the Door-darshan and also make the following suggestions for his consideration :

- (a) The existing Kurseong Television Relay Centre be immediately replaced by a High Power TV transmitter.
- (b) Kurseong Television Relay Centre should relay programmes at different channels so as to avoid confusion of programmes.
- (c) A provision should be made to show Calcutta telecasts through Kurseong TV Relay Centre and for Programme Production facilities at Kurseong; and
- (d) Another TV transmitter may be set up at Cooch Behar for expansion of TV coverage in the extreme broder areas of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar Districts of North Bengal.

12.50 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1985-86
GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS
FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1984-85

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up items Nos. 12 and 13 together Shri Vadde Sobhanedreeswara Rao has given notice of three Cut Motions to the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) but he is not here.

Motion Moved :

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1985 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof :

Demand Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 71, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 96, 100, 101, 104, 105, 108 and 109.”

**List of Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1984-85
submitted to the Vote of Lok-Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the house	
		3	4
1	2	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTRE			
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	35,85,000	...
2.	Agriculture	19,30,01,000	...
3.	Fisheries	1,62,00,000	...
4.	Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development	1,000	...
7.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	10,27,000	...
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS			
9.	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers	110,59,34,000	...
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE			
10.	Ministry of Commerce	19,15,000	...
11.	Foreign Trade and Export Production	3,000	...
12.	Textiles, Handloom and Handicrafts	22,98,55,000	141,35,89,000
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS			
17.	Capital Outly on Posts and Telegraphs	...	49,00,00,000
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE			
18.	Ministry of Defence	45,47,17,000	2,000
19.	Defence Services—Army	393,64,00,000	...
21.	Defence Services—Air Force	62,61,39,000	...
23.	Capital Ovtly on Defence Services	...	39,60,00,000

1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE			
25.	Education	69,57,000	10,00,000
26.	Department of Culture	4,75,75,000	...
27.	Archaeology	1,80,00,000	...
MINISTRY OF ENERGY			
31.	Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	3,000	...
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS			
32.	Ministry of External Affairs	8,79,27,000	...
MINISTRY OF FINANCE			
33.	Ministry of Finance	1,67,24,000	...
34.	Customs	5,56,90,000	15,65,05,000
35.	Union Excise Duties	7,71,83,000	...
36.	Taxes on Income, Estate Duty, Wealth Tax and Gift Tax	9,41,48,000	...
37.	Stamps	...	1,50,50,000
38.	Audit	13,79,24,000	...
39.	Currency, Coinage and Mint	8,76,50,000	...
40.	Pensions	19,57,07,000	...
41.	Opium and Alkaloid Factories	...	8,54,000
43.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Finance	5,000	168,05,92,000
44.	Lons to Government Servants, etc.	...	13,45,00,000
MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES			
45.	Department of Food	253,21,22,000	21,90,62,000
46.	Department of Civil Supplies	...	1,000

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Supplementary Demands *Supplementary Demands*
for Grants (Gen.) 1984-85 *for Grants (Gen.) 1984-85*

1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE			
47.	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	5,00,000	...
48.	Medical and Public Health	4,17,06,000	12,22,94,000
49.	Family Welfare	10,12,88,000	...
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS			
50.	Ministry of Home Affairs	1,49,12,000	...
52.	Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms	1,83,03,000	...
53.	Police	82,98,19,000	7,68,21,000
54.	Other Administrative and Genral Services	54,17,48,00	4,60,60,000
55.	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	5,42,17,000	...
56.	Delhi	34,54,22,000	5,000
57.	Chandigarh	5,04,94,000	...
58.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3,12,86,000	1,61,68,000
59.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	44,99,000	...
60.	Lakshadweep	2,47,35,000	84,69,000
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY			
61.	Ministry of Industry	20,15,000	...
62.	Industries	37,03,79,000	...
63.	Village and Small Industries	...	2,53,75,000
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING			
64.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	21,34,000	...
65.	Information and Publicity	6,47,19,000	...
66.	Broadcasting	13,42,21,000	5,16,87,000

1	2	3	4
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION			
68.	Department of Labour	16,77,000	...
69.	Labour and Employment	57,18,06,000	7,00,000
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS			
71.	Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs	23,58,000	...
MINISTRY OF PLANNING			
75.	Planning Commission	59,43,000	...
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT			
76.	Ministry of Rural Development	1,000	...
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT			
77.	Ministry of Shipping and Transport	47,11,000	...
78.	Roads	8,64,90,000	10,98,52,000
79.	Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	4,000	4,000
80.	Road and Inland Water Transport	1,000	12,12,50,000
MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES			
82.	Department of Steel	138,98,24,000	449,97,46,000
83.	Department of Mines	1,000	24,55,00,000
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION			
85.	Meteorology	36,59,000	...
86.	Aviation	...	1,000
MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING			
88.	Ministry of Works and Housing	18,76,000	...
89.	Public Works	1,87,18,000	...
91.	Housing and Urban Development	1,65,00,000	2,00,01,000
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS			
96.	Department of Electronics	1,000	1,000

State and this has been hanging fire for a very long time. It is about 15 years that this for has been taken in hand and it has not yet been completed. It has not even been recognised as an on-going project, because we have been told that the on-going projects will be taken up for completion. But this project has not been recognised even as an on-going project and a meagre sum of Rs. 215 crores has been allocated for this project, the Vizag Steel Plant, which is the only integrated steel plant in the country located on the east coast, has lot of importance in the production of steel, as also for the export of steel in future. So far Rs. 1250 crores have been spent. In spite of spending Rs. 1250 crores, even today, we are not recognizing this project as an on-going project. Last year, there was an expenditure of roughly Rs. 650 crores; against this, we have reduced the outlay to Rs. 215 crores in 1985-86 which is very-very disappointing. We are told that there are constraints of resources; every time we are told that there are no funds. The public sector projects have to fend for themselves. There is an investment of Rs. 30,000 crores on the public sector and no returns. If the public sector is not paying the dividends, who is to be blamed? What is the reason for this? Why are there no returns from the public sector? Simply because there are no returns from the public sector, are we to discard the public sector? I feel that the major drawback or defect in the implementation of the projects is the bunching of the projects by the Government. This is responsible for the projects not being completed on time, over-runs, escalation of costs and then completing the projects in 15-20 years.

Again, I will give you the example of Vizag Steel Plant. It was started 15 years ago, and I feel that it may take another 15 years to come up. If you are going to take 30 years to complete a project, when is it going to give return? Every project in the public sector has such a history of over-runs, long delays, in implementation and

when finally the project is completed, it is uneconomic. This bunching happens because there are public pressures; in democracy everybody wants a public sector unit in his area. Why should the Central Government succumb to the pressures? Why is it that you do not take a project and complete it and then go to another project?

I will now seek your permission, Mr. Chairman, to speak in Hindi.

[*Translation*]

In Tirupati, the number of barbers in proportion to the devotees who want to get their heads shaved is far less. Thousands of people go there to get their heads shaved. In such a situation what the barbers do is that they shave only half the head. In this way by the evening there are several persons with heads half shaved.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Knowing their policy, I have preferred to be bald headed!

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. MADHIV REDDI : The same is the position of the Central Projects. No project is complete. One project should be completed and then only the other taken in hand. This will result in not only completion of the project, but also in getting return from it. As the projects are not completed in time, their cost also escalates and they become uneconomic. By the time production starts the profit is not sufficient to meet the expenditure on overheads. Bunching of projects is a very bad practice and it is because of this that the projects are not being fully financed.

So far as Vizag Steel Plant is concerned, I would request that it should not be left incomplete like the half shaved by the Tirupati barber. It requires one thousand crore rupees for early completion, which you have not allocated. If you allocate this amount for the plant, it will go into production within three years.

13'00 hrs.

Regarding growth-rate, it has been stated that during the last 4-5 years, in the Sixth Five Year Plan, it has been 4 percent. It is a matter of happiness because our growth-rate during the last 20 years has remained 3.5 percent, which is called Hindu growth-rate by economists because Hindu society neither disintegrates nor makes any progress. You have crossed this Hindu growth-rate and increased it from 3.5 percent to 4 percent. It is a good thing. Now you want to increase it to 5 percent and you have stated that during the Seventh Five Year Plan, the growth-rate will be 5.5 percent. How much investment is required to achieve this growth-rate is what you will have to see. Merely estimating the growth-rate without funds will not do. The estimates given by you for the Plan do not indicate that the Plan would work. You are going to have a Plan holiday. Today everyone is wondering whether we shall be able to implement the Seventh Five Year Plan or we shall have another Plan holiday. In this respect, I would request the Hon. Minister to state clearly that the Plan would be implemented without any break and the requisite funds allocated.

Now, for whom have you provided the tax reliefs? It is being said that the common man has been given many reliefs. In this connection, the reactions of the people are coming daily in the newspapers. You see the statements in the newspapers. Who is happy over it?

Never has such praise been showered since 1952 on the budget as we are seeing this time in the newspapers, but who are the people who are praising it? Who are jubilant? It is not the shopkeepers of Pacharganj, Delhi or the common man. The people in the corridors of the Indian Chambers of Commerce are very happy and celebrating the event by distributing sweets. Stock Exchange people of Calcutta and Bombay are very happy. It is the vocal class and persons who have power and the press in their hand, who are happy. You can see from this for whose benefit this Budget has been pre-

sented. This is not a common man's Budget. Had it been a common man's Budget, it would have been praised by taxi drivers, rickshaw pullers and housewives. During the last five days, there is not a single item whose price has not gone up and it is difficult to guess what extent the prices have increased. Prices have increased disproportionately. What is the reason? This is because you have very subtly increased indirect taxes. Small doses of taxes have been imposed on all the items but the tax on imported crude has been the maximum. By imposing tax on imported crude you have given a blow to the whole economy. This will result in increase in prices. What I feel is that the prices of indigenous crude will also increase because you will have to bring parity in the prices. On imported crude the prices have already been increased. Let us see whether the prices of indigenous crude have been brought at par with the imported crude or not. What will be the position then? Shri Nani Palkhiwala had made a remark last year which I remember quite often. The remark was—

[English]

“Indian economy is floating in oil.”

[Translation]

He had said that because of 29 million tonne oil production. Indian economy would be saved—

[English]

Indian economy is floating in oil and now it will be drowned in oil; it is likely to be drowned in oil.

[Translation]

You have increased the prices of crude oil. By this increase you have shown that there is danger to the economy and it is likely to be drowned. Be careful about it.

Regarding taxation, we have been told that the more the relief to the big businessmen, the more will be

the investment by them. This has never happened. They are not going to do it. The affluent section will buy land with the money which would accrue to them on account of reliefs. You have extended the limits of Metropolitan cities. They will circulate the money in such a way as to increase black money. Subsequently they will convert that money into white money. It is, therefore, wrong to say that they will go more money for investment. This will not help increase in investment but will generate more black money.

IMF had made an assessment. Some people dispute that but I do not. In that assessment it was stated that in India in one hour black money to the tune of one and a half crore was being generated.

[English]

—They know how to convert their black money in to white. There are several ways of doing it. They had been doing it in the past and they will be doing it in future also.

[Translation]

This comes to 22 percent of the national income. With this generation of 22 percent of national income as black money, a parallel economy continues to operate. I would say you are not the Finance Minister of the country, you are Finance Ministry just in name, the economy of the country is not in your hand, but in the hands of those who run the parallel economy. They can take it to any direction they want. You may make as many rules and regulations as you like—

[English]

—22 percent, of our GNP is converted in to black money.

[Translation]

They will direct our economy. Your rules and regulations will be to direct

the economy to desired channels but they will take it to undesired channels because the power is in their hands.

What will be its result? There will be increase in production of consumer goods the emphasis will be on luxury goods.

You may be aware of the extent of our national income. No other country consumes 78 percent of its national income. This happens only in our country. Now the increase in production will be mostly in the luxury sector and the investment will be diverted to this sector. Whatever control you may exercise and whatever directions you may give, you cannot check this. The way you have dealt with the industries—

[English]

—Luxury goods are going to be manufactured in the country in the next five years, we have to guard against this.

[Translation]

Our consumption goes up in proportion to the increase in the production of luxury goods to that extent, investment is not made in the desired channel.

I would like to say that this budget is against the interests of the common man. No body is prepared to accept that this budget has given us more relief. When I was coming to Parliament, one person was heard saying that he was a tax-payer but now he has had been exempted. He further said that he was very happy that he was getting some relief as his income wads within the limit of Rs. 18,000/-. No doubt, a meagre amount of Rs. 150-200 has been saved, but middle class people are being made to spent twice to four times that amount. He will have to spend more on petrol as he comes to office on scooter.

Vegetables, soaps and other essential items will also cost more. You have not given the required relief to the lower, middle and upper middle class people.

They are happy but they have been very badly hit. So far as the public sector is concerned, we used to say with pride that—

[English]

—we have an ever expanding public sector which has got a dominant role.

[Translation]

But now the position is that if we talk to a public sector Officer or Managing Director, he draws a long face because there the poor people have been neglected.

[English]

Mills are not working properly. The public sector is not paying us, and that is why we do not want it, which means you do not want your socialism.

[Translation]

Or you do not need socialism. The socialism advocated by the late Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi has become outmoded. Now you want to take the Country to the 21st century when no concession will be required and there will be no need for socialism. The steps taken to weaken the public sector are quite improper and these will have quite adverse effects in future. The dominant role being played by public sector in the development of the country is now sought to be shifted to the private sector.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the States have a share in the taxes levied by the Centre. This time you have taken care to levy taxes only on those items in which the States have no share. For example, the States have no share in import duty. Tax on crude oil will fetch Rs. 620 crores. The States will not get a single paisa out of it. You have, of course, said that the States' share in Public borrowings is being increased, which is welcome. But if you go into the history of public— borrowings you will find that.

[English]

—our experience of it has been very bad.

[Translation]

—because in the Third Five Year Plan, the States' share was 50 percent of the public borrowings. In 1984, this share had come down to only 10 percent and even if you increase public borrowings further the States will not get their due share. During the years 1961-65 the States' share was Rs. 435 crores and the Centre's share was Rs. 423 crores, in other words the centre's share was less. In the Fourth plan, the States' share went up to Rs. 590 crores and the Centre's share up to Rs. 1540 crores. In Fifth Five Year Plan, the States' share was Rs. 854 crores and the Centre's share went up to Rs. 2966 crores. During the years 1981-84 the States' share rose to Rs. 1503 crores as against the Centre's share of Rs. 13,262 crores. If this trend continues in future also, it will not be beneficial. The States' should be given a higher share in public borrowings since it is public money. What is the harm if it is equally divided? Why are the States allocated such a meagre revenue? Everybody knows that agricultural development has taken place. So far, the strategy has been to pay more attention to irrigation and concentrate only. There are big projects in Punjab and the production of cereals has also gone up. The poor eat ragi, millets and maize. Regarding pulses, which are a protein—rich food for the poor, there is shortfall in production and even if they are available, they are very costly. Oilseeds are not produced in these areas where irrigation facilities are available. We have not paid attention to dry land cultivation. We shall have to change this strategy. This strategy of intensive development in agriculture in certain areas will have to be given up, otherwise, I fear, we shall have to import large quantities of edible oil also in future. At present Rs. 1200 crores are being spent on this. In future the amount may go up causing heavy burden on the exchequer.

[English]

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the new Government's first Budget. I would like to underline the basic philosophy of the Budget before I go on to the other provisions. In this respect, I would like to quote two lines from the Finance Minister's Speech in which he has quoted our new and dynamic Prime Minister, which gives the basic philosophy to this Budget:

"We have made India self-reliant in every important sphere. We have to create a dynamic country that is equal to any other country in the world."

I congratulate the Finance Minister on attempting to present a Budget so as to achieve this objective in phases over the Plan period and even beyond the Plan period in the nineties when ultimately we will succeed in creating a society which will be self-reliant, progressive and affluent and when there will be no poverty and unemployment. The basic objective of the Seventh Plan, as described by our late and revered Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was and continues to be even now work, food and productivity. If we apply those three criteria, this Budget is an exercise to achieve a significant gain in all these three aspects. Evidently, a Budget is a very extensive exercise and there is no way in the Budget-making to bring smiles to every face.

But such is the wizardry of the Finance Minister that he has been able to spread the smiles on widest possible spectrums of the population. Some mistaken people say he has given relief to the rich people, others say that he is going to create monopoly houses but these are not only mistaken but very very partial views of looking to the Budget. The Budget has to be looked in its totality and I would like briefly to present the total picture that the Budget seeks to achieve.

This is an invigorating Budget because it tries to create positive impul-

ses in to the economy and into the various sections of the society. It is going to stimulate growth, improve efficiency and provide relief to all the sectors of the economy, to the poor people—both the rural poor and the urban poor—to the lower and the middle classes and to the farmers. It contains a set of proposals to help the workmen—the most productive class—and to industries, the idea being that each one is made to contribute to the best of his ability in any sphere, the incentives and reliefs have been provided with that object in view.

A very important point has been made by the Finance Minister and I think it is the first time that a Finance Minister has made it. Only in the earlier times I remember a Budget like this having been presented, a very dynamic Budget which is going to change the fiscal profiles of the country in the coming years. A Budget like this was presented only in the year 1957 by TTK when he introduced certain innovations, and that Budget had stood the test of the time. The present Finance Minister has, in the same way, tried to give a completely new orientation to the fiscal policies and to achieve the objectives, that is, to stimulate growth, to provide efficiency and to give relief to all classes of the people so that they are able to contribute to the productive process in a more effective manner. He has made a point that now this fiscal policy is not for one year, this is dovetailed into the plan and, therefore, we must look to these policies, in the context of the plan, in a long-term perspective. He has even invited debates on some of his policies and the debate will continue in parliament. He has invited the Members of Parliament to give their view so that we all contribute to the basic objectives, that is, to stimulate the economy, to reduce inequalities and to remove poverty. Let us not quarrel but contribute to these objectives which are built into the national consciousness of our country. If something is wanting, well, we will remove it and substitute it by a better method. Take personal taxation,

for example. It is said that the relief will provide help to the rich people. Some Hon. Members have said that the tax on income in the bracket 18,000-25,000 has been increased from 20 per cent to 25 per cent. But if you see the whole relief on income in the bracket 15,000-2000, the relief is 50 per cent in the first slab as is mentioned in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech itself.

If you take the slab Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000, it is 100 per cent. But, if you take the whole slab, it is 50 per cent. In the next higher slab, Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 it is 22 per cent and from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh it is 18 per cent.

AN HON. MEMBER : Relief for whom ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : To those who pay taxes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : For the income-tax payer, who lives below the poverty-line.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : Those who are below the poverty-line will be lifted above the poverty-line.

AN HON. MEMBER : In how many years ?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : Do not talk in an absent-minded manner. If you read the President's Address, it is mentioned there that in the Sixth Plan 14.5 million people were provided jobs and thus lifted above the poverty-line. I will come to the anti-poverty scheme later. Now I am talking of those who pay taxes. We have a number of measures to help people below the poverty-line. So, be fair. Do not talk in an absent-minded manner..... (*Interruptions*)

Coming to the reduction of 5 per cent in the corporate sector tax, it is said that we have given too many tax concessions to the corporate sector and that the definition of monopoly houses was been revised upwards. But you have to

combine it with the withdrawal of the concessions which the corporate sector enjoyed earlier, some of which have been listed by the Finance Minister in his speech. The concession regarding additional depreciation has been withdrawn. While the general rate of depreciation allowance was raised to 15 per cent, the other concessions have been discontinued. For approved programmes of rural development, the corporate sector enjoyed some concession which has been removed. The tax concession in respect of dividends received by Indian companies from certain foreign companies has been removed. So, if you combine the concessions which the corporate sector were enjoying, but which were removed, and the relief they have got now, the Finance Minister has provided for an increase in revenue from the corporate sector to the tune of Rs. 250 crores. That does not show any overall net concession.

The fact is that this relief has been given to allow the private sector to develop, because it is part of the national sector. I will come to the public sector later. I am only saying that we should have a proper perspective in regard to the private sector. If it has to play a role, there should not be any restrictions which inhibit its growth. At the same time, it should fit in with the national policy and our industrial policy.

The budget speech and the *Economic Survey* talk about the role which the public sector has to play. It is not only reaching the commanding height, but it is basic. The crisis which any Finance Minister faces is that there is no generation of internal resources. We have an investment of Rs. 30,000 crores in the public sector. Even during the Sixth Plan, the generation of resources from the public sector did not come up to the expectations, did not come up to the mark. It is mentioned in the *Economic survey* that they have to be made more efficient. You talked about public sector management. I am not talking about public sector management. I am not talking about one aspect

or the other. I am saying that the complete management criteria, their contribution, their generation of internal resources, their gross profit, net profit, input-output ratio, they all leave much to be desired.

It has been mentioned in the Economic survey and I would like to quote a few sentences from it.

"The deterioration in the financial performance of the public sector enterprises during 1983-84 was attributable mainly to lower capacity utilisation resulting from scarcities and quality problems with infrastructural inputs like coal and power."

For these I cannot blame the management. If they do not get regular supply of energy or if coal supply is faulty or if there is more ash content, you cannot just blame the Management. These are the basic difficulties which the private sectors are facing.

Then there has been an upward wage revision.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Can you not blame the coal people ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Look to the perspective.

Can you say that wage should upwards ? It has to be. Then input costs are increasing.

Whether it is the Steel Authority of India or the Bharat Coking Coal or Eastern Coalfield, Delhi Transport, Fertiliser Corporation, Hindustan Fertilisers, Kudremukh, all have made huge made huge losses and have pulled down the public sector, but there are some redeeming areas also in the public sector like the Petroleum. You have talked that the country's economy has been drowned in oil. I don't know how you draw such a conclusion. Actually it has been sustained because there has been bonanza of oil. We have increased the production of oil from 11 million

tonnes to 29 million tonnes—an increase of 18 million tonnes. This is one area in which the Plan prospects have been very much realised upwards. Our only regret is that in the coming years unless we find another big oil field, the increase may not be so. Therefore, we have to provide for that; the Finance Minister has acted wisely and has provided for that. All these fiscal measures and the revision of oil prices and other things is with the idea that we must restrain and bring down the use of oil in our economy. If we do not find it in the coming years, we will be hard put, because the growth may not be like this.

That is the reason why the Finance Minister has talked of using more thermal energy, electricity instead of oil. He has talked of this and the Economic Survey says that we must look for new sources like Alcohol as various other countries are doing. These are the challenges to our scientists and the R & D effort. Our Prime Minister and Finance Minister are emphasising more and more to improve the technology and scientific environment in the country so that we are able to bring about changes and make use of new technology. We have to think like this if we have to look ahead. The Budget in a formidable manner looks ahead in all fields.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is a 21st century budget.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Well, we are going to the 21st century and we want to go there with hope and strength. That is the policy of our Government.

Then if sec, CDS has been abolished ; Estate duty has been abolished.

[Translation]

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Who will be benefited by the abolition of Estate Duty ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Everybody will be benefited b.cause Rs. 20 crores used to be the revenue and on the

collection of this amount Rs. 20 crores used to be spent. So, nobody was benefited previously.

[English]

Sir, I now come to the positive aspect. Where will all this money go? There is a provision for anti-poverty programme. As you know, there are a number of programmes that have been launched for rural development in the Central Plan. They have been maintained and they have been strengthened. Projects worth more than Rs. 800 crores have been sanctioned for implementation under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. This programme will have an outlay of Rs. 400 crores this year. This is for those who do not pay the tax. Prof. Dandavate said, 'I am going to categorise what the budget tells about all those who do not pay the tax.' (Interruptions.) Not only this. There are a number of other programmes. There is a programme for free education for girls all over the country up to Higher Secondary level. Here, a provision of Rs. 221 crores has been made for education. This is all for whom? A large number of people are below the poverty line and this is for the poor girls. Now, you come to the implementation of the 20-Point Programme. It is all for the rural and the urban poor—creating employment for them. As I said, in the Sixth Plan 14.5 million jobs are created. This year, under the Seventh Plan—food, work and productivity—we have to provide jobs, at least one job for each family.

This is the objective and this is all for those about whom Prof. Madhu Dandavate asked: 'What about those who do not pay the tax?' The total amount allocated in the Central Plan is Rs. 4,900 crores for the next year, i.e., 1985-86, as against Rs. 4,141 crores provided for in the current year representing an increase of 18.3 per cent. Now, you see the picture of the rural poor and the landless. I do not want to take much of the time of the House. There are schemes for the landless and marginal farmers,

the small farmers. Then, in respect of industrialisation, we want the public sector being augmented, particularly the most dynamic sector, that is, oil. The public sector is being modernised; technological, managerial and other innovations have been introduced. The basis of our budget policy is that public sector must contribute and be a competitive sector and therefore, this budget tries to help the poor the lower middle classes, the middle classes, the farmers and the workers. You know, there are a number of measures for the workers. For the farmers there is crop insurance, for landless and marginal farmers and for craftsmen there are social security measures—anybody dying, a poor man, there is nobody to look after him, we can straightaway give Rs. 3000. This is all for the poor people. Then, the workers' retrenchment compensation has been raised to Rs. 50,000.

The basic revolutionary change that the Finance Minister has made is a very important concept and he has said that labour is an important factor of production, as important, if not more, as capital or managerial. And it has been said that the labourer's dues in any sector of industry gets priority over the Government dues.

SHRI R.P. DAS (Krishnagar) : It is not a new find that labour is the most important factor in production. But you are saying as if it is a new thing.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am telling you, it is an emphasis. It is an approach. It is not a find. It is an approach. That is what I am saying. It is the pro-labour approach. I am answering the charge, the absurd charge that has been levelled on this Budget that it caters to the rich people and the monopoly houses. I am saying that this Budget is for the farmers. This Budget is for the landless and the small farmers. This Budget is for the poor people. It has got all positive steps. This Budget is for the organised people. This Budget is for the low-middle class people and the middle

class people. This is the answer, I am giving. Please take it. I am putting arguments. I am giving you facts. If you have any objection, you meet facts with facts.

So, my point is, as I said, the Finance Minister has done an exercise and it is a wizardly exercise. Nobody can do it better in one year than the Finance Minister. He has devetailed it into the perspective of the five years. This is the fiscal policy. There will not be any confusion about it. The policy will be continued. Parliament will debate it. The country will debate it and it will be evolved.

Now, I come to the criticism that has been made. It has been criticised that there is a large deficit of Rs. 3,346 crores and it may lead to inflation. This is the criticism. Sir, inflation is a product of many factors and possibly three main factors. Price rise in a country in a year is the co-efficient to many factors. The main factor is production. In our country, it is agricultural production. Second factor is the state of liquidity or the resources of the money at the disposal of the public. In this context, black money comes in and a point has been made by the hon. Member. The third factor is deficit. If the totality of all the factors are on one side, well there can be a price rise. I do not deny that. But if out of the three factors, if one factor is one side and the other two factors are on the opposite side, it hardly affects the economy. It is not going to create inflation. This is the point I am making out. I want to prove it by some of the economic indicators given in the *Economic Survey*. The solid economic indicators are there. First is the Gross National product, i.e. production. I will take only two or three years in the last 10-12 years, for a peak period. For example, you take 1976-77. The Gross National Product rose by just below 1% or 0.9%. 0.9% was the G.D.P. Now, the prices rose by 12% in that year and the

monetary resources at the disposal of the people rose by 23%. Now, one factor, i.e. production is very important. But it was negative or nearly zero, less than 1% during that period. Regarding the other two factors, the wholesale price rise was 12% and the monetary resources with the people had risen by 23%. So, this is the picture in 1976-77.

Now, I take you to another picture. In the year 1977-78, the increase in the Gross National Product was 8.7%. I mean, it rose from less than one percent to 8.7%. The production rose to nearly 9%. The percentage rise of monetary resources was 18%. The price rise was 0.3%. So, the price rise was almost nil during that period also.

Similarly, let us take the figures for the year 1983-84. The Gross National Product rise was 7.4%. Then, the monetary resources rose by 18% and the price rise was 8.3%. In the last year, which the Finance Minister has quoted, the production, GDP, was 4%, monetary resources, i.e. money supply was 15.4% and the price was 5%.

So, you see the combination of all these three factors. This year's economy is in a very happy position. In 1980, during the elections, we promised that we will give a Government that works. We have never had a Government that has not worked in all these five years. All that is reflected in the achievement of targets of the Sixth Plan. All the targets of the Sixth Plan have been achieved.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: That is not claimed even by the Finance Minister.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT: I am claiming it. Don't try to misquote the Finance Minister against me. You tell me if the facts are wrong. The Sixth Plan provided the GNP growth of 5 percent we have achieved 5.2 per cent. The target of foodgrains production was put at 151.2 million tonnes. That has been achieved. The Plan provided for 8 to 9 percent growth in industry. We have

succeeded up to the extent of 7 percent. Similar in respect of the anti-poverty programme, all the details are there. At the moment, we have large reserves to the extent of 22 million tonnes of foodgrains.

All the efforts have been made to stimulate the economy to achieve further growth rate. If the economy grows further by 3 percent or 4 percent or 5 percent, we can achieve a still higher growth rate. We may not be able to achieve 13 percent growth every year. Certainly, we can achieve 5 percent growth. That is our objective, if there is a 5 percent growth in foodgrains production, if there is a 8 to 9 per cent growth in industry, if we improve our production both in agriculture and industry, we will achieve a higher growth rate.

The Finance Minister has taken certain measures to curb the creation of more money resources, if he is able to create more reserve money and if he is able to bring it down from 15 percent to 11 or 12 percent, there will not be a rise in prices. This is the experience of Indian economy in the last 10 years. So, the Finance Minister is well-advised to take a calculated risk. He has thrown a challenge, a challenge to be an honest tax-payer. There is relief in the Budget for an honest tax-payer.

According to the IMF Report and other reports, as percentage to the GNP we have the largest parallel money circulation. Somebody put the figure at Rs. 40,000 crores; somebody put it more or less. I am not concerned about the quantity of it. But the fact is that there is a parallel economy. To that extent, the monetary reforms and the levers, controls, exercised by the Reserve Bank are ineffective because a part of the expenditure, personal expenditure, conspicuous consumption, is met by parallel sources of money. It has reached a proportion which is making an absurd nonsense of all our monetary policies. If we can bring down the black money generation by 10 percent, that will improve our economy.

The Finance Minister has come out with a scheme that it is better to provide reasonable tax structure and collect it rather than to provide an exorbitant tax rate and not collect it. He has thrown a challenge that let us be honest. Let everybody pay his taxes. There is no reason not to pay taxes, either corporate tax or personal tax or other taxes. I have no time to go into the philosophy or the analysis of the excise taxes. But these are well chosen.

You cannot leave a yawning gap of Rs. 5,000 crores of deficit. Already you have taken a calculated risk. You have to raise resources. The corporate taxes and the personal taxes are a very small percentage of it. Already we are raising resources through borrowings. Non-tax resources are already going up. The external resources are going up. But there is a limit to that and there is a price we have to pay for it. Excise taxes are bound to be there. But the point is that we have at present the industrial sector, the agricultural sector, the public sector, the private sector and the employment generation programme in the rural sector and the anti-poverty programme. The main point is all must be absolutely honest. That is the challenge of the Finance Minister in this Budget. If we are honest and pay our taxes honestly, there will be buoyancy in the current revenue. Everything must be managed more efficiently. It is a challenge to the new generation of the younger educated people who are managers and technologically oriented and scientifically trained. Let us be more efficient. There should be more productivity. I hope that we will have a good monsoon on an average and I am absolutely certain that the industrial sector will reach 8 to 9% and that the efficiency of the public sector will increase. We will surely absorb this amount of deficit and the country will march through the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The first Budget of this new Government will lay the foundation of further growth, better efficiency and prosperity and will bring down poverty and will promote

equality.

As the Prime Minister has said we will bring about a self-reliant economy and India will ultimately emerge as a country second to none in the world.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT (Tehri-Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. I know that the job of the Finance Minister and that of the Finance Ministry is very difficult. Two types of demands are presented before them. On the one hand it is expected of them to allocate funds or to take up some project in a particular region and on the other hand, different demands are made in respect of certain other areas. The Finance Minister has to perform his job in a very balanced manner and I congratulate him on his presenting a balanced budget. The hon. Member who spoke before me was saying that the budget had brought a smile on every face. It is evident from the smile on the faces of the Members on the other side. Whatever be the reasons therefor, they did wear a smile on their faces.

I am not in favour of going into the budget speech of any Minister of Finance, because the speech of the Finance Minister and the Budget are a process through which certain social and economic objectives are to be achieved. The greatest achievement of our country is that we have succeeded in ensuring coordination between parliamentary democracy and planning. It is a synthesis of democratic procedures and planning. Previously, people were of the view that it was not possible to introduce the system of planning in a democratic set-up, but due to the efforts of our nation-builders, Panditji and Indrajii, we have proved that democracy and planning can go together. The greatest achievements of the current year's budget and the previous budgets have been that while preparing them, the annual plans were not only taken into account but they formed part of the budget. I

congratulate the Finance Minister because he has taken into account the enhanced plan outlay in the Budget.

The first budget was presented on 26th November, 1947 in this country. Perhaps that budget was of the order of Rs. 400 crores whereas the current year's budget is of the order of Rs. 42,000 crores. It is evident that the administration and the public sector have got a very important role to play. Hence discussion on their working becomes necessary while discussing the budget. During this period we have made notable achievements and certain institutions have developed. The Planning Commission was set up in 1950 and thereafter the Finance Commission was set up. While formulating a budget, the Finance Minister has to take into account the recommendations of the Planning Commission and the Finance Commission. The Finance Minister has followed the same procedure, for which I congratulate him. We have made development possible not only through the budget but through institutional devices also, such as the IDBI, NABARD and EXIM Bank have been set up for the purpose.

I consider the budget speech for the year 1970-71 of the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who held dual charge of the office of the Prime Minister and that of the Finance Minister at that time, a historic document. At that time she had spoken certain words which will have to be remembered for ever and which every Finance Minister will have to keep in mind :

"Social, economic and political stability is not possible without increase in production and national income. These two things are also not possible without paying due attention to the welfare of weaker sections."

The Finance Minister has tried to make these things possible because he has included new schemes for social welfare and for weaker sections in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

This budget is important, being a transitional budget, when the Sixth Five Year Plan is coming to a close and the Seventh Plan is about to commence. We have decided to increase agricultural production, gross production and also avenues of employment in the Seventh Five Year Plan and sufficient funds have been provided for this purpose. New schemes have been drawn up for social welfare and for the weaker sections and it is for the first time that a bold measure has been adopted to compensate the farmers for the loss suffered by them in the event of a natural calamity. A provision of crop insurance has been made for small farmers, without payment of premium. Attention has been paid towards social security of weaker sections, which had not received proper attention so far, although we had made big claims to this effect, and a sincere attempt has been made for their upliftment.

I would like to make a humble submission. We have seen that in 1970-71, particularly after that bold step of Bank Nationalisation, the change witnessed in one economy was a revolutionary one and that era continued upto 1976-77 when one gross national product increased to about Rs. 72 thousand crores from approximately Rs. 36,500 crores. At the same time, one national savings trebled to about Rs. 18,000 crores from Rs. 6800 crores. The foodgrains production had risen to 13 crore tonnes from 10 crore tonnes, but unfortunately, after 1976-77 the country witnessed a dark period. It is heactening to note that two Finance Ministers of that period are hon. Members of this House. But, the note of warning sounded by the late Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1970-71 in her capacity as Prime Minister and Finance Minister is before us. What she spoke about economic instability and political in stability has ultimately come true. It is very necessary to compare 1977 with 1980, because much of the criticism against us will be made by either

those who were in power between 1977 and 1980 or those who supported them.

We have seen that one gross product in 1977 was of the order of about Rs. 47,000 crore, which remained static in 1979-80. Foodgrain production declined from 12.5 crore tonnes to 11 crore tonnes. The production of one cash crop, sugarcane, which had a good support price, declined to 13 crore tonnes from 18 crore tonnes. Even in the matter of power generation, the increase was nominal.

14.00 hrs.

I would like to make to another submission. Attention has been paid to even the poorest of the poor in this Budget. An attempt has been made to pay full attention to them. We have noted that the income tax limit has been raised. It can be said that only the rich pay income tax, but this lower middle class always has a revolutionary potential. I want to tell those of my friends who believe in the theory of Marx that the lower middle class has a revolutionary potential. These friends of mine admit that they have been given 50 percent relief.

14.01/2 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the
Chair*].

Priority has also been given to the workers. The first priority given to them is this. In the event of a unit becoming sick, the workers are not at present paid their wages, or bonus. But now the salary limit for the purposes of bonus has been raised from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1600. Provision has also been made that when a unit is declared sick, the proprietor will have to come out with a new scheme if its capital has gone down by 50 percent. He will have to call the general body meeting. He will not be given another chance if the entire capital is wiped out.

From the budget, we see that the allocation for the 20-Point Programme

has been raised from Rs. 4,141 crores to Rs. 4,900 crores, an increase of 18.3 percent. Implementation machinery rests mostly with the State Governments. In spite of the weak machinery, the people have benefited from this programme to a great extent. When I was given an opportunity to speak earlier, I had said that there was need to bring qualitative change in it. It hank the hon. Minister that he has taken adequate care in this regard.

Security has been provided to the small farmers, whether they are artisans or landless people. I am thankful to the Minister for this also. We have practical experience of our National Rural Employment Programme. The rural people know it and I have also seen that there are villages which have not been linked by roads, where rivers were causing soil erosion, which used to be waterlogged, but with the R.L.G.E.P. we have been able to overcome these problems. When we visited the villages, the people told us that this programme should be continued and, if possible, it should be expanded. Nobody in the villages expects us to work in the fields, but it is our responsibility to provide them with facilities. I express my thanks to the hon. Minister for allocating an additional amount of Rs. 400 crores for this programme. But, I would like to say that the States which do well in this programme should be given some incentive.

It is generally said that our non-plan expenditure is increasing. If we go through the budget carefully, we shall find that 28 percent of our revenue is spent on defence which is absolutely necessary in the present circumstances. We pay 26 percent as interest. 15 percent is spent in the form of subsidies on foodgrains and fertilizers, etc. to benefit the farmers. Therefore, it is not correct to say that our non-plan expenditure is excessive.

Now, let us take the question of

deficit. A deficit of Rs. 3674 crore has been shown in the Budget, but the hon. Finance Minister had three alternatives to reduce this deficit. The first was to levy heavy taxes which would have caused resentment in all sections and at the same time it would have been said that the tax rates in our country were the highest; or the plan expenditure could have been slashed down, but that too would have been suicidal for the development of the country. He has neither reduced the plan expenditure nor levied heavy taxes. He has taken recourse to other means and, I think, our economy has the potential to absorb this much of deficit and it will not lead to adverse consequences. However, I would like to give some suggestion, which perhaps, are necessary.

I would like to make a humble submission that in para 56 of his Budget Speech, the hon. Minister of Finance has laid emphasis on energy and has sounded a note of warning that, perhaps we shall not be able to have that much of petrol, which we had during the last five years. That is why he has laid stress on increasing coal productions and power generations especially through Thermal Power Plants. For this, we ought to have complete coordination. When the hon. Minister of Finance was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he had entrusted the Department of Electricity to me. Whenever I asked the Electricity Department, they used to tell me that good quality coal was not available I convened a meeting in Calcutta wherein the Coal India people told me that the wagons were not made available to them. The Railway people said that coal was not available because they did not get traction power. This non-availability of coal, power and wagons has become a vicious circle. It needs to be broken. In this connections, I would like to draw your attention to two things. If India's resources of energy are to be properly harnessed, I would again emphasize that our multi-purpose projects, whether they are in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar

Pradesh or even in Nepal, should be constructed in collaboration with the Central Government. The multi-purpose projects on the rivers Teesta in Bengal, which originates from Sikkim or similar rivers in Assam and in the South should be declared National Projects. Similar rivers are there in our State also, on which four Bhakhra-Nangal type dams can be built. More attention should be paid to them, as the Himalayas have inexhaustible reserves of snow. During the months of May and June, when there is acute scarcity of water in the plains, the rivers flowing from the Himalayas have more water and it is our mistake if we did not exploit them. This is a very important matter and should be given consideration. They should be declared national projects and should not be viewed as belonging to a particular State. In our State, we have the Tehri Project which will generate 2000 M.W. of electricity. Through multi-purpose projects only, we can expand our irrigation potential and can also control floods. We have requested the Central Government that these projects should be constructed jointly by the State and the Centre, both sides contributing towards the investment. Sharing of power can be done on the basis of national formula, and this has also been left to the Centre. You must pay attention to these projects irrespective of their being in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, hilly region of Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, North Eastern Region or North Bengal.

There is another important issue which has not received attention. The biggest cash crop in our State is sugar-cane. Our sugar-cane production is approximately 18 crore tonnes and remunerative price must be paid to the farmers, otherwise its production will decline and we will have to import sugar. If the sugarcane price is linked with the price of sugar, we shall not be able to pay remunerative price for sugarcane. I have experience of it myself. When price of sugarcane was fixed at Rs. 21.50 p. in U.P., an amount of Rs. 60-70 crores was paid from the general budget. It

is a matter of great surprise that even after twenty to twenty five years, we have not thought of making alcohol from sugarcane. By alcohol, I do not mean the alcohol, which is harmful to human body. It can be used as an alternative source of energy and you can satisfy the farmers also. Sir, the work in this direction was started in 1974-75 in two countries i.e. in Brazil and India. In the year 1974, 615 million litres of alcohol were produced in Brazil, whereas in India the production of alcohol was only 318 million litres. In 1983, the production of alcohol rose to 7418 million litres in Brazil, whereas in India it could be increased to only 545 million litres. It is used in the production of fertilizers and rubber and to run vehicles. I have a very good document about Brazil, but I do not have time to read from it. I would send it later on to the hon. Finance Minister, national policy has been formulated there. One million cars are being run there by using alcohol as fuel. I would request that be should pay attention towards this aspect. Our industry is dependent on alcohol to a certain extent and thereby our sugarcane is utilised properly by. We can pay remunerative prices to the farmers, and more opportunities of employment could also be created. Industries would not be concentrated then at one place, but would be dispersed at several places. It can be used as a substitute for petrol. It will also increase indigenous production and national income. We should set up labour intensive industries, which require less capital, as we have less capital and there is plenty of manpower. So long as alcohol is in short supply, we should not export it. There are certain people having vested interest, who want to export alcohol by starving our own industries. Our State has more alcohol-based industries than west Bengal. There were certain occasions when alcohol was supplied to West Bengal for Uttar Pradesh so that their industries could continue their operation, as it is a national industry. Its export should be banned completely. Rubber is also being imported. If deficit has to be

reduced, the import will have to be curtailed. There are certain items in respect of which we commit mistakes and we want to import alcohol. It has a by-product, called butadiene, which is used in the manufacture of artificial rubber. Tax is levied on its import. If tax on butadiene is abolished, there would be loss of revenue to the extent of Rs. 1.5 crores, but there will be a saving of Rs. 7 crores. I would like to congratulate the Government that it has strengthened the public distribution system. There cannot be a better method of controlling the prices. The States have mobilised additional resources but there is erosion in the resources of the public sector undertakings. There is great need for making them more efficient. A detailed study should be undertaken in this regard. I would like to remind the hon. Finance Minister of an important observation made by the then Finance Minister last year :

[English]

"Some States have managed their finances well. They have been able to raise additional resources and effectively distributed them to implement adequately several State Plans."

[Translation]

In the next paragraph he had added that :

[English]

"For those States who have managed their finances well, I am working out a suitable scheme to provide some additional assistance to them in 1984-85. This is only just and appropriate."

[Translation]

I am still working for that scheme. We have been treated like a disciplined child in a family who gets the minimum share. Some of our State Governments

have not observed financial discipline. I would like to bifurcate financial discipline in two parts. The plan outlay should be fully utilised. Some of the states reduced their outlay and also took overdraft from the Reserve Bank of India. Here they make a hue and cry that these states are being discriminated against. We did not reduce our plan outlay. The outlay of Sixth Five Year Plan in Uttar Pradesh was Rs. 6200 crores. We did not take any overdraft for four years and rather spent Rs. 6000 crores on plan. We were forced to take overdraft for certain projects. I am therefore, waiting for that scheme.

I would like to raise one or two more points and would like to put forward certain suggestions.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Who is forcing you to go in for overdraft ? If you discipline yourself to be within the allocation.....

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We cannot copy indiscipline. We don't want to copy them. I do not advise anybody to copy indiscipline for that matter. I would request the hon. Member that he should tell his friends that this kind of indiscipline is not at all good for the economy.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You talk about Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : For the last one week, we have been hearing here about Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

I would like to submit to the hon. Finance Minister that he should collect figures about the amount of overdraft drawn by various States separately during the last five years and that he should also see how much of that amount was converted by them into loan. I would also like to

remind you about the assurance given last year and would request you to fulfil that assurance. Although all parts of our country are very important, one part is the most important which spreads from Kashmir to Assam and includes Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, the hilly areas of U.P. certain parts of Bihar and North Bengal and Sikkim. This is our border area and this is quite backward. In the last annual plan, i.e., for the year 1984-85, the plan outlay for this strategic area was increased, but on going through this year's budget. I find that no provision has been made for this area. You should explain how much provision has been made this year for this area. I do not say that you have made a lapse in this regard, because you are very intelligent and a man of clear perception but I have been unable to locate there figures. I therefore request you that you should clarify the position.

I also went to submit that after about 15 years, we are going to enter the 21st century. It is of course true the schemes and projects for which provision has been made in the budget will be implemented by next year and the target fixed in the Plan. Will be achieved within the next 5 years. But you should have a perspective planning for 15 years so that we could enter the 21st century in a proper manner. It is absolutely necessary that while formulating financial and physical planning, there should be man-power planning also.

There is also a very sensitive issue of black money in our country. We can compare it with water in a house. There is clean water and dirty water in a house. The dirty water is generated on its own and it is not possible to check it all of a sudden. We should make use of it prudently. Similarly we cannot control black money all of a sudden, but some steps should be taken to utilise the exiting black money for social purposes. I think that if we could do something in this direction and could utilise the black money for reclamation of crores of acres of barren land, social forestry and to pro-

vide housing to the rural as well as urban poor, we would be able to fulfil the social obligations, and the plans formulated by the municipal boards, State Governments and Central Government, could also be implemented. This will definitely be a bold step and will be helpful in curbing black money. Our economists should consider this issue seriously.

I would like to mention here one thing more National savings are an alternative to taxes for any State or Central Government. It is an admitted fact that our national savings have increased considerably and their impact is also good but the procedure is very complicated and people are not sure about the repayment of the money deposited by them. People, told me only yesterday that they had to face many difficulties in getting back their money. Sometimes payments are held up on the pretext that the signatures do not tally and sometimes on some other pretext. I would like to say that the procedure should be simplified. I congratulate the Finance Minister on the steps taken by him to encourage national savings.

In the end I would like to say that when I came to Parliament for the first time, I became nervous. Everything appeared yellow to me and I was apprehensive that I might be suffering from jaundice, but later on I came to know that it was the opposition which was suffering from jaundice. It is a matter of joy that the opposition has now gained immunity against jaundice I request them not to have a jaundiced new of this budget. If they try to go deep into this budget, they will find that.....

(*Interruptions*).

I, therefore, congratulate the Finance Minister on presenting this imaginative Budget and hope that the work initiated by him will be completed in this very year. If we see the Budget with a balanced outlook, we shall find that weaker sections will get relief, production will increase and employment opportunities will also increase. I am fully

confident that we shall be able to achieve the targets of the Seventh Plan.

We could not achieve all the targets of the Sixth Five Year Plan but whatever has been achieved has exceeded the overall targets. We must analyse these sectors where we could not achieve the targets. Monitoring of plans is absolutely necessary. The States, which cut the size of plans or neglect them, should be penalised and those which achieve targets, should get incentives.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Budget has well reflected the first post-election policy declaration of our Prime Minister, Rajivji, the man of the year declared by the National Integration Assembly for his contribution to the world peace.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Where is that ?

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : You know that.

I congratulate the Finance Minister, since the Budget is an exercise in precision and simplicity. The Budget carries the message of our Hon. Prime Minister for drafting a new educational policy.

The Government is committed to stamping out black money. The Budget has provided more relief to the poorer sections. It is intended to promote a non-inflationary climate, about which I will speak at the end. It carries a host of incentives for the industries, agriculturists and workers for increased production as well as for exports and thus facilitate the generation of more internal resources. The Budget has given a new orientation to the hopes and aspirations of the people. It has mapped out a strategy for the mobilisation of additional resources and necessary incentives are provided for value-added exports.

The Budget embodies the Prime Minister's declaration of growth with justice which is to be realised within a stipulated time-table. The proposals have been incorporated to improve productivity and utilise modern technology, giving a new impetus to exports.

The Budget reflects the commitments given to the people by our Government and it sets up a goal for a new economic and social order. The Government has got the political will to implement all that the Government promised,

This is the first Budget of the present Government coinciding with the start of the 7th Plan. Our burdens and responsibilities are immense. Our road is long and arduous. The Budget gives relief substantially to almost all categories of tax-payers; individual and corporate, generate more employment, a measure which gives social security to the poor. The tax relief given to the low income group of tax-payers, raising the tax limit from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000 has, certainly, been a relief to ten lakhs of people. Abolition of estate duty, compulsory deposit scheme and also the relief in wealth tax are certainly to be welcomed. As for the customs duty, it is seen that in some cases it has been abolished and in some cases it has been reduced. As for crop insurance, it was only a declared policy hitherto. And now, it is going to be implemented in a comprehensive manner. Of course some States like Orissa have done it in a small way. As you know, two-thirds of the premium will be subscribed and a large number of agriculturists will be immensely helped. Of course, it will be applicable to who have taken loans, it requires further examination also. It gives hope to fulfil the aspirations of agriculturists, who are the backbone of India.

Sir, it is said that because of a deficit of Rs. 3,349 crores, it may lead to inflation. I invite your kind attention to the fact that the budgetary gap for the year 1984-85 was originally Rs. 1773

(Shri Somprath Rath)

crores, and it had gone upto nearly Rs. 4,000 crores, but inflation was effectively controlled. Similarly, now also inflation can be controlled. One such step provided in the budget is the decision to permit donations by companies to political parties. It would go a long way in eradicating political corruption and also to put an end to some extent, to black money and utilise it properly.

Sir, it is a courageous budget. My Hon. friend from the Opposition quoted Palkhivala. With your permission I want to invite the attention of the Hon. Member (he is not present in the House now) to what Shri Palkhivala has said now. It is published in the *Statesman* today. He has said and I quote—

“...epoch-making budget for redesigning India...The budget will perhaps be the biggest economic story of Asia in the current year.. Only one man—the Prime Minister—was responsible for this overdue change...”

—‘Only one man’, that is what I wish to emphasise upon.

It is said by the Opposition that the Government has not given due attention to dry-land farming. But I know for certain, as a previous Agriculture Minister of Orissa, that this Government in this present financial year has given due attention to dry land farming. For instance, Orissa has got Rs. 6 crores from the Central Government to be utilised for water harvesting structures, that are small irrigation projects and their aim is three-fold. It is to stop soil erosion, to irrigate the dry lands if not in Rabi, certainly in Kharif and give relief to the cultivators and also to raise the water strata in the ground level. Similarly the Central Government has given Rs. 10 lakhs every year for five years for intensive rice cultivation and also intensive wheat cultivation in many Panchayat Samities. This year, many more Panchayat Samities are going to be included; and Rs. 10 lakhs will be

given to cultivators by way of subsidy, fertilizer, agricultural implements, pesticide and also to impart knowledge in technology and science for more production. Loan and subsidy have also been given to grow more oilseeds. For the coming financial year, it has already been declared that some more panchayat samities are going to be included in this scheme also. As such, though we are self-sufficient in agricultural production, sufficient attention has been given to increase agricultural production and also to help the agriculturists.

In a growing and developing country like ours, a deficit budget is necessary for developing our country. So, I would request the Hon. Members to go through the economic theory to know this. As far as Orissa is concerned, I would request the Hon. Finance Minister to allocate sufficient funds set up the second steel plant which is the crying need of the State. Since about 80 percent of the population in Orissa is agriculturist, the Orissa Government has requested for being given sufficient fund for irrigation projects. As such I again request that sufficient amount for the second steel plant in Orissa and sufficient amount for the irrigation and power projects may please be allocated.

I once again support the Budget and hope our country will rise further and will be a self-sufficient country in all respects.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman, members from the treasury benches have given their opinions which are quite different from the opinions of the common people outside the House. Before going into the details of the budget exercises of the Finance Minister, I want to make some comments regarding the philosophy which Mr. Bhagat mentioned. Attempts have been made for the last few months to build up a myth by the monopoly-led Press and Government media that the days of obsolescence have gone. A new era begins and a new leader of the new

government also promised to take the country into the 21st century with all its essence. But, many people are surprisingly thinking how it will happen.

Will it be on the burnt of mediaeval backwardness, or will it be based on the colonial legacies? What will be the change? What will be the philosophy behind the change? Anyhow, some indications were made by some utterances of the leaders of the Government. But now, Mr. V. P. Singh has come forward with his Budget which unveils the mask off the idol the Government want to build up. Though the Prime Minister said two days ago that he would not change anything which was initiated or introduced by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, his Finance Minister Mr. V. P. Singh is much more inspired by Reaganomics, not by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's so-called mixed economy. This is the philosophy now they are thinking of pursuing. And we see in this Budget that there is a definite shift towards the so-called free economy through the stages of liberalisation.

It is not for nothing that the Press led by the monopolists is hailing the Budget. They have said that it is an epoch-making budget a budget, with a direction and it is a direction definitely towards the so-called free economy.

Now, nobody can blame the Government that they are believing in fake socialism. Earlier, it was fake socialism. Now nobody can blame them. They have got their direction.

And, this new Budget has inspired the entire exploiting class in the country, the big monopolists the capitalists, the vested interests and all their allies and one of the staunchest supporters, Mr. Palkhiwala, was quoted here. He demanded yesterday, that it was good, that we should come forward for denationalisation of public sector. Now that is the voice of the monopolists and the Government is going towards that direction.

Our Party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) assesses the character

of this Government that it is a bourgeois landlord Government, led by big bourgeois and constantly collaborating with foreign capitalists. And this Budget proves our point.

AN HON. MEMBER: For. K.G.B.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: That, I know. They are saying you, otherwise you would have gone somewhere else.

You are boasting of your balance of payments.

So, this Budget, in the words of a renowned economist, is a Budget that delivers greatest goods for the smallest number. That is the real character of this Budget.

Now, let me show you how this Budget is going to serve the interests of the ruling class. Since Independence no Budget placed in this august House gave so much,—maximum concession—to such a minimum number of people of the country. In spite of its facade of populist stance and some of its marginal relief measures, the burden of high taxation and the hefty imposition of railway freight and fare will create big inflationary pressures.

If that becomes a reality, then the life of the common man will be miserable during the coming years. They are talking of their performances. The Economic Survey presented by the Finance Minister to this House, also indicates that there are signs of strains on economy in many areas and there is a serious pressure on balances of payments which may have impecations on price situation. They cannot deny that factor. The agricultural product on this year may increase by one per cent only, but for the next year they depend mostly on God and good monsoon. This year the Gross Domestic Capital Formation is less by .04 per cent as compared to last year's. I may mention some of the negative points. About power situation, in spite of their talking so much on power front, the fact is that the pace of addition to new capacity

(Shri Hannan Mollah)

has slowed down. Though actual production of coal has increased, yet it is much below the target. Mr. Bhagat talked about fulfilment of targets in many areas. I will pinpoint some of the areas where targets have not been fulfilled. In each of the last three Five Year Plans the industrial growth has been below the target. This is a matter of concern. You have liberalised industrial policy. What does that indicate? I need not deal with it because all of you know it better. Regarding prices, the Economic Survey says that the prices of pulses have increased by 24 per cent. About many problems, the Economic Survey says that unless these are overcome, there would be a great strain on the Seventh Plan. These are some of the points made in the Economic Survey. So, it is not that things are very rosy as some friends from the opposite benches are trying to present here.

Take the question of planned development of our economy. What is the position there? When the country is passing through a serious unemployment situation, successive Five Year Plans have been leaving behind much more unemployed; the figure has already crossed the mark of 25 million unemployed. In the rural as well as urban areas, more than 50 per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. When all these things are there, what is the position of the Plan outlay for the next year? There is only a 5.75 per cent increase over the last year's revised estimates.

But if we take into account the price rise during the last year—of course, they always play with the figures and they show the figures according to their convenient—from April to December the price rise was 7.5 per cent. In this context if we see the increase of 5.75 per cent in the Plan allocation for this year, it is lower than the last year's allocation. The Finance Minister has mentioned in his

Budget Speech that we are not going in for new projects, we will try to maintain only the on-going projects. That means next year the plan development will be stagnant. This is what the Budget envisages. The Centre has reduced allocation in many sectors. Some of these are rural development, small industry, iron and steel industry, consumer goods industry, railway and telecommunications. The allotment of funds to these sectors for the coming year is lower than even the last year. It will definitely damage the growth potential of our country's economy during the next year.

My next point is about the inflationary possibilities. The Minister in his Budget Speech has said that anyone who lives within his means, suffers from lack of imagination. Thanks to his imagination. Day in and day out they have been blaming the States for their failure in respect of resource mobilisation. But what has been happening here? They are depending on deficit financing. One Hon. Member said it is necessary. But to what extent, that is the question. It is just like somebody who begs, to purchase some gift. Earlier we have been seeing deficit financing for development, this time we are seeing deficit financing for giving concessions to the monopolists and to the vested interests. Last year, initially there was a deficit of Rs. 1,773 crores but it actually went up to Rs. 3,985 crores. This year it is estimated at Rs. 3,349 crores which is about three per cent of the GNP, but the Finance Minister says it is not much. For the last few years it has become a practice to say like this. If you add the Government borrowings of Rs. 3,500 crores to the estimated deficit, the total will come to Rs. 6,849 crores. This will be met through bank financing. If, as in the last year, this year also the deficit becomes double, if the bad monsoon is there, if favourable factors do not play, what will happen? Government is making this calculation with the

hope that there will be good monsoon, but if it happens otherwise, can you imagine what will happen? I would say that keeping such a big budgetary gap with the hope on the God, will lead you nowhere.

It is a gamble. I think it is a gambler's budget, gambling with the state of the economy of our country.

Thirdly, take the question of price rise. The history of our economy is a history of continuous price rise, beyond the capacity of the purchasing power of the people. It will be more in the coming Years. This budget gives a big push to the price rise, which is already in operation in the market for the last one month. Some people are happy because some relief is provided in the budget, at least for the lower slab tax payers. But when they go to the market to buy things, they will find that they have to pay more.

Shri Bansilal has already taken his toll of nearly Rs. 500 crores. Now the petroleum products are going to cost more by Rs. 1400 crores. Many items are produced out of petroleum. Price of all such items will go up and it will be a serious blow to the economic capability of the people. Out of the additional tax burden of Rs. 1,131 crores, you are giving concession to the indirect tax of 584 crores to the rich. Therefore, while the rich will benefit, the common people will have to bear more burden.

Already, the value of the rupee has come down and people are suffering on account of that. In addition, when there is a heavy dose of taxation, they will find themselves in a very serious situation.

During the period January to December 1984 the wholesale price went up from 320 to 337. During the same period, the consumer price index went up from 559 to 588. It is significant that out of

the 360 commodities which are taken into account for the wholesale price index, the prices of only 40 agricultural commodities have shown some decline. In the case of the other 206 items, the prices have increased. 87 of these items are produced by the monopolists. This is the situation. The old policy of pumping money from 99 percent of the people to benefit one percent still continues. This is the philosophy and policy of the Government and it is confirmed by this budget.

You are giving concessions to the monopoly houses, to the industrialists. They are very happy and jubilant. The stockmarket is booming, there are black-marketeters everywhere, in spite of your crusade against black money. Everybody knows what will happen. If you look at what has happened during the last 37 years, never before since independence have such big concessions been given to the exploiters of our country.

The Finance Minister has given the concession worth Rs. 200 crores to four million tax payers. So out of 350 million income earners 346 million income earners will have no benefit. The burden of Rs. 200 crores caused by giving concession to 4 million people will be realised from them.

Now, I come to the question of exemptions to the companies. The Government says that surcharge on income-tax has been exempted. I ask how many people are there who are getting this benefit. This reduction in direct taxes will only shift the burden of a few on the shoulder of many. This is what is going to happen.

They have imposed excise duty on 35 items like Bidi, vegetable products, soap, cotton and woolen fabrics, paper, plastic, aerated water, cement, glass, steel products, Pan Masala, footwear etc. All are coated with big tax Masala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken almost 23 minutes. Another Member, Mr. Amal Datta will also like to take full time. Now, that is up to you to adjust your time.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : In this way you are taking away Rs. 259 crores to give concession to the people who are exempted from Wealth Tax, Estate Duty and things like that. So, these are the shifting of burdens in your policy.

The MRTP Houses are dancing, because their exemption limit has been raised five times.

As a result 49 big houses are now waiting to cross the border line and get benefit. You have given other benefits to them also. You have raised the maximum limit of interest payable on unrecovered debentures issued to MRTP non-FERA companies. Apart from these you have given them several other benefits.

When you are giving so many concessions to the big houses it is quite clear that they will reciprocate as you want. And in the Budget itself you have promised that you will allow them to pay to political party; and to whom they will pay, everybody knows. So, you will allow them to loot the country and you will share a portion of the loot from those looters for the benefit of your political party, to purchase votes and to befool the people.

Now, take the question of public debts. What is your Budget giving? It will help increase the public debt to Rs. 87,062 crores with the result that per-capita debt of the citizens of the country will come to Rs. 1,243. Where are you taking the country, I ask. You continue to burden them with debts. Therefore, I say that yours is a Government which was born in debt. You are living in debt and definitely you will die in debt. This is the situation where you are leading the country to. I hope the entire country will try to save

itself by expediting your death, to avoid their death. You can imagine what will happen when you start repaying IMF loans from next year.

15.00 hrs.

Next, I want to deal with the question of balance of payments. What is happening there? The *Economic Survey* has mentioned about the strain on the balance of payments, and the trade deficit in the first eight months of 1984-85 is estimated at Rs. 3,017 crores as against Rs. 3,080 crores last year. It is a very marginal increase. How? It is because of good harvest. It is the contribution of the agriculturists of our country, the peasants, and good monsoon also that helped you. You deny remunerative prices to the agricultural producers. All these things helped you this year. Secondly, your crude oil imports were less in the current year. Last year, we paid less on those two articles. In spite of that, the increase in the export earning is not much. Actually, in the *Economic Survey* it has been mentioned that in terms of money value our export has increased. But the quantum of many commodities like coffee, cashew, rice, cardamom, oil cake, iron ore, jute, engineering, leather goods, even crude oil and all these things is going down. In terms of money value you are increasing the exports, but in terms of quantum, you are exporting less. This is the economy towards which you are leading the country.

The decrease in the export of engineering goods is the maximum. You want to take the country to 21st century, and your export of engineering goods is going down. Last year the situation was very much damaging. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Tewary, I do not know what will happen. Only rigging will not help, or declaring the MLA as won after he has lost the election is not good. (*Interruptions*).

You have taken the IMF loan. To repay that loan, you will take another

loan. This is the hand-to-mouth situation that is going on. When you start repaying the IMF loan there will be more strain. With this the trade deficit will increase and the balance of payments position will not be a happy situation.

Then I want to say something about overdraft and borrowing. You have increased Central assistance and borrowing to the States. But continuously you are taking some items out of the States' purview. So, they cannot tax them with the result that their share is constantly going down. The Member who spoke earlier explained that. So, I am not going into that.

The second question is that you are asking the States to be disciplined. What is meant by 'disciplined'? All the States put together, how much was their total overdraft? It was around Rs. 2000 crores, and your deficit financing is already Rs. 3,900 crores, say, around Rs. 4000 crores. So, is this the discipline you want to teach the States? The States take overdraft—it is not anybody's money—they give 13 percent interest, and for your deficit financing you are giving only 5 percent interest to the bank. Still you are asking the States to be disciplined.

**Bhoot ke munh men Rram ka naam jaisa.*

If the inter-State consignment transfer is implemented, the States can gain something. All the Chief Ministers have agreed on that. But still you are not implementing that. You have not brought in any legislation in Parliament in this regard. It is because so long as Parliament does not pass the Bill, the inter State consignment transfer will not be effected. The States are being deprived.

I come to the question of freight equalisation. Your predecessor had promised that this would be phased out. But in the Budget nothing of that sort

was mentioned. Only during the debate on the National Transport Policy, it was told that they were trying to implement it in respect of steel and cement. What about coal? There is a constant attack on the Eastern region to finish the economy in those States. I do not know what is the inspiration or gain that they get. (Interruptions). It is a discrimination against the Eastern region, coal producing region. These are the problems of the States. The VIII Finance Commission had recommended something but you have denied it to us.

I come to the question of State's Plan. It is not yet finalised. They are going to implement the Plan from next month but not a single State has finalised the Plan. But the most unfortunate thing is that the West Bengal Government did not get a single pie last year for the State Plan. Here is a letter of 8th July, 1984 from the Finance Minister, West Bengal to the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Another letter was sent by the West Bengal Chief Minister to the Union Finance Minister on 25th July, 1984. On more letter was written on 14th August, 1984 addressed to the Union Minister for Planning, Shri P.C. Sethi.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order Please. Let him speak.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : And then again, the West Bengal Finance Minister sent a Telex Message to Shri V.P. Singh, Union Finance Minister. Only a few days are left. But you have not given a single pie for the Plan budget for the last year. Is it not a conspiracy to destroy the economy of the State for political reasons? I do not know what is the meaning of this type of dealing.

(Shri Hannan Mollah)

Sir, I want to say something about the industrial sickness. What is the reason for sickness? Take for example, jute industry. Because of your wrong policy, industrialists to take out the capital elsewhere. They are not modernising the existing machinery. They are not giving proper attention to the industry. With the result, this industry is becoming sick. I want to mention one thing about textiles. From 1938 to 1948, textile industry had a capital of only Rs. 50 crores. But their earning during that period was more than Rs. 300 crores. It was Rs. 372 crores.

For an investment of Rs. 50 crores, they earned Rs. 300 crores as profit. Those who are managing this industry are shifting the capital to other sector. Because of the attitude of the management and the industrialists, the industry is becoming sick. Now, you have decided to set up a commission. If a unit becomes sick, you will not allow them loan for the business. That is good. But I want to know why are you not realising it from the assets of the Directors who are responsible for making the unit sick and who made money for personal gains? Why are you not attaching their assets or confiscating their assets? You are responsible for this question. *(Interruptions)*

Now, I want to make a comment on the question of relief to some section of the people. The bonus limit has been raised to Rs. 1650. The annual income of the employees who come within this limit will be more than Rs. 19,000 and, if the bonus is added, it will be more than Rs. 20,000. They will come within the slab of income-tax and they will have to pay more tax. So, they are giving something in one way and they are taking it back in another way.

They are talking about the abolition of CDS this year. It is their baby. Why do they boast of abolishing CDS?

It is not our child. Whether they kill it or abort it, it is their baby. They are now taking the credit for abolishing it.

In the past, they have said that they will do many good things for the common people. But all those things do not reach the common people. They have fixed an agricultural labour wage in some States. But nobody gets it. This is the reality. As regards the crop insurance scheme, we do not know who will get benefit. Like all other schemes, the actual benefit will go to a small section of people, the richer people, the kulaks and all that. The small and marginal poor peasants will not get the benefit. So, they should spell out clearly as to what is the idea behind it. Who will be able to pay the premium? It is only those who have got the surplus. The small poor peasant will not have any surplus.

They are talking about the social security scheme for agricultural labour. In many States ruled by Congress-I, they are earning only Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 a day. How will they be able to pay the premium? Where is the question of paying it? Let them tell us how the crop insurance scheme will be worked out and how it will benefit the poor peasant. Thousands of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are being killed by the landlords in the name of caste-riots. It is actually the land struggle. The landlords kill the agricultural labour. It is not a caste struggle. What will be the position? If these people are killed by the landlords, they will have to accept their deaths and compensate them through this social security scheme. All these things should be clarified.

In conclusion, I want to say that this Budget is a clear indication of further concessions to the industry. They have already given many concessions and they have promised many more concession to be given gradually. They are giving much more subsidy in respect

of export and import and in other cases also. At the same time, for the common people, they are saying that if the monsoon is better, then everything will be better. Now, if it is not better, what will happen? Then, they will say that there will be more taxes and they will have to mobilise resources in one way or other. So, in this Budget, there more concession to the rich people and more burden on the 99 percent of the common people of this country.

This is the direction and the main thrust of your Budget. It is an anti-people Budget. It is a Budget against the common people. It is a Budget of the monopolists and vested interests. It is a Budget of the gamblers also. This Budget will not serve the economy of our country. Rather, it will create problems for our economy and it will make the living conditions of our people much more difficult.

With these words, I oppose the Budget lock, stock and barrel.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Budget. I have been elected as a Member of Lok Sabha for the first time. I went to the library and tried to go through all the Budget speeches made so far. I have seen from the speeches made so far by the Members of the Opposition, that they had criticised each and every of the Government whether it was wrong or right. So, if the Members from the Opposition criticise the Budget this time also, there is nothing new about it.

Just before me, an Hon. Member of the CPI(M) levelled against us and our Government baseless charges of preparing this Budget under the influence of

foreign powers. They are at liberty to say anything but our reply to them is that you are, of course, sitting here but you**. Then how would you take it?

What is the use of saying baseless things? You can criticise but the criticism should be meaningful. This is an important subject and it take considerable time of the House. Mere criticism and baseless charges will not serve any purpose. You can give suggestions for improvement where necessary. But you have not been able to give a single suggestion. There being no flaw, what suggestions could you give? I would like to say that this is the best Budget presented so far.

15.17 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI
in the Chair]

The Opposition Members have levelled the charge that Government have helped the capitalists in this Budget by reducing the income tax slab. You should go into the spirit behind it and see why this rate has been reduced by the Finance Minister. On the one hand you say that in one hour black money to the extent of crores of rupees is generated whereas on the other hand you demand that there should be no reduction in tax. Prominent economists are of the view that our rate of taxation is very high and as a result thereof the public and capitalists generate black money in order to evade taxes. I would like to say that it is a sort of incentive so that their interest in generating black money could be curbed. But it can also be said that those in the habit of doing so will continue to generate black money. The Government, by effecting reduction in the tax-rate, have given an opportunity to capitalists not to generate black money. A provision for special courts has been

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Banwari Lal Purohit]

made for this purpose and the State Governments would be consulted about it. I am of the view that the question of special courts should not be left to State Governments. You have got the requisite machinery, you have tribunals, etc. All the economic offences should be dealt with through these tribunals and by setting up more tribunals. Persons guilty of generating black money should be awarded deterrent punishment so that every scope of generating black money is obviated.

I would like to tell my friends in the Opposition that our Government fulfils the assurances given to the people. You might have seen that programmes chalked out during this short span have been implemented. I would like to urge upon the Finance Minister that the matter regarding setting up of special courts should not be left to the State Governments; it will be a waste of time. It is the duty of the Central Government to set up courts, dispose of cases and punish the offenders. This matter should not be left to the State Governments as two or three States are being ruled by the Opposition and they are determined to make your policies a failure. You will not get cooperation from them. We must ensure the success of the important schemes. (*Interruptions*)

Please go through the Budget and then only say anything. Also study the provision made in it in respect of setting up of courts.

The Opposition has levelled a serious charge that duty imposed on petrol and crude oil is on the high side. You know who owns motor vehicles. It is the rich who own them, and, therefore, duty has to be levied on it.

Sir, I would like to submit that the price of kerosene, which is used by poor

people, should not be increased. The duty imposed on kerosene should be reduced. In addition, hike in price of cooking gas, which is used by the middle class people, should also be withdrawn. If duty is increased on these two items, Opposition will have an opportunity to criticise the Government.

I would like to make mention about essential commodities, including oil, etc. We have observed that there is a lot of fluctuation in their prices. When the commodities come to the market, the prices come down and the godowns are filled with those commodities. Later on when the consumer goes to buy the same commodity he has to pay a very high price. So, you will have to check the fluctuation in the prices of the essential commodities. The Government should pay serious attention to this aspect.

Take the price of edible oil. Sometimes it is Rs. 10, sometimes Rs. 15 and sometimes Rs. 18. When its price is Rs. 10, the farmer gets a very low price but later on, the consumer has to pay a very high price. It is a big problem and we will have to pay attention towards this. For this, even if you have to create a buffer stock, you should do so but the essential commodities must be brought down.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would now like to speak on the most revolutionary step that has been taken. The limit for small scale industries has been raised from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs. Everyone should welcome the steps taken for the development of small scale industries. This sector will provide more opportunities for employment. We heartily thank you for this but it is a matter of regret that no extra incentives has been given to the small scale industries, but the incentives have been given to big industries and small scale industries alike. For creating maximum opportunities for

employment, for the development of the villages and for the setting up of new industries, it is necessary that small scale industries be provided with more facilities. Small scale industries should also be given such incentives as may help in their expansion and thereby create more and more job opportunities.

I would also like to say that ever since gas was discovered in Bombay High with the efforts of ONGC, our country has made much progress in this field. Today, we can think of self-sufficiency in petroleum products in the near future, but I would like to submit one thing in this regard. You propose to set up ten big fertiliser plants in the country which will be based on gas being exploited from the sea in Maharashtra. This gas will be supplied through pipelines to U.P., Rajasthan, Gujarat and other parts of the country. You are setting up four plants in U.P. and also in Rajasthan and other parts but in Maharashtra where the gas has been found you are establishing only one plant. You will be spending a lot of money on laying the pipelines in different parts of the country but the people of Vidarbha, who have been demanding at least one gas-based fertilizer and petrochemical complex in their region, have not been provided with the same. There are eight districts in Vidarbha. We are also the citizens of India. In 1977 when for the first time oil was struck and work had started, we had gone there and discussed about it. Since then we have been raising our voice for this complex but till today our demand has not been acceded to. Can you not provide a petrochemical complex to the people of Vidarbha? Kindly think seriously about it. The Hon. Minister informs us that because of certain technical reasons, they cannot set up the complex. What are those technical reasons? Is the land in Vidarbha uneven? What is that technical reason due to which U.P. can have four plants, but in Maharashtra only one plant is provided? Can you not provide two

plants in Maharashtra? Kindly think about it and provide at least one plant to Vidarbha.

There were several press reports to the effect that the Central Government wants to abolish sales tax and octroi and there was a discussion in the Vidhan Sabha also but nothing is being heard about this now. We come to know from the newspapers that some Chief Ministers are vehemently opposing the abolition. Our advice is that you should do what is good in the interest of the people and abolish sales tax and octroi. The abolition of Octroi and Sales tax will help the speedy movement of goods and the people also will be relieved of the difficulties. The Central Government is committed on this issue. It is your duty to fulfil it. If any Chief Minister has any objection, that should be sorted out promptly but a decision must be taken so that the people facing difficulty in connection with sales tax and octroi are relieved of it. Besides, there will be speedy movement of traffic. If you do this, the country and its industries will develop further.

Lastly, I would submit that there has been considerable increase in the number of people living in slums. More than half the people of Bombay live in slums. Similarly, in Pune and Nagpur, the condition of people living in slums is miserable. Keeping in view their condition, there is need to implement your Slum Improvement Scheme under the 20-Point Programme. The money provided for this Scheme is not sufficient. There is a big housing problem as also sanitation problem. The funds made available are too meagre. I request that the amount for this Scheme should be increased. Once again I heartily congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister and hope that he will, after considering my suggestions, take some decisions. I am thankful to Mr. Chairman also for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI C.P. THAKUR (Patna) : I thank you, Madam Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this budget.

I rise to support the wonderful budget of our Finance Minister. The year 1985 is the Year of the Youth, and it is in the fitness of things that we have got a youthful leadership in our Prime Minister who, in response to the massive mandate given by the people, has given a very tax-cutting, forward-looking and growth-promoting budget, and also the other philosophy behind this budget is that for the first time an attempt has been made to inject honesty in the financial management of the country.

Madam Chairman, some critics have said that this is a rightist budget or that it is only for the few people or it is only for the middle class. If we analyse this budget we find that it has given concession to the income tax payers, small and big industrialists and there are many anti-poverty programmes. So, I say that this budget is for all and not for one section.

Sir, the economy of this country has done wonderfully well. In the Sixth Five Year Plan we had a growth rate of 5.2 per cent whereas in the early 1980s most of the developed countries suffered much recession. So, it was in the fitness of things to consolidate than to expand and get lost. Our Finance Minister has very rightly tried to consolidate economy in this budget.

On the agriculture side greater emphasis is required. Our friends have pointed out that the deficit financing will have cost boost effect. Now to counter-balance cost boost effect our agriculture can play a very vital role. We have still got vast land which can come under cultivation. In the Approach Paper of

the Seventh Five Year Plan the Planning Commission has commented that seventeen thousand million hectares of land can be brought under cultivation. There is great potential for it in the whole of Indo-Gangetic plain in general and in Bihar in most of the areas if you provide irrigation, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs there can be tremendous rise in foodgrains production. In my area the old Sone canal has not been repaired. Since it was constructed. An attempt should be made to repair it. The Barahiya-tal scheme has not been taken up. If it is taken up it will provide grains, to most part of the country. At the moment we import lot of edible oils. There is lot of potential for increase in the production of edible oils in our country especially in Bihar, Bengal and Southern States. Cultivation of soyabean has not been given proper impetus. Another advantage by developing agriculture is that we can export agricultural products and thus earn foreign exchange.

After agriculture we come to education. On the educational front our Prime Minister has announced the change of curriculum. It is in the fitness of thing that we change the curriculum and make it more job-oriented but in doing so we must take into account the infrastructural input of education should also be consolidated. For that what I suggest is this : There should be proper infrastructural inputs like buildings, teachers, curricula, etc. All these should be taken into account and developed.

In this connection I would like to mention that I was touring in our villages during the recent election and I saw the pitiable plight of some of our school buildings. I thought that this matter should be brought to the notice of our planners so that necessary steps are taken immediately.

In the educational field, at University level one vast field of research in the

University level, is going waste and it is not yet tapped so far, what I suggest is that there should be proper encouragement of research at university level and facilities should be provided for that.

Everybody is thinking that our education should be in tune with the needs of our country. In that respect there should be not only scientific improvement, but there should be technological improvement also. In this regard, in importing technology, what we suggest is that we should import such technology which should also help newer technology.

There is a growing demand for Indian technology in developing countries. We can sell our technology abroad. We are getting lot of foreign exchange from our workers who work in Gulf countries and other countries. There is a vast potential for Indian technology in the foreign market also because this technology is partly imported and partly indigenous. This combination of technology is suitable for developing countries.

Now I come to industry. It is said that we have not cared for the public sector. Sir, we cannot minimise the important part played by the public sector in the country's development. A large sum of money—now it is Rs. 30 thousand crores—has been sunk in these public sectors. They are not improving as yet. We should identify the causes for the same. Some of our steel industries are not coming out of the red. Durgapur and many other steel plants are running in loss. One friend told me, you are comparing Jamshedpur with Durgapur. In Jamshedpur, the same Tata, the same Modi, the same Managers are working since years. In the other plant, in a short span of time, 8 or 9 Ministers, many Chairmen, and many Managers have changed. So, how can you compare the efficiency of the one with the other? The basic fact is that the fault lies with the management. There

is some discrepancy regarding collection of information, in decision making in the dissemination of orders and decisions to lower levels. It is a fact that our managers are not well trained to manage big industries and big factories. Bokaro Steel Plant was once producing 1 million tonnes. Then it was all right. But when it started producing 4 million tonnes it has started faltering. My point is that our managers should be properly trained to manage big industries.

My next point is this, Government has constituted a Board, and rightly so, for correction of sickness. There should be a statutory regulation that every industry (private or public sector) should report quarterly about their sickness to this Board so that Government can immediately and take suitable remedial action.

In an industrially--backward State like Bihar, most of the industries are sick. Phulwari Cotton Mills is lying sick. The whole of Dalmia group of industries is sick. Ashok paper mills and Thakur paper mills are sick. Some of the sugar industries are sick. Many small industries are sick. We cannot sit idle until the whole lot of them deteriorates to a point of no return. So, there should be an early correction of the sickness of industries. The constitution of the Board as suggested by the Minister is welcome. What I suggest is that there should be more powers given to the Board.

Regarding the anti-poverty measures, what I suggest is that there should be proper monitoring measures in that regard. Not only that. What I suggest is that the Planning Commission should have an independent monitoring system. The Planning Commission should monitor, not only the plans approved and sanctioned for the various States, but they should also see that they are properly implemented and progress made. They should, also monitor the implementation

[Shri C. P. Thakur]

of various anti-poverty measures and these should be periodically published in the 'Yojana' or any newspaper or bring out a small publication so that the people or the Government should know what measures are being taken by the Government agencies so that they may know that the implementation of various schemes are as per their programme in all parts of the country.

I may submit here that should be an independent policy for monitoring system to see that these measures are implemented well in some parts of the country which is ruled by the non-Congress Government.

Now, Sir, somebody suggested that our budget is meant for maximum benefit for a few. But this is not the fact. Somebody has said that our Budget is more a 'Thatcherism' than Keynesian, that unless he manages his economy, will, the economy is not going to improve. Somebody has said that it is more 'Rightist' than 'Leftist', but most of the ultra-leftist countries like China are also encouraging free enterprise. Why are they encouraging free enterprise? They are doing it to increase the *per capita* income of the people. So, our budget aims at increasing the average income of the common man and it is also going to accelerate industrialisation.

Another thing is that this Budget is based on principles of trust, that we are going to believe that each section of the society, whether they are industrialists, whether they are professionals, whether they are labourers or whether they are farmers, they have to play a constructive role in the development of the economy. Why I say this is because that by giving concessions, the Government is encouraging savings and by giving concessions to the bigger industries, the medium-scale industries and small-scale industries, they say that they would invest their savings in the manufacture

of basic goods, not luxury goods. So, I think this one of best Budgets that has been presented in the recent past and scanning through different newspapers, we find that the people have welcomed this budget. But some would say that these newspapers belong to the capitalists. But the critics who are independent have also welcomed this Budget.

Regarding petroleum products, there has been criticism that the rise in price of the petroleum products, coupled with the rise in freight and fare rates of railways will push the price up further. Here, I would like to make a mention that in 1983, the price of petroleum product was increased. But on the suggestion of the Members, it was reduced. I would plead with the Hon. Finance Minister that he may please consider reducing the price of kerosene and cooking gas which are used by the common people so that they may feel happy about your kind gesture. Sir, I was passing through the streets yesterday, I heard people making remarks about the hike in kerosene and cooking gas prices.

Sir, I think that by all means this Budget is considered to be a very good Budget, a well-balanced budget. The philosophy of our Hon. Prime Minister is to modernise our country. This Budget is in tune with that concept. So, we want to modernise our country. This Budget is neither the concept of 'Leftists' nor the concept of 'Rightists'. This Budget is to modernise our country and our country is going to enter 21st Century with strength and stability to our economy.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI (Sitapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is being repeatedly said by the opposition that this Budget contains more concessions for the capitalists. When we have included socialism as our goal in the preamble to our constitution, we have to take our economy on the path of socia-

lism Whatever be the Government in the country, whosoever be the ruling party, the Government have to work within the framework of the constitution with the objective of carrying the nation towards socialism as envisaged in the constitution. P. V. Narasimhaiah had laid the foundation of socialism in our country and it was during his time that we started our plans and thought of increasing production and taking the country towards progress and having economic development through mixed economy. The Private and public sectors both have a place in mixed economy. We have to assess how much capital we invest in the public sector every year and in each plan to facilitate basic development and progress and how much expansion is made in the private sector. After having experience of the last 35 years, today we have come to the conclusion that even those countries of the world which used to rely totally on state enterprise and were having only controlled economies, have decided to give relaxation in some cases and give a free hand to individual entrepreneurs to increase production. We have the example of Japan before us. We have to see how the private industrialists behave in view of the concessions given to them in the Budget and how they work so as to pass on the benefits of these concessions to the common people. I know, in capitalist economy, the foremost consideration of the industrialist is profit, and other things come later, whereas in State enterprise or in the public sector, social considerations are kept in view and society's welfare is given priority, but today, when we are having mixed economy, we have to move forward by synthesizing both and by bringing about coordination between the two. This concept is distinctly reflected in this Budget. It has been said in the Budget and the Hon. Finance Minister has also categorically stated that keeping in view the country's interest, we can give concessions or facilities to the industrialists in the private sector. Today, we have to change our attitude and think how public sector and

private sector together can prove helpful in removing unemployment from the country. In view of the increasing population, the Government and the country are confronted with the most important problem of removing rampant unemployment. Steps have been taken in the present budget in this direction and, I think, if production is increased and new industries are set-up, unemployment can be removed to a great extent. Facilities have been given for setting up new industries and the procedure of issuing licences to the new industries, which was full of hurdles in the past when one had to go round to various for years, has been simplified. Our Prime Minister has categorically stated that we want to fight corruption and this is our party's declared policy that the black money and the parallel economy in the country be done away with. After neutralizing their effect, we should create an atmosphere in which the entire capital circulating in the market is invested properly. By doing so, we shall find that we are really marching ahead and our production is increasing. We shall have to evolve a system where all could benefit, irrespective of their being big industry, medium size industry or small-scale industry.

In the Budget, the big industries, which were M.R.T.P. industries, have been given concession. Now, the industries with a capital of one crore of rupees will not be covered under it. On the other hand, the capital limit of small scale industries has been raised to Rs. 30-35 lakhs. I think it is a very wise step. Now, we should not consider monopoly houses as untouchables or think that they are big industries and there is no place for them. If we are to increase production in the country, we shall have to be practical.

Our party is not advocating the case of big industries. What we are saying is how we can create employment in villages through our industries. Big and

[Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai]

small industries cannot be viewed in isolation. There are many items which are produced in big industries, but they are useful for the small industries in the villages. Now, if they are not provided facility for producing them indigenously, or if new technology from abroad is not brought into the country, it can be harmful for the village industry. Therefore, it is also necessary to invest adequately capital in them. For this, I congratulate the Prime Minister, the Hon. Finance Minister and the Government that they have not worked on cheap slogans but have instead boldly presented this Budget.

It is just possible that for the time being the people may think otherwise, but to achieve the objective for which it has been presented, we have to keep a watch on the observance of rules and use restraint at the same time. We can make it quite effective through capital management in the coming days, whether it is in public sector or in private sector. I think it will have a great impact in the future.

Deficit financing is a part of development. It is a must in a planned economy. We still have backwardness in the country where the people have no employment opportunities. We have to provide them work. We have to create employment avenues for them. For this, we have to carry the industries to the villages. The private entrepreneurs spend according to their income, but the Government have got scope for spending more and in a developing economy like ours, deficit financing is bound to be there. I will go to the extent of saying that if industries are to be set-up in the villages, potable water is to be made available in villages and a ray of hope is to be provided to the frustrated rural youth, then we should have more of it and spend still more money on them. What is needed is to infuse hope in the people of the country and this

hope is visible in this Budget. There are certain features of the Budget which I particularly welcome. The first is "Free Education for Girls", under which education for girls upto higher secondary level has been made free uniformly throughout the country. It is a welcome step. There is need to being uniformity in the field of education throughout the country. Today, we see that in West Bengal a different kind of education policy and syllabus are being pursued and history of a particular type is being taught. The policy varies from place to place. Our past national glory and our ancient heritage is not being taught to the children in the right perspective. I wish that in the same way in which our Government has brought about uniformity in the field of education by making education free for girls, it should also being about such changes in the education policy which could further strengthen the national unity and inter-State relations.

The second thing, which I welcome, is comprehensive crop insurance for the farmers. This is for the first time that such a step has been taken by the Central Government—the congress party Government. We have adopted a number of resolutions on this issue and this question came up before the congress party many times. Prof. Ranga, our veteran leader, is sitting with us. He has always championed the cause of farmers and I know, with this step, he is the happiest man. He is happy that the Government have come out with such a scheme for the farmers, but I would like to say that whereas such a scheme has been brought forward to help farmers in the event of natural calamities, such as floods or drought, there is still a bigger problem which might be there in other States also, but which is particularly reawaging Uttar Pradesh the problem of seepage. The waters of Sharda Main Canal and some other canals in our State cause a great damage to the fields. Thousands

of acres of land have been rendered unfit for cultivation. I want to know who is responsible for this. This is not the fault of the farmer. There a canal passes by the farmer's field and this field is being ruined for ever. In the event of floods, you pay compensation to him; if there is a drought in a particular year, you provide him some relief, but is there any scheme for those farmers whose land is being ruined year after year and who are starving? Either the Government should take action against the personnel charged, with the work of construction of the canal, who destroy the fields by their faulty construction, or the Government should allocate at least Rs. 200 crores to Uttar Pradesh in the Seventh Five Year Plan exclusively for this purpose; only then, perhaps, this problem could be solved. Such in the magnitude of this problem in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is sitting here as also the Central Govt. to this problem and request that in the allocation for the Seventh Plan and in the State Budget which will be drawn up later, attention should be paid to the farmers who are on the verge of starvation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI): You may resume your statement because the Home Minister has to make a statement.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Before he makes a statement, I want to ask one thing. News has already spread that one Soviet Diplomat has been killed. I want the Home Minister .. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him make the statement. I have asked the Minister to make a statement. Let him make the statement first.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: On what?

AN HON. MEMBER: On the situation in Gujarat.

16.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE COMMUNAL RIOTS IN AHMEDABAD

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): The House is aware that since the middle of February, 1985, students in Gujarat started an agitation against increase in reservation for other backward classes in medical and other technical courses. The agitation was in the form of boycott of classes and examination, holding processions, rallies, organising bundhs etc. The anti-reservation agitation which was by and large peaceful in the beginning later resulted in two violent incidents of burning of buses in Nadiad on 27th February and in Rajkot on 11th March in which three passengers and the conductor lost their lives. Immediately after formation of the new Ministry, on 16th March the Chief Minister reviewed the situation arising out of the anti-reservation agitation and taking into account the views expressed by prominent educationists and the stay order issued by the High Court against implementation of the decision the State Government announced that the proposed increase in reservation shall not be implemented in the ensuing academic year 1985-86. It was further indicated that efforts to secure a consensus would be made through consultations with all concerned. Despite this, Anti-reservation Action Committee gave a call for 'Gujarat bandh' on 18th March, 1985 which evoked only partial response in the State. However, in Ahmedabad and Surat, there were stay incidents of stone pelting, stoppage of buses and closure of shops on that day.

On the evening of the same day (18th March), there was an incident of stone throwing near Prem Darwaza within the walled city of Ahmedabad which

(Shri S. B. Chavan)

unfortunately took a communal turn. Anti-social elements indulged in arson and looting which suddenly spread to other parts of the walled city. The rapid spread of the riots also witnessed the use of kerosene, petrol and burning rags and incidents of arson. This continued during the day time of 19th March, 1985 as well.

On the break out of rioting on 18th March, the police took quick and effective action including resort to firing. Indefinite curfew was imposed throughout the walled city from 22.30 hrs. Considering the gravity of the situation, the State Government Called Army in aid of civil authorities. Instructions were also issued for effective use of force against attempt of arson and looting. The State Government strengthened the police re-inforcements in the city by assigning sensitive areas to senior officers from outside. Additional armed reserve police forces were called from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The State Government also deployed three CRPF Coys which were already available at their disposal in Ahmedabad. On 19th March, additional six companies of Central para-military forces were deployed.

The unfortunate incidents since 18th March, 1985 till this morning have resulted in 7 deaths out of which 6 were due to police firing. About 42 persons were injured due to police firing and stabbing. 122 cases of arson and 27 cases of looting and shop-b.eaking have been reported during this period. The extent of damage is being assessed.

As the House is aware, I visited Ahmedabad yesterday afternoon, I visited the affected area within the walled city in which rioting had taken place. I also visited hospitals and met injured persons. I met a number of members of opposition parties as also deputationists belonging to both the communities. After discussing the situation with the Chief

Minister, Home Minister and officials of the State Government I found that the State Government had acted with considerable promptness and dealt the situation with right degree of firmness. This State Government have taken all possible measures to restore normalcy.

The State Government are extending relief to the families which have been affected and these dishoused due to riots. Ex-gratia payment is being made to these killed and injured during the course of the rioting.

This forenoon we have been informed that the situation now is fully under control although some sporadia incidents have taken place in isolated places outside the curfew area. Unfortunately, three incidents of burning of buses have been reported elsewhere in Gujarat by anti-reservationists. I hope and trust that taking into account the present situation and the fact that the State Government have already announced their decision concerning the reservation, the student community of Gujarat would call off the agitation and contribute to the restoration of normalcy in Ahmedabad and also to ensure that there is no broach of peace elsewhere in the State. I am confident that all political parties will jain me in this appeal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No question will be allowed. Nothing will go on record. If you want any further action, you give notice.

16.06 hrs

STATEMENT RE PROCURE-
MENT PRICE FOR WHEAT AND
SUPPORT PRICE FOR BARLEY
1985-86 MARKETING SEASON

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHIR-
BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I would like to

would like to make the following statement :

Government have fixed the procurement price for the 1984-85 wheat crop to be marketed in 1985-86 season at Rs. 157/- per quintal for fair average quality.

Government have also fixed the minimum support price for the 1984-85 crop of barley at Rs. 130 per quintal for fair average quality.

The procurement price mentioned above would be adopted by all the public procurement agencies in all the States and Union Territories.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a discussion at 6 p.m. regarding this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. There is no subject before the House. Off-hand you are speaking.

16.10 hrs

GENERAL BUDGET, 1985-86,
 GENERAL DISCUSSION AND
 SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS
 FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
 1984-85—Contd.

[Translation]

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to speak on one or two points more. The Opposition has been continuously saying that it is a pro-rich-man Budget. Members have not seen paragraph 20 at page 7 of the Budget Speech wherein it has been stated that the Government is formulating a Social Security Scheme which is intended—

[English]

—to cover the risk of death by accident in respect of earning members of poor families comprising landless labourers, small and marginal farmers, traditional craftsmen and others not covered by any insurance scheme or workmen's compensation arrangements.

[Translation]

This is a scheme under which today we have taken steps to implement those Directive Principles of our Constitution which we could not give effect to for so many years. Is it not a step towards Socialism ? I want to ask the Members sitting on the other side whether it is not a revolutionary step I hope that every section of the House will welcome it.

As the Hon. Finance Minister had also said, in the Budget due attention has been paid to the poorest of the poor of every section of the society. The Government has said that landless labourers whose wages could not be fixed would be covered under the Social Security Scheme. The scheme is meant for the poor, for their future and old age. This scheme can be of great help to those children who become orphans on the death of their parents in accidents. We should understand it. I welcome it.

It is a good thing that the pension of the retiring employees has been increased.

This is the Centenary Year of our Freedom Struggle which resulted in the attainment of independence. This is the Centenary Year of the Congress also. The pension being received by the freedom fighters from the Central as well as the State Governments should have been increased in this Budget. I would urge Central Government, the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister to increase

(Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai)

the pension of our freedom fighters in this very Budget, as this is the Centenary Year. I have myself been a freedom fighter and I am making this demand on behalf of my brethren freedom fighters. They should be honoured and their pension should be increased. I hope the Finance Minister will touch this point while replying to the debate. I hope the Government will accept my suggestion.

In this Budget electronic goods and computers have been exempted from excise duty and the electronic goods have been given some more concessions separately. It is clear from the speech made by the Hon. Minister in this House some time back that the Government is anxious to ensure that the country makes rapid progress. We cannot make progress with traditional equipment only in the present era. The people of the world are far advanced now. We have a large population to whom jobs have to be provided and who have to be taken ahead on the road to progress. We hope that through electronics we would be able to make more progress in every walk of life. We do hope that with the dynamism shown in the budget and the way the big industries are coming up in the world, we would also be able to make progress. This budget has been prepared keeping all these aspects in view.

Before concluding, I would like to draw your attention to two or three points. The duty on bidis has been raised from Rs. 3.74 to Rs. 4 per thousand. This increase of 26 paise may mean an increase of one paise per bundle only. Why should the Government give any chance to the poor to say that the Government has increased tax on bidis? Our Government professes the welfare of the poor. We want to speak on behalf of the poor. The Government, therefore, must pay attention to this aspect.

Being a woman, I want to put feelings of women before the Hon. Minister. This

Budget can be called anything but a house wives' Budget. Every housewife is worried over the increase in her family in her family budget. The Hon. Minister should withdraw the levies imposed on kerosene, cooking gas, vanaspati and soaps. I hope he will pay due attention to it.

The increase in the duty on writing paper will pinch every parent belonging to the middle class. I am appealing to the Government to reconsider this increase also.

In the end, I will say that all told this Budget has been prepared keeping in view the progress of the country, the interest of the industries, and overall prosperity. Our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister deserve congratulations for this.

With these words, I welcome the Budget.

*SHRI P. SELVNDHAN (Periaulam) : Madam Chairman, on behalf of my party the All India Anna D.M.K., I rise to say a few words on the Central Budget for 1985-86. At the very outset I have to say that this Budget has received bouquets as also brickbats. The ruling party members have acclaimed this Budget as the saviour of suffering poor people of the country, as the manna from heaven for the salaried class, and as the potent weapon for industrial and economic growth of the country. The Opposition Members have criticised this Budget as anti-people, as capitalist budget and as an instrument of surrender to the vested interests.

So far as I am concerned, I am delighted to make my maiden speech on the maiden Budget of our young and ebullient Prime Minister and his Government's first budget. I can say unhesitatingly that his Budget is as attractive and as strong as our energetic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

None of us can controvert the universal claim that this Budget has brought

numerous directional changes to the economic policy of the Government. Normally the Budget is treated as a statement of account of the Government. The Budget for 1985-86 is far away from this appellation. This Budget of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government is like the New Deal offered by President Roosevelt immediately after assuming the Office of the President of United States of America.

So far it has been the usual practice to levy taxes on the assumption that the people are prone to deceive the Government. It has been axiomatic that the expenditure is exaggerated and the revenues from taxes are under-rated, thus building the premise for heavy dose of taxes. This year's Budget stands aloof from all such assumptions. The basis seems to be the Government's unshakable faith in the people and in their honesty. Hence this Budget deserves the unanimous commendation of this House. I am happy to say that this Budget is a beacon light for posterity, beyond the compliments and criticisms depending upon the whims and caprices of individuals.

In 1970 the Central Budget enhanced the income-tax to 90% at the higher bracket income. That was the first Budget of our late-lamented Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi. Our hon Finance Minister, Shri Viswanath Pratap Singh has presented his first budget in 1985, which has brought down the income-tax on higher bracket income to 50%. It is not wrong to claim that this is a directional change in the income-tax structure.

Similarly, the minimum exemption/limit for income-tax has been raised to Rs. 18,000/-. This has removed about 10 lakhs of assesses from the income-tax net. This will relieve the Income-tax Department from unnecessary heavy workload. This will enable the Department to concentrate on the completion of income-tax cases and to expedite the recovery of

tax arrears running into hundreds of crores of rupees. The Comptroller and Auditor General used to point out in his Annual Report that so many hundreds of crores of rupees are income tax arrears. Here after he will be inhibited from doing so because the Department will recover the income-tax arrears expeditiously.

Another notable change is about MRTP companies. The statutory regulations were made applicable to companies with assets worth above Rs. 20 crores. 180 companies had been registered under MRTP and they were precluded to diversify their productive potential. This Budget has raised this limit to above Rs. 100 crores. Consequently, 100 companies have gone out of the purview of M.R.T.P. Act. They will now be free to diversify their industrial activities and to exploit their productive potential for the good of the country. Narasimhan Committee had made certain recommendations in this matter. Our Finance Minister has gone beyond the recommendations of Narasimhan Committee in this regard. The nation stands to benefit industrially and economically by this bold step.

Many other laudable innovations have been made in this Budget. The Wealth Tax duty structure has been modified. The Estate Duty has been repealed. No doubt the common people may not be concerned with these changes. But this will rid the Income-tax Department from heavy load of work, which will assist in the Department's labour elsewhere in tightening the taxation laws.

The removal of licensing system for TV, Radio etc. is a relief to one and all in the country. This has many indirect beneficial effects, like higher sales of these items leading to larger production, which in turn will generate more employment. The employees of P and T Department will have a sigh of relief. I would like to suggest here that they should be given

[Shri P. Selvendran]

special training for implementing the small savings programme throughout the country. It is regrettable that out of 5.5 lakhs of villages in the country, there are no post offices in 4.5 lakhs of villages. The absence of post offices in rural areas means no serious effort to mop up small savings there. Besides, when the country enters 21st century, the rural areas will not be able to accompany the nation in the absence of post offices. At least for every 10 villages there should be a post office. I request the Hon. Minister to take note of this and do the needful,

Our Hon. Prime Minister has been repeatedly stressing the imminent danger to human society if despoilation of nature is allowed to continue without check. In rural areas the firewood from the forest is the main source of energy. The rural women walk 5 to 6 kms every day together firewood for cooking the meals. It will take decades for the setting up of bio-gas plants all over the country. With stringent implementation of Forest Laws by the States, the rural women are left with no alternative except kerosene for cooking purposes. Our Hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran has ensured the supply of electricity to all the villages; in fact the electricity is supplied free of charges to small farmers. Yet electricity cannot be used for cooking in rural areas. Kerosene is the only energy fuel available in the rural areas. Now the price of kerosene has been enhanced, affecting 80% of the people of our country living in rural areas. I appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister to drop the increase in the price of kerosene.

The Hon. Finance Minister has modified the excise duty structure on safety matches. In order to ensure the conservation of wood, he has suggested four rates of excise duty, expressing his hope that the manufacturers would take to produce cardboard matches. Unfortunately the matches are not sold at

four different prices. The match box paying less excise duty is sold for 25 paise and the match box paying higher excise duty is sold for 25 paise, thus denying the benefit of differential rate of excise duty to consumers. In this process the Government is also denied its revenue from this area. The objective of conservation of wood is also defeated. Hence I suggest that the excise duty on wooden matches should be higher than that levied on cardboard matches.

I cannot approve, appreciate and admire the increase in the price of Gas Cylinder. The housewives are the worst-hit. With the increase of freight rate by 10% and with the re-classification of essential commodities like wheat, rice, pulses, salt etc. being carried on concessional rates, the price of all these essential commodities is going to be increased steeply. Naturally the mothers and sisters are afflicted by this budget disease. Remembering the jewel among women who was at the helm of affairs of the country for two decade, I want that the price increase in gas cylinder should be dropped. I request the Hon. Prime Minister to intervene in this and ensure that this is done.

In all the meetings of National Development Council, our Chief Minister, Dr. M. G. Ramachandran has been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Central Government about the frequent increases of DA being given to Central Government employees without taking into confidence the State Governments. The State Governments with their limited resources and with no possibilities for augmenting their resources, are hardput to increase the DA to their employees. The Reserve Bank of India is very strict with the States regarding overdraft facility. The Centre should appreciate the problem of States in this regard and in consultation with the States, such DA increases should be sanctioned.

Our benevolent Chief Minister has introduced the Nutritious Meals Scheme for the welfare of blossoming buds of humanity. When hunger is appeased, the children attend to their school work. The sinews of posterity are being strengthened. The scheme has been acclaimed even by international agencies. This deserves to be introduced all over the country. I take this opportunity to demand that the Nutritious Meals Scheme of Tamil Nadu Government be treated as a Plan scheme.

The Hon. Finance Minister has become the saviour of suffering peasants by introducing the crop insurance scheme. He has generated seeds of hopes in their minds and he should allow them to grow into fruit-bearing trees by introducing such welfare schemes for the good of farmers in the country.

The Central Government has earned the gratitude of farmers in the country by yet another scheme of paying Rs. 3000 as compensation to the dependents of one who is killed in an accident. I am constrained to say that this sum is too meagre even to meet the expenses on obsequies. I suggest that this should be enhanced to Rs. 5000/.

The Budget for 1985-86 is like a bejewelled and bedecked bride in all her beauty and glory. Just because there are one or two pimples on her face, she cannot be called ugly and not beautiful. Similarly, this Budget may have one or two undesirable propositions. That should not deter us from commending the Budget to the unanimous approval of this House.

With these words, extending my support to the Budget on behalf of AIADMK. I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. G S RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr.

Chairman, Sir, it is my maiden speech in this House.

This Budget is unprecedented in every respect. I think such a good Budget has never been presented after independence. This is a growth-oriented Budget. It is a common man's budget, a middle class Budget. Sometimes I think if I were a Professor of Economics and my students had asked me what type of budget the country should have, my reply would have been that it should be like the budget of 1985-86. Before dwelling on other points, I would say that the Finance Minister has himself met all those points of criticism which the Opposition has been raising for several years. The rate of income tax has been reduced and the tax-structure has been rationalised. Estate duty has been withdrawn. Crop insurance has been introduced. Provision of compensation to the dependents of persons killed in accidents has been made. Due attention has been paid to benefits for industrial workers. The gratuity rate has been raised. Every sector of society has benefited by this Budget.

After hearing the arguments of the opposition, it appeared that they were advancing arguments for the sake of arguments. I am a journalist. This Budget was reviewed by one of my friends and several leading dailies of the country and all of them were of the view that this is a good and invigorating Budget. That is why you say that it is a good Budget. I would like to say to my friends in opposition that if there is freedom in the country it is in the press. Neither the owner nor the Government can pressurize it.

Let me give an example. Our Hon. friend has based half of his Budget-speech on an article which appeared in a leading daily of Delhi.

[English]

The greatest gain for the smallest people.

[Translation]

This was published in yesterday's newspaper. You call that newspaper a monopolistic newspaper. Had it been a monopolistic newspaper then it would not have been free to write such a critical article on which you based your speech. So, for God's sake do not malign the newspapers of this country. It pains us. We have only one freedom and we want to keep it intact. We will call a spade a spade, whether you like it or not.

Secondly, our friend has said that the deficit of Rs. 3349 crores will cause inflation and prices will rise sharply. Sir, I want to submit that the deficit was more than this in the 1984-85 Budget. It was Rs. 3985 crores but the inflation did not increase more than 5 percent. You cannot say that if there is good monsoon, the inflationary pressure will be reduced and if there is failure of monsoon, the inflationary pressure will go up. I will submit on the basis of your own argument that there were good rains in 1983-84 resulting in a bumper crop. In spite of this, the inflationary pressure was much more but in 1984-85 the rate of inflation had decreased. So you cannot attribute it only to monsoon. With better economic management, the rate of inflation goes down. There is a principle of economics that money chases the goods. If there is abundance of products in the market, the inflation will go down. So, it is my submission that the deficit is not on the high side and there will be no significant increase in the prices.

Sir, praising the budget in every respect, I want to draw your attention to my constituency. Indiraji once said that Mahatma Gandhi had taught have a basic principle that whenever she was in doubt she should keep only one thing in mind namely how her action could be beneficial to the poorest of the poor. I belong to that Constituency which has been known as Mithila in history for thousands of years. Mithila is the place

where Sita was born, where Sita married Ram. There was a time when Mithila was a prosperous region but today Mithila is one of the poorest areas of the country. That poor area will also be benefited by this Budget. There the farmers will get the benefit of crop insurance and workers will get compensation in case there is an accident. Today, this area has to bear the brunt of three rivers—the Kosi, the Kamla and the Bhoothipalan. You cannot imagine the suffering of the people of that area. The people live on boats or on trees by making *machan* on them for 6 months in a year due to floods. During the rainy season, all means of communication are disrupted. If someone falls ill, he can be taken to the nearby hospital only on a cot helped by four persons. Sita of Mithila always remained in anguish. If Sita of Mithila remained in anguish, should the people of the land of Sita also remain in anguish? Lav and Kush did not tolerate the suffering. Today there is an army of Lav Kush there who demand employment. I urge upon the government to set up industries there because the unemployment problem is acute and the pressure of population is increasing. Unless industries are set up there and employment is provided to the people of that area, it will not be possible to uplift the people of that area. The army of Lav Kush has arrived in Delhi. Today, three to four lakh people from Mithila are living in Delhi. They have come here in search of livelihood. Something should be done for them so that they may be able to earn their livelihood in Mithila itself.

Thousands of tonnes of mangoes not every year in Mithila. If a mango-based industry or agro-based industry is set up there, it will provide employment to the people of that area. I have still to cover many points but as I have been asked to wind up, I shall conclude with these last words. Government have tried to curb the circulation of black money and it is a good step by itself and we all should welcome it. The economy of the country will improve

only when black money is eliminated. The Opposition should support all the constructive steps of the Government and should not criticize all the time only for the sake of criticism.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI OWAISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Budget which has been presented in this House after a massive victory has failed to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people. It reminds me of an adage, big cry little wool. It will be in the fitness of things if I say that there has been no gain at all from it.

It has been said that in this budget that a good number of benefits have been provided to the common man but the fact is that this Budget is intended to give benefits to the capitalists and the poor will not gain anything from it. You must have seen that the Members sitting on the other side repeatedly pointed out that increase has been proposed in the prices of kerosene, cooking gas, petrol and diesel. It will cause increase in the prices of all commodities. The Railway fares have increased. So, the question is; What has the poor man got through this budget? If you see the wealth of capitalists at the time of Independence of India and the wealth earned by the twenty or twenty two capitalist families of today then you will know that the Government talks of socialism but benefits the capitalists. In short, through the Budget the poor will become poorer and the rich will become richer. Secondly, presenting such type of budget is resulting in the erosion of values in India because a poor man cannot make both ends meet in these days of high prices. A Government employee also finds it difficult to make both ends meet with his salary these days. The result is that corruption rampant and the law and order situation is getting worse. If you look at the British period of 250 years, you will

find that the incidence of firing and lathi-charge was far less than as compared to the situation obtaining now.

(Interruptions)

Similarly, the issue of Gujarat is before us. An agitation has been organised there against reservation. The State Government, instead of going into the problem of reservation, has termed it a communal riot. As a result thereof, it has assumed serious proportions and many people have lost their lives.

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad) : Law and order pertains to the State subject. He is abusing the privilege.

[Translation]

SHRI OWAISI : I would like to say that whereas the moral aspect of this issue should be looked into, it should also be kept in mind that in India Muslims constitute one of the largest minorities. They have some problems. You should pay attention to the redressal of those problems.

Muslims are very backward in the matter of education. According to the law of the country, they can open their separate educational institutions. They want to open their own medical and engineering colleges but all sorts of difficulties come in their way. That is why they are lagging behind in the matter of education.

The Central Government has set up a Minorities Commission. But its report has not been made public so far. The Commission should be given statutory status so that its report has the desired effect. In this way the problems of the minorities will be sorted out. Similarly, a Minorities State Finance Commission should be set up, rich as are in existence in some States. This will enable the

[Shri Owaisi]

common man, who cannot get loan from the banks, to get loans from those institutions. This will help them in improving their lot. A scheme should be formulated for the Muslims to enable them to get employment and make progress.

You know that Muslims are backward in the matter of education and employment. A Ministry for the minorities should be set up for the redressal of their problems.

Muslims in Andhra Pradesh feel insecure. It is the duty of the Central Government to make provision of reservation there. You know what had happened there during elections and what is happening today. Even today arrests are taking place. When you see newspapers, you would say that there is no trouble of any kind, but if you go through the proceedings of the Assembly, it is stated clearly in it that arrests have been made there. The Home Minister of the State was informed that the Muslims were beaten up and when they asked for water, instructions were given for passing urine on them. I want that the Central Government should protect the rights of minorities and should provide facilities to them.

Similarly, you will find that ten lakh rupees were provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for those people in Andhra Pradesh whose shops etc. had been looted but till date not a single paisa has been given to them. When they are asked, it is said that assistance had already been provided to you and as such those ten lakh rupees have been adjusted with the earlier assistance. Please tell me why the money given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund has not been distributed. You should look into all this. I want that the Government should immediately probe into this aspect why when money has been provided from the Prime Minister's Fund, the same has not been distributed till today. It is

for the Central Government to find out why the money has not been distributed till today to the affected people, to the persons whose shops were looted. Similarly, I want that in the old city where Muslims are living and where 45.5% of the total population of the city lives, drinking water should be made available. In spite of so much population, drinking water facility is not available there. I want that the Central Government should do something in this respect and solve their problems. When you can allocate money for the people from Sri Lanka, you can do something for the people of Andhra Pradesh also. The Government of India should look into this. With these words I thank you.

(*Interruptions*)

I do not need your applause because when I speak about Telugu Desam you feel elated but when I talk about you, it is not liked by you. Therefore, I do not know what your likes and dislikes are.

SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA (Mirzapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, heartily support this Budget. I want to congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister that without abandoning our basic policies and accepted economic principles, a new path has been adopted in the Budget. First of all, I would praise the Finance Minister for getting inspiration from Smt. Indira Gandhi in the beginning of his Budget Speech. The economic policies of Shrimati Indira Gandhi were based on the principles and ideals established by Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and on the basis of those principles she established the economic, social and political structure of the country and made it strong; she took the country forward and brought respectability to it. We want to congratulate the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister on their success in giving a new shape to the Budget without abandoning the principles and ideology of Shrimati Gandhi.

Sir, the good features of the Budget have been enumerated by many. Taxation has been simplified, taxes have been reduced for the private Sector, crop insurance for the benefit of farmers has been provided, Estate duty has been abolished, surcharge has been abolished, the Rs. 15000 limit has been raised to Rs. 18000, ten lakh tax payers have benefited by the relief, Compulsory Deposit Scheme has been abolished, employees have been given relief; but the most important feature of the Budget is that for the economic development of the country and for generating job opportunities, along with the public Sector, other sectors have also been given incentives. Just now, one Member from the Opposition was saying that we had relegated public sector to the background and its officers were feeling ignored. Our basic economic policy, which was formulated by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, is based on mixed economy. Under the mixed economy, all the three sectors, i.e., Private Sector, Public Sector and Cooperative Sector were to play their role for the economic development of the country. We did not fully utilise the services of the Private Sector, as was envisaged, in the name of socialism.

If the country is to become economically strong and if the backward areas of the country are to be industrialised and developed, it is very necessary to utilise, along with Public and Cooperative Sectors, the services of the Private also. Private Sector, has been encouraged now. It does not mean that we have adopted the capitalist system but the idea is to do something which may help in the development of the country, generation of employment opportunities and reduction of unemployment. If the production increases, the poor too will be benefited. To say that with Private Sector capitalism will be encouraged and it will not be advantageous to the poor is not true. This is in accordance with our policy of mixed economy. We have decided to utilise

the Private Sector fully. The Private Sector is feeling inspired because setting up of industries will result in more production and employment. This will benefit the poor and the economic condition of the country will improve. The most important thing is that incentive to the Private Sector will result in accelerating the pace of economic development of the country. This step of the Hon. Prime Minister is a welcome step. After becoming Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had declared that the Government would adopt a liberal economic policy. The people of the country were waiting to see what type of economic policies would be adopted by our young Prime Minister. The people are satisfied with the Budget presented. It reflects the liberal policies of our Prime Minister. It is not possible, as the people are expecting, that the country can be taken into the 21st century in a period of six months or one year. This Budget is just a step to take the country into the 21st century. We heartily congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this. If I speak more on economic issues, you will ring the bell. This country cannot develop without resources. Without the taxes imposed by the Finance Minister, development is not possible. Certain sectors have been exempted and certain sectors have been included. The progress of the country is not possible without resources. To oppose the laying of taxes by Government or to criticise taxation in a developing country is to obstruct development. In a developing country, it is not possible to undertake developmental work without mobilising resources, whether by direct or by indirect taxation. One thing, of course, I would like to say. With the present taxation, certain articles will become costly which will affect the common man. Kerosene oil, soap, vegetable oil are items of daily use by the common man. Their prices should not increase. There is no objection if the prices of radios and television sets increase. Reduction in the prices of the radios and television sets

[Shri Uma Kant Mishra]

will not make any difference. It will be good if the prices of the used by the common man are reduced.

A new facility of crop insurance has been provided to farmers. Mr. Chairman, as the Hon'ble Finance Minister himself said, and the country and the whole world recognises, our economy is dependent on agriculture. During the last few years agricultural yield has been very good and it is because of this that our economy looks strong today and we are happy. Decline in agricultural production will affect the economy of the country also. The credit for increase in agricultural output goes to the agriculture policy of this Government, the hard work of the farmers, and also to favourable weather and climate. Therefore, my submission is that with a view to increasing production, more incentives should be given to the farmers and the prices of agricultural produce should be increased. I am happy that the Minister of agriculture has announced the support prices for wheat and certain other items which are more than they were in the previous years, but that is not enough. The fact is that when the farmer goes to market, the price he gets for his produce is less than the price he has to pay for the items he needs. There is still need to further increase the prices of the agricultural produce.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, there is lack of irrigation facilities in the entire country and in the past six Plans the irrigation facilities have developed at a very slow pace. Here, I would like to mention particularly in the case of U.P. My first demand is that all the irrigation projects in U.P. lying incomplete should be completed on a priority basis and the projects which have been completed should be utilised in a better way. Their maintenance should be improved. Besides, more areas should be brought under irrigation.

Similarly, Sir, potable water is a basic necessity of life. Several areas in the country are facing the acute problem of drinking water. Water level in Mirzapur district and the areas around it is very low and people have to face acute drinking water crisis there. I request that urgent steps be taken to provide drinking water in that area. Likewise, Government should provide drinking water and irrigation facilities on priority basis in other parts of the country also where these are lacking. Jaunpur, Banaras, Mirzapur and many other districts are facing acute shortage of drinking water. I request that arrangements be made to provide water there through pipelines.

In addition, all the development programmes, like Rural Development programme, Rural Employment Scheme, Employment Guarantee Scheme and the programme for providing self-employment opportunities to the educated unemployed are important and essential. More and more funds should be provided for these schemes and it should also be ensured that these funds are utilised properly and not misappropriately. No fund has been earmarked for the programme to provide self-employment to the educated unemployed during the year 1985-86. I submit that adequate funds should be provided for this scheme in order to provide jobs to the educated unemployed and save them from frustration.

Sir, in the end, I would like to point out that Eastern Uttar Pradesh is poverty-stricken and backward area. The work of eradicating poverty in this area has not been done with the desired speed. Uttar Pradesh is divided into five parts—Eastern U.P. Bundelkhand, Central U. P. the Hilly region and Western U.P. The *per capita* income in Eastern U.P. is 75 paise, 80 paise in Bundelkhand, one rupee in Central U.P., 90 paise in the hilly region and it varies from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 in Western U.P. It is the most populous State in the country. If it

remains backward for centuries together, it is a matter of great distress. Government have not paid due attention towards this most populous State. I would like to give some examples. If you look at the *per capita* plan outlay in respect of all the States in the Sixth plan, you will find that it is Rs. 567 in Uttar Pradesh, 577 in Rajasthan. 570 in Kerala, 584 in Andhra Pradesh, 600 in West Bengal, 614 in Karnataka, 651 in Tamilnadu, 687 in Madhya Pradesh, 983 in Maharashtra, 1073 in Gujarat, 1179 in Punjab, 1273 in Himachal Pradesh and 1385 in Haryana. In this respect Uttar Pradesh lags behind considerably. So far as *per capita* Central assistance in the Sixth Five Year Plan is concerned, the share of U. P. in it has also been less.

I request the Finance Minister to provide more funds for the development of Uttar Pradesh particularly its backward areas.

Mirzapur district is a big district having an area of 275 sq. kms. It is almost equal to that of Karala. Some development is taking place in Southern Mirzapur because of coal mines and a power-house there, but Northern Mirzapur and Mirzapur city are getting desolate in the absence of any industry there. I have repeatedly demanded that some big industry may be set up near Vindhyachal in Mirzapur. I request the Finance Minister, the Minister of Industry and the Prime Minister to pay attention to it.

With these words, I welcome and support the Budget and thank you, Mr. Chirman, for having given me the opportunity to speak on it.

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH (Guna) :
 Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister on his presenting a very balanced budget. I support it. In this Budget efforts have been made to provide some sort of relief to everybody, whether

he be an artisan, a farmer, a worker or an unorganised labourer.

Launching of the Seventh Plan cannot be held up for want of resources in the next year, but efforts have been made to impose minimum taxes and provide maximum relief to the people. There was no alternative but to impose these taxes keeping in view the resource constraint. The economic position of our country has improved because of the policies of Nehruji and Indiraji. Our production has increased and many development works have been undertaken.

The practical economic policy adopted by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi was not influenced by anyism. Efforts were made to eradicate poverty and achieve development of country through mixed economy and in a Planned way. Incentives to small business to the growth of the country.

Members from the Opposition have said that it is a conservative Budget and it will take us towards modern capitalism. (*Interruptions*)

Marxists Communists and C.P.M. (Naxalites) call it a bourgeois Budget. I am at a loss to understand the meaning of bourgeois because they have fifteen to twenty parties.

It is for the first time that a practical budget has been presented. This Budget does not follow the leader track and it will bring economic prosperity to the country in the same manner in which Roosevelt has brought about the economic development of his country through the New Deal.

It has provided a new direction to curb the corruption prevalent due to quota, permit and licence system and also to remove the hurdles thus created by the bureaucracy. It will help each section of the society to march

(Shri Mahendra Singh)

ahead. During the last 30 years, our infrastructure has become strong that we have been able to meet the requirements of electricity, coal and irrigation. Thousands of persons want to set up small-scale industries because of various development works that have taken place. In this Budget they have been given incentives for setting up small scale industries.

The deficit has increased as compared to what it was last time. There is a deficit to the tune of Rs. 3000 crores. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to ensure that the deficit does not increase at least this time as happened last time. It is very imperative for sound economy.

The relief given in the matter of income-tax is a welcome step. The exemption limit for personal income tax has been raised from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000. It will help 10 lakh tax payers, particularly the middle class tax payers, out of 40 lakh taxpayers. Another welcome step is the abolition of Compulsory Deposit Scheme and simplification of tax-structure. Income slabs have been reduced from 9 to 4 for which I would like to congratulate him particularly. I appreciate the step taken to rationalise wealth-tax by increasing its limit from Rs. 1-1/2 lakhs to Rs. 2-1/2 lakhs.

The sum provided as social security has been raised to Rs. 3000/- which is also a good step. It should be further increased and effort should be made to extend the benefit to the maximum number of people.

A welcome step has been taken by starting crop insurance scheme. The C.P.M. Members were saying something about premium. They have perhaps not gone through the Budget speech if the Finance Minister. Crop insurance would benefit thousands of farmers.

The Finance Minister has done a very commendable job by raising the tax

free limit of retrenchment compensation from Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-. The payment of wages to workers in the companies, where lock-out has been declared, would be given priority like the dues of other creditors. It would provide great relief to the workers. There is a provision in the budget to punish the sick units which is a very good step. The capitalists used to declare certain units as sick by diverting the funds to other activities and took loans from various agencies and no punishment was awarded to them. Now such people would be punished and they would not be allowed to set up any other unit in future.

You have taken a very welcome step by abolishing tax and licence fee on Radio, T.V. and V.C.R. I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for the same. I would also like to congratulate him for raising the ceiling of investment in plant and machinery in respect of small scale industries from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs. The increase in ceiling in respect of ancillaries from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 40 lakhs is a good step. It will provide incentive to people with meagre resources to set up industries. In our mixed economy more opportunities are available to the people and the Hon. Finance Minister deserves congratulations for making provision in these directions.

No country can make progress these days without having electronic and computer industries. I would like to congratulate you that you have given incentives to them.

The provision of giving contributions to political parties by companies with a view to checking black money is also a welcome step. It would check growth of black money.

Now I would like to put forward certain suggestions. First of all, I would like to say that our food grain production has increased so much that our country has become self sufficient now.

But due to decline in production of sugar and tobacco and oil seeds as well as pulses, an amount of Rs. 700 crores has to be spent on their import. It would be a step in the right direction if production of pulses and oilseeds is increased. It would be in the interest of the economy of the country also.

The increase in the irrigational facilities has benefited a particular area and a few rich farmers only. Despite that, a huge amount has to be spent on the import of agricultural implements and other agricultural imports. I would like to say that the benefit of increase in irrigational facilities should also be entered to small farmers and to the areas where no such facilities exist at present. Dry cultivation should be given the maximum importance with a view to increasing the foodgrain production and so that the benefits of the country's progress could also be enjoyed by those people who have not so far benefited at all.

According to study conducted by IDBI, due to increase in production capacity in 30 industries, which account for most of the industrial production, the growth rate which was 7.5 percent in 1981, declined to 7.3 percent in 1982 and 5.2 percent in 1983. It is a matter of concern that despite the help of financial institutions there has been a decline.

Secondly, the biggest problem is that of sick units. Till 1983, a loan of Rs. 1735 crores was locked up in these sick units. It is very necessary to set them right so that the funds could be utilised in a profitable manner.

Capital of about Rs. 36,000 crores has been invested in the public sector units. In 1982-83, there was a profit of Rs. 1603 crores. If of profit ONGC and IOC etc., is deducted from this profit, the earning from this huge investment comes to a very negligible amount. It is, therefore, very necessary that the condition of the public sector units is improved

so that the economy of the country could make progress.

The licencing system was started to check the monopolistic tendencies, but it has encouraged the protected monopolistic tendency. The big multi-national companies especially Reliance Textiles should not be allowed to grow in a monopolistic manner. Care should be taken in this regard.

The growing administrative expenditure is causing great harms to our economy. The increase in the percentage of administration expenditure to National Income is proving to be a hindrance to the developmental process and you would have to take steps in this direction. In the budget of 1950-51, the administration expenditure which was only 5 percent of national income, has now grown to 28 percent. This increase is excessive and efforts should be made to reduce it. 75 percent of non-plan expenditure is under the head defence, interest and subsidy etc. Whenever efforts were made to reduce the unproductive expenditure, the axe fell on, social service like Health, Education etc., unproductive expenditure should be reduced in such a manner that social services are not affected adversely.

If growth-rate in the Seventh Plan has to be kept at 5 percent, there should be constant improvement in the agricultural field. It is very necessary that the growth-rate of agricultural production is stepped up and efforts made to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds in addition to wheat and paddy. The record increase in agricultural production is bound to improve industrial production. If the growth-rate is raised to 7 percent as against 5.5 or 5.2 percent last year, there would be much progress and great improvement in the economy of our country. The financial discipline must be brought about in our economy and the states which violate the financial discipline must be punished. Similarly the States

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Budget whole heartedly. All the sections of society will be benefited by it because it has been prepared with great wisdom, imagination and judiciousness.

Mr. Chairmen, Sir, you know that ours is a big and a developing country. There are great potentialities of its development. There is a large number of low income group, middle income group and high income group people in the country. This Budget has been prepared keeping in view the interests of all sections of society and I feel it will benefit all of them. If you glance at the budget proposals, you will find that the income-tax limit has been increased from Rs. 15,000/- to Rs. 18,000/- which is a welcome step and it will benefit quite a large number of people. Similarly, in the case of wealth-tax, the limit has been raised from Rs. 1,50,000 to Rs. 2,50,000 and the rate of tax has been reduced from 5 percent to 2 percent. It is also a good step because most of the people come under this category. In addition, the introduction of the crop insurance scheme is also unique in itself and I feel it will benefit the country to a great extent. It will benefit the farmer and have a very good impact on our country.

In addition, I would like to submit that the proposal regarding contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is a welcome step. It is well known that people have black money in abundance which is kept concealed. Now donations to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, will qualify for relief in tax. It is a good step and it will be helpful in preventing the generation of black money which can be put to a better use.

The Finance Minister deserves congratulations for abolishing the Compulsory Deposit Scheme as the employees

had been demanding its abolition for a long time. The limit for payment of bonus has also been raised from Rs. 750 to Rs. 1600. There is also a proposal to give compensation to the victims of accidents. All these measures do not appear to be important, but a closer scrutiny reveals their importance. In addition, tax relief has also been provided to the sportsman and the scientists. Authors of university level text-books, dictionaries etc. in Hindi and other Indian languages have also been provided tax relief. I welcome all these steps. If we see the Budget in totality, we shall find that the Finance Minister has used imagination to prepare this practical Budget. The Members from the Opposition have expressed apprehensions that the prices will go up on account of this budget, but if the budget proposals are given effect to properly, the prices will certainly come down.

Mr. Chirman, Sir, through you I would like to touch one or two more points. So far as duty on petroleum products and other essential commodities is concerned, I request you to reconsider this matter because these commodities are used by the common man. For example, petroleum products are used by everybody in the country, whether he is a small farmer or a worker, directly or indirectly. I would, therefore, request the Finance Minister to reconsider the increase in all seriousness and ultimately it is he who will have to decide whether to provide some relief or not.

A laudable step has been taken so far as modern computers and medicines are concerned. A provision has been made for the import of medicines for serious diseases like T.B. etc. Similarly, some other facilities have been given to the public in this Budget and these should really be appreciated.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards the

(Shri Lal Vijay Pratap Singh)

backwardness of Sarguja district from where I have been elected. It is inhabited mostly by Adivasis. This district supplies fuel, coal and other useful items in large quantities to the entire country. There is great scope for development, but it is a matter for regret that despite many effective steps this district could not be linked with the mainstream of the country so far. The schemes meant for linking this district with the mainstream are progressing at a slow pace. Whatever the reasons for the slow pace, whether it is backwardness, ignorance or any other reason, additional funds should be provided for expeditious execution of the schemes. Acute drinking water scarcity is also there in this district. I would only submit that keeping in view its backwardness and to ensure its proper development, it is absolutely necessary to make proper arrangements for drinking water there. If proper attention towards development of this area is paid, this backward area will definitely join the mainstream of the country.

With these words, I once again congratulate the Finance Minister on presenting a very good Budget.

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Budget because it is a tax-cutting and forward looking Budget and an attempt has been made in this Budget to inject honestly the philosophy to modernise India and to land India safely in the twentieth century. That is the desire of this generation whose symbol is Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India and it has been reflected in the Budget. Sufficient attention has been paid in this Budget to see that India can be advanced and modernised technically and industrially in this age of global competition. The philosophy of this Budget is that it is better to consolidate in some sectors than to have unscientific and unplanned

growth, and I welcome this philosophy. Measures like free education to girls, benefits to industrial workers and to persons who meet with accident, curbing of black money, given incentives to various sectors, generating the genius of youth in the fields of culture and sports, are highly appreciable and the younger generation of the country will be benefited by these measures.

While preparing this Budget, must probably there would have been three options left to the Finance Minister or the Finance Ministry. Firstly, to curtail the plan, secondly to increase the borrowings heavily and, thirdly, to inject heavy doses of taxation, and out of these our Finance Minister has rightly chosen not to curtail the plan or to borrow heavily and create problems for the future generation, but to have some taxation. Practically that is the best solution so far as my view is concerned.

I would like to urge upon the Government that we have to be vigilant and careful about our economy because our economy is a gamble with weather, and if the weather god is not kind to us, there is every possibility of inflation and the whole risk that we have taken in this Budget may prove to be a disaster. Therefore, my suggestion would be that we should give sufficient subsidy for food and fertilizer. Especially, we should supply subsidised food to the rural people and to the lower income group. Similarly, sufficient incentives and subsidy should be given to the farmers in the matter of fertilizers and other inputs also. I say this because there is a feeling among the agriculturists as we observed during the elections while talking to them, that although this is a country of rural and agricultural economy, but in actual practice they are not done sufficient justice. So, we should take care of them. I think in this Budget we have given concessions to all the sectors, mainly to the industrial sector, but we have not given sufficient incentives and subsidy to

the agriculturists. So, we should do that.

As we have taken a very practical approach so far as our industrial policy is concerned, and have given sufficient incentives to the industrialists in the private sector, there cannot be any grumbling now that the Government is not allowing them to grow in a free atmosphere. Sufficient scope has now been given to them for their free and fair growth. Now it is the duty of the Government to review whether the industrialists are taking advantage of the concessions provided to properly take care of the growth of industry or not. We should be more vigilant now, because we have given them sufficient incentives.

The mere provision of finance or giving them tax concessions will not be sufficient for the growth of industry. We have also to take care of the raw materials and power generation.

We all believe in socialism. Now it is not a party matter. It is enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution by the Fortysecond Amendment. We have taken the pledge to have social justice in articles 38 and 39 On our Directive Principles. Therefore, we should now be more careful about the growth and development in the field of agriculture and industry. There should be proper justice done through equal distribution so that there will be socialism. We should take steps to eradicate regional imbalance. From that point of view, we should pay more attention to States which are not developed agriculturally or industrially, where the *per capita* income is very low. We should take this philosophy, not only to the State but to the district level, so that proper justice will be done to all parts of the country.

Even though Orissa is a land of plenty from the point of view of minerals, mainly because of the political insta-

bility, it remained a poor and backward State all these years. Now there is no more political instability and we want to bring the State up to the level of the industrially and agriculturally advanced States. One of the reasons for our backwardness is that we are lacking in the field of irrigation and power. So, sufficient attention should be paid and more funds should be allocated to the State of Orissa, to enable it to increase the area under irrigation, which is in fact the first point of the 20-Point Programme.

In the Indravathi Project, which is the biggest project now in progress, the pace is slow because of lack of funds. This project will provide not only irrigation but also generate power to the extent of 600 MW. So, more funds should be provided for this project.

As sufficient coal is available in our region near the Jib river, a Thermal Power Plant may be set up. The Super-Power Thermal Station at Talcher should be taken up and executed expeditiously.

Improvement in the matter of railway facilities is a must for the growth of the State and also the national economy. Therefore, the Talcher-Sambalpur line and the Ambaguda-Jeypore line, which will link Kalahandi which is rich in mineral deposits like bauxite, should be taken up without further delay.

In order to remove the regional imbalance, sufficient attention should be given to backward States and backward districts. The Planning Commission should have an independent monitoring cell, which should periodically evaluate the progress, which should be printed in their magazine, *Yojana*.

I again welcome this budget, as it has given attention, to all sections of the people. At the end, I will spongly plead that the enhanced rates of levy on

(Shri Jagannath Pattnaik)

kerosene and cooking gas should be reviewed or withdrawn.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and I also congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister on presenting such a judicious and courageous Budget. I congratulate him on introducing new features in the Budget which were not there in the Budgets of the past several years. The special features of the Budget are tax relief to big companies, abolition of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme, concession to electronics industry tax relief to the authors of books in Hindi and other Indian languages and they are commendable. The criticism by the Opposition about these issues is unreasonable and they have opposed for the sake of opposition only.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned certain things in the Budget and I would like to say something about them. In the beginning of the Budget speech he has quoted Shrimati Indira Gandhi : 'No section of our vast and diverse population should feel forgotten.' This approach has been adopted in the Budget. I support this approach but I would like to draw his attention towards an event which occurred many years ago. This event relates to the period when our great leader and the first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru took over the reins of the country on the eve of Independence in 1946, and he went to Mahatma Gandhi to seek his blessings and guidance to run the country's administration. Bapu had given him a guiding principle that while taking any decision, he should keep in view the poorest of the poor of this country and thereafter whatever decision he took would be for the benefit of the whole country. I want to submit to the Hon.

Finance Minister that though he has kept in mind the diverse population of India, yet he has overlooked the direction of Bapu at one place; at the time of increasing tax on petroleum, products he has forgotten that petroleum, diesel, kerosene oil and gas cylinders are no longer used exclusively by the affluent people; now these are being used extensively by the small people and middle classes. Every well-to-do farmer has a tractor and uses diesel in it. Each and every hut of the village burns kerosene oil. Even the *bills* smoked by people with the lowest income, have not been spared. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to reconsider taxes on these items. To increase one rupee per litre on petrol, Rs. 6 on every gas cylinder and 75 paise per liter on kerosene, to my mind, is quite a heavy burden on the poor citizens of this country. The Government should reconsider it.

I would also submit that increase in paper prices is also not justifiable. There is still great need to propagate literacy in the country, and in a country where paper is needed not only for media but also for books, exercise-books by crores of children, the increase in paper prices is a matter of great concern. Our Finance Ministry and the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who himself is an intelligent and a scholarly person, cannot overlook the fact that paper is needed extensively both for literary pursuits and educational work. I hope he will reconsider this matter.

For one thing I will definitely congratulate him that he has maintained the dynamism of the Budget and has not bothered that the Opposition Members will brand him as supporter of the capitalists or make others, baseless allegations. He has done what a good Finance Minister should do for the better future of the country. The exemption limit for personal income-tax has been raised from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 18,000 which I think

is on the lower said. Today in India, there has been considerable increase in the number of persons with a minimum salary of Rs. 2,000, whether they are bank employees or L.I.C. employees or professors or teachers. You take any middle class man, his pay will not be less than Rs. 25,000 per annum. The exemption limit should have been at least Rs. 20,000. By not doing so, the Finance Ministry has shown its somewhat narrow approach. I hope that the Hon. Finance Minister will remove this short-coming and extend the limit from Rs. 18,000 to Rs. 25,000.

I would like to say a few words about the provisions made regarding Education, Labour and Industry. I have been elected to Lok Sabha from Kanpur city. Two or three mills of the city have been closed down. The Hon. Finance Minister himself, when he was the Commerce Minister, while speaking on J.K. Rayon Mills has stated that the mills would be opened soon. A period of two to three years has elapsed since that announcement was made. J.K. Manufactures, the second mill, has been lying closed for the last 7-8 years. Thousands of workers of that mill have been rendered jobless. They are suffering a lot. I think lack of complete control over the industrialists running these mills is the cause of the sufferings of these poor employees. If the Finance Ministry, after giving compensation, takes over the mills, the problem can be solved to some extent. The management of the mill is not in a position to run the mill. When the State Government put pressure on the management for starting the mill, they went to court and got a stay order. The problems of the employees cannot be solved this way. When the new textile policy comes into force, many sections will be affected. It will affect Kanpur also because maximum number of textile mills are in Kanpur. We will welcome modernisation but if it affects the interests of the toiling workers adversely, there would be difficulties in accepting it. Only after the new textile policy has been announced, we

will come to know about its merits, but this should be taken care of that it does not create difficulties for the workers.

The funds allocated for education are in sufficient. The Indian educational system is in doldrums. Education being a State subject, neither the three-language formula is being implemented nor any clear language policy seems to have been formulated. In certain States, the teaching of the English language starts from the First Standard, in the others from the Third or Fourth Standard and in certain States English is not taught at all. There are States where Hindi is not taught. Whenever the matter of three-language formula is raised, it is said that there are financial constraints. Hindi is spoken by a majority of the people in this country. Non-use of Hindi in work and frequent change in policies are resorted to at the State Level. My submission is that the language policy should be clarified. Even after 38 years of independence, it is not clear how long English is going to continue. If Hindi and other Indian languages are not given importance, Independence loses its meaning. Bapu has said that a country is dumb if it does not use its national language in carrying out its entire work and does not develop it. The fact is that our progress in the matter of use of Hindi remains far behind. I want that the Finance Minister should provide sufficient funds for the development of the national language Hindi and for the propagation and development of all the Indian languages. It is very important. Without this the country will remain dumb. To enable the country to become articulate and to infuse vitality in it, it is necessary that there should not be any negligence in this regard. If the Indian languages are not developing due to lack of finances, efforts should be made to remove this constraint so that Indian languages could develop and the brighter profile of the Indian people is projected before the world.

I would like to submit that the

(Shri Naresh Chander Chaturvedi)

workers in our country are facing very difficult problems. Firstly, there is the housing problem being faced by lakhs of workers engaged in the big factories in the metropolitan cities. I know about Kanpur where the mill-workers even after working for years together, have still to live in shanties. They have not been provided with a roof over their heads or a flat to live in. On the other hand, hundreds of residential quarters have been constructed in Kanpur city. Therefore, I would request you that in Kanpur city, where about five and half lakh labourers and workers live without any proper housing facility and about two lakhs of them sleep on footpaths braving heat, cold and inclement weather, and many are living in Jhonpris which leak, the Government should at least provide a roof over their heads. I am not speaking of Kanpur alone but in all the industrial cities of our country where there is a little or no housing facility for workers, appropriate provision for the purpose should be made. The dwelling units may be small or big ones, but at least a roof should be provided to all of them. In a welfare State like ours if we are not able to provide food, medical facilities or employment opportunities, we should at least provide them with a roof over their heads.

It is appreciable that government has introduced crop insurance scheme but it is still in its infancy and its scope is very limited. I would like its scope be widened. Alongwith the workers, the defence employees are also facing the housing problem.

These number is about one lakh and a half and there is no labour colony for them. Therefore, effective steps should be taken to provide them with housing facilities. I would like the Finance Minister to look into it and provide funds therefor so that these welfare measures could be implemented. This budget is beneficial to all sections of the

country. This should benefit the common man also. With these words, I support this budget.

17.58 hrs

DISCUSSION ON URGENT NEED TO
 ENSURE REMUNERATIVE
 PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL
 PRODUCE TO
 FARMERS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, two more minutes are left for 6 o'clock. Shall we take up the Discussion on the urgent need to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce to the farmers under rule 193 ?

Prof. Madhu Mandavate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on the urgent need to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce to the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, in our country, the lobbies of organised labour and those of industry are quite vocal. But unfortunately, the peasant who is the backbone of our entire economy in the country has a very feeble voice. To give voice to the demands of the peasants and their aspirations, I rise to raise this discussion under rule 193.

The question is one of remunerative price. For any agricultural produce, to quantify the remunerative price for all times to come is a meaningless proposition. The remunerative prices for the agricultural produce basically depend on the cost of production in the field of agriculture. This in turn depends upon the cost of fertilisers and other inputs, like, water, electricity, diesel, oilseeds, etc.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : And credit also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The most important aspect to which Prof. Ranga referred is the credit that is needed by the peasant in order to make agriculture a success.

The problem of remuneratives prices, therefore, in effect, is the problem of making the inputs required by the peasant cheaper and available in an easier way.

We have the Agricultural Prices Commission, Really speaking, the entire basis of the Agricultural Prices Commission ought to be really the Agricultural Cost Commission because the prices are basically related to the cost and, therefore, if we are able to tackle effectively the problem of cost of production for an agriculturist, we will be able to tackle very effectively the question of agricultural prices.

18.00 hrs

Unfortunately, when we look at the norms that are employed in determining the prices in respect of industrial goods and try to compare them with the norms that are generally used to determine the prices of agricultural commodities, we find that there is a sense of discrimination. There is a gap between them. For instance, when the prices of a commodity like cloth, an industrial good, is decided upon, almost all important aspects are taken note of. The expenditure on energy, fuel, transportation charges, the raw material that is used, whatever is to be spent on the labour that is employed to produce cloth, all these aspects, are taken note of. But as far as the determination of prices of agricultural commodities are concerned, it is not always—I will not say, never—that all these factors are taken note of. Every factor that enters into the process of production of an agricultural commodity must be attended to while determining the prices of agricultural commodities.

Who are the people at the helm of affairs in determining the prices in the Agricultural prices Commission ? I do not want to cast an aspersion on any experts or any members belonging to the Agricultural Prices Commission. But I will narrate an experience that has appeared in one of the financial journals. When one expert Prof. Ranga had come to Maharashtra, in Kolhapur he found a quantity of a good, a few kgs. of that, and he said, to produce such a quantity of a good, how big must be the tree. I do not know whether he said it with a sense of humour or he exercised his fundamental right of ignorance. I do not know that.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SHRI BUTA SING : Janata Party
man.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He was not a Janata Party man. The Janata Party man espouses the cause of agriculturists.

I would now narrate my own experience. I asked one friend of mine in Delhi—he claims to be an agricultural economist, he seems to be an expert in determining various factors that contribute to the determination of prices of agricultural commodities—can you explain to me what is the difference between rabi and kharif ? You will be shocked and surprised to know that he was not able to tell me the difference between rabi and kharif. Then, I humorously asked him : Can you at least tell me, whether these are the names of women or these are the names of crops ? He started laughing and I laughed still loudly. This is not something which is imaginary. This has happened in my case. Leave aside the humorous aspect. But these are aspects that are to be taken note of.

All I want to drive at is this. We should have the Agricultural Prices

(Prof. Madhu Dandavate)

Commission. I am not against the institution at all. In a country like ours which believes in Planning where the balance in various sectors is to be established, it is highly essential that instruments like the Planning Commission and the Agricultural Prices Commission are absolutely necessary.

But the question is what must be the structure and composition of the Agricultural Prices Commission.

The knowledge in the field of agriculture is not merely the bookish knowledge. There is something like an empirical knowledge in this country. I have come across quite a large number of agriculturists in this country who have not taken any Degree in Agriculture and in spite of that, they have practical knowledge about agriculture, the various factors that contribute to the production, the various factors that contribute to the cost of agriculture and the various factors that generally determine the prices of agricultural commodities and they are conversant with them. I would very much like that such representatives who are involved in the field of agriculture by dint of their experience and empirical knowledge and who have gained an expertise in the field of agriculture should also find some representation in Agricultural Prices Commission and if this is done, probably the agriculturist will be able to get better justice. I am not making a hypothetical proposition. When the interests of organised labour are involved, Various Committees are set up and the Central Trade Union Organisations are given representation on such Bodies concerning the interests of labour. If the Central Trade Union Organisations find a representation in Bodies which determine the fate of the working class in the country, I do not understand why proper representation should not be given to the representatives of farmer and kisans in this country so that better decisions can be taken on the basis of

empirical knowledge. That is the position.

There is one more significant observation made by Joshi Committee. The Committee has said :—

“It is a gross error to treat the imputed values of family labour rental for own land and interest on fixed capital as income.”

I just give an illustration. I think world of wisdom will share the experience. Such warnings and cautions are to be taken note of.

I will move to another important aspect as far as prices structure in concerned and that is the parity between the prices of agricultural and industrial goods. Having mentioned to you the various norms that are utilised in determining the prices of industrial goods, the next important aspect is to bring about some sort of a balance, of a parity, to be established between the agricultural prices and the prices of industrial goods.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Professional salaries and allowances also.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Of course, that is a product of that. The prices of industrial goods are based on properly structured indices. There is a formula for the index to be prepared and when the working class finds that the index machinery is not proper, the machinery by which the index system has been built is not adequate, then Committees are appointed and the index systems are revised. Some changes are made but as far as agricultural commodities are concerned, there is no proper structure of index on the basis of which prices can be fixed and, therefore, we must have proper re-structuring of the index both for the industrial goods and also for the agricultural goods and once that exercise is gone into, it will be

possible for us to have a balance or a parity between the prices of industrial goods. Some basis must be taken for determining the agricultural prices and the parity between the agricultural and industrial prices will be able to give better results that will act as an incentive to the agriculturist and, in that case, the productivity will go up.

The next aspect which I would like to touch in a very cursory manner will be the question of fluctuations of prices. If there is one aspect of agricultural commodities prices that acts as a disincentive to the agriculturist, it is the usual and frequent fluctuation in the prices of agricultural commodity and, therefore, the agricultural commodity does not find itself quite safe and in equilibrium. They are constantly threatened by various extraneous factors, by fluctuations in the agricultural prices and, therefore, the agricultural prices fluctuations are a great disincentive even for agricultural production and, therefore, the best method and the accepted *modus operandi* would be that before the sowing season begins, agricultural prices should be announced. The agriculturist should not feel any fear about the fluctuations that are likely to take place once he enters into an experiment of agriculture before the sowing season. He must be assured that this is the fair price that is there to the agriculturist. That will act as a great incentive and once you give incentive to the agriculturist, he will be able to produce for the country much better than what he is able to do today. Therefore, I suggest announcement of prices, firm prices, of agricultural commodities long before the sowing season, so that that acts as an incentive. Then, building up adequate buffer stocks and a balanced import and export policy will also help and will also go a long way in avoiding constant and frequent fluctuations in prices. If buffer stocks can be built up in a very safe way, if substantial buffer stocks can be built up, in

that case the agriculturists will gain, the general community will gain, the consumers will also gain, the Government will also gain, the economy as a whole will gain. Therefore, this problem of fluctuation in prices must be tackled.

Then there is one positive suggestion that I would like to make, and I hope and trust that Government will respond to this positive suggestion. I would like to suggest that agriculture should be treated as an industry. If you treat agriculture as an industry, in that case a number of benefits that are made available to industry today for its development will become available to agriculture. We are in an age in which a lot of incentives are given to industry. The industrialists demanded that the present ceiling limit of Rs. 20 crores in the case of MRTP be increased to Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 crores. Sometimes, when a blind man asks for one eye, God gives him two. The great monopolists asked for the present MRTP limit to be increased from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 50 crores. But the Government, being extremely satisfied, said, "Industrialists, you are asking for one eye; we are offering you two; the limit is raised to Rs. 100 crores". All right, if you have given that much concession and that much latitude to the monopolists in this country, let us try to give some advantage also to the kisans in this country. If the Government announces tomorrow that Government is going to treat agriculture as an industry and that all those concessions and facilities which are made available to industry, all the inputs that are made available at concessional rates, will be available to agriculturists taking agriculture as an industry, you will find that it will have an electrifying effect; the agriculturists will be able to give a better performance. Take, for instance, electricity. I know, Railways and industry are always given electricity and a concessional rate. We are told that industry is an infrastructure for the development of the country and Rail-

[Prof Madu Dandanate]

ways are an infrastructure, transport infrastructure, for the development of industry and therefore, they are to be given concessional rates as far as electricity charges are concerned. I do not want to have any conflict with Railways and industry. I would not like anything to be done with retrospective effect, having functioned as Railway Minister. But at the same time I must say one thing. If Railways are an infrastructure for the development of industry and industry is an infrastructure for the development of the country, then the kisans who provide raw materials to industry, the kisans who provide raw materials to every sector of our economy, also constitute indirectly a great infrastructure for the development of the country and, therefore, they must be treated as an industry and given all facilities as far as electricity charges are concerned, for example. I think, in a State like Kerala they are prepared to offer electricity at a very low rate, and I am sure that all politicians, no matter to which Party they belong, fully realising that it is the peasantry which is the backbone of our economy, will be prepared to extend all facilities to kisans. Therefore, treat agriculture as an industry and give them all the inputs at concessional rates as they are made available to industry in the country. This is my concrete suggestion.

Then I would like the working of NAFED to be streamlined. In this House, in the last Lok Sabha and in the Fifth Lok Sabha particularly, we had a good deal of discussion on NAFED. I had initiated in this very House in the Fifth Lok Sabha and again in the Sixth Lok Sabha discussion on the working of NAFED. I remember, that was the time when the problem in respect of onions and potatoes had become extremely difficult. Onions and potatoes were being thrown away because there were no warehousing facilities where they could be accumulated. And NAFED was not prepared to purchase them when the kisans were in a difficult position. We

had a very good discussion on NAFED in this very House. I may remind you that irrespective of political differences, Members belonging to both sides of the House had insisted that the NAFED machinery must be streamlined and more funds should be made available to NAFED and they must be made to purchase potatoes and onions, they must be enabled to build up proper warehouses and refrigeration facilities and if they are able to do that, a number of difficulties which the people and the agriculturists face, to-day as result of inadequate functioning of the NAFED, I think, can also be removed. I must say that not only supply of adequate funds to NAFED must be made but it must also be freed the stranglehold of bureaucratism. In this country, it is a tragedy—I have nothing against bureaucrats; bureau bureaucratism and bureaucrats are different. Whichever be the system of government, whether it is a Congress Government or a Janata Government or whether it is a Capitalist government or a Communist government, we do need the bureaucracy and we need bureaucrats. But bureaucrats and bureaucracy is one thing and bureaucratism is a different thing. I want bureaucratism to disappear. I do not want bureaucrats to disappear because there will always be some officers and employees who have to manage. After all some human beings have to be employed and some expertise is still to be utilised. So I am not against bureaucrats but I am against bureaucratism. So also I am against red tape, but I am not against the Reds. I am against red-tapism. That is how I will describe that bureaucratism should be eliminated from the functioning of the NAFED and if it is done, it will prove to be one of the effective instruments to promote the interests of the peasants.

I would like to say a word about technology. It is an accepted fact that we rely solely on manual labour for our agriculture. So the productivity can not

improve beyond a particular stage. In every country where some degree of mechanisation had been utilised, we find that the per acre or per hectare yield of the agricultural land is definitely better. If we have better seeds, better fertilisers, better implements, better experimentation, better research, the same piece of land with better equipment and better fertilisers, better technology is able to give more yield. But, unfortunately, the land-man ratio in this country is such that we cannot afford to have a high degree of mechanisation through tractors. In this country where we have only small pieces of land, how will the tractor operate? For instance, I am told that the per capita availability of land for cultivation by the peasants in this country is only 1.5 acres. I am talking about the average, 1.5 acres. So in a country in which the per capita average is only 1.5 acres of land, we cannot think in terms of large tractors operating in large sectors of our country. But, at the same time, if we cannot afford tractors on small pieces of land I think we can try the Japanese experiment in which power-tillers have been utilised, and in our country in different parts peasants have started utilising small power-tillers. If power-tillers are used, they can have better productivity from the land and I am sure that equipment should be made available. But what is that difficulty? As far as the small and intermediate peasants are concerned, even they will not be able to purchase the power-tillers on their own. They will be not be able to have a greater degree of fertilisers. They will not be able to have a sophisticated equipments for them. Individually they cannot afford it. I would, therefore, suggest that we should encourage a network of service co-operatives in the country so that the service co-operatives will be able to provide this equipment to the agriculturists. In that case, productivity will increase and the yield per acre increases and the nation's economy stands to gain and at the same time, in

terms of the price structure, the kisans will be able to benefit. This will lead ultimately to increased productivity.

A word about the zonal system. I am glad that when we ended the zonal system, that decision has not been reversed. My humble request to the present Government is that the ending of the zonal system in the country and treating the entire country for foodgrains movement as a single unit has served a great purpose of the kisans and peasants in the country.

By allowing free movement of foodgrains from one part of the country to another that has given great benefit to the kisans. Ending of the zonal system in foodgrains has given a definite advantage. I would urge upon the government that abolition of zonal system should be made a permanent feature so that it is not allowed to revive and, I think, the peasants will be extremely happy on this.

Now, I want to make a radical suggestions and I do not know how far government will be able to implement it. I would suggest that let there be dispersal and decentralisation of industries. At least wherever new industries are taking place and wherever finished products are manufactured these goods require certain raw materials. I would suggest to the government, try to set up industrial units in those particular areas in the vicinity of which we are able to get raw-material that is required for that particular industrial unit. Not only the transport problem will get eased but also at the same time there will be a co-relationship between the raw-material manufacturers and those who are actually manufacturing the industrial goods. In addition to that I would make a further suggestion and request the Minister to get it examined. I give an illustration. We have sugar cooperative factories. Very often the kisans residing in the vicinity of that particular factory—

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

within a few kilometer radius—grow sugarcane. They are part and parcel of the sugar cooperative factory. Here is our friend, Hrdigh who has been a successful cooperator in our country and he will tell you that if in the vicinity of a sugar factory we have got a big field growing sugarcane there can be free movement of sugarcane to the factory and further if you want to give them in sense of sharing, then the sugarcane growers are made the shareholders of that particular cooperative factory. Not only that, in some of the sugar cooperatives even the industrial workers working in that factory are also made the share-holders and if that atmosphere of cooperation is built then the cooperatives will be genuine cooperatives and if such industrial units are built up in the vicinity of those areas where the raw—materials are grown, I tell you, the coordination between the industrial goods and the raw material will be better. The transport charges can be reduced and in deciding the price structure, I think, a great facility will be made available.

Now, Sir, a word about monopoly procurement of cotton. In Maharashtra we have made that experiment a success to some extent. No doubt, there may be difficulties but I would like to warn the House that monopoly procurement experiment of cotton cannot survive as an isolated island. If in a particular State monopoly procurement of cotton becomes a success and just across the border we have got a free market and there is no monopoly procurement then in that case there will be destructive competition and in that case the experiment will fail. So, I suggest, first adequate funds should be made available and in addition to that if a certain region is growing cotton to a greater extent, then let us try to encourage the new spinning mills in that very area where cotton is grown. If cotton is grown in regions and in the same regions we start spinning mills and there is decentralisation and dispersal of cotton mills,

in that case there will be better link between raw material and the finished goods and, I feel, transport charges also can be minimised to great extent.

Then there is one more aspect. Very often the so called radicals try to show that there is a contradiction between the interest of the peasants and the interest of the landless labour. I want this House to remove that impression from our minds that the interest of the kisans and the interest of the landless labour must always conflict. Sometimes they are likely to conflict. Of course, I am not talking about the old zamindars. But I am talking about an intermediate or small peasant. If you look at the peasants, the question is, shall the peasants in this country demand more and remunerative prices. Sir, when they carried on their agitation some pseudo-radicals said that the landless labour must not join peasants in this movement. On the contrary I was one among those who joined this movement, I joined the movement for remunerative prices for peasants in my State. I went to landless labour and agricultural labour. I went to their unions and to their platforms. I told them: You join the battles of the peasants for demanding better price and if they are able to get better price, if their income level goes up, if they are able to mop up better surplus, in that case it will be easier for people like us to demand better wages for the agricultural labour. We told them, once they get their remunerative price, we will also fight for the share of that price going to landless labour. We told them, rest assured, we will do that. And Sir, I am happy to tell you that in our State there was full cooperation between the agricultural labour and the peasants who were fighting for remunerative price. The agricultural labourer realised that if the peasant on whose land he works, does not get proper price for agricultural produce, how can he expect better wage. Therefore he joined the

peasants. The peasants also gave an assurance in advance that if they get a better price for their agricultural produce, be let assured that you will not be let down, you will get a better deal. That is how the interests of the two are to be reconciled. Let there be no class struggle between the peasant and the landless labour. Their interests can be reconciled for building up the economy of the country and also the mutual interests of agricultural labour as well as of the peasants.

Sir, while concluding, I would like to point out to you three things. As far as the economy of the country is concerned, as I have said, just as 'means of transport' provide the infrastructure for the development of the economy, let us take it for granted, that agriculture (and the raw material which they manufacture and grow) will also provide the infrastructure for development. One more thing. You may go through the speech of the Finance Minister when he pointed out certain things in this House last time in the 1983-84 Budget. That budget projected a deficit of the order Rs. 3900 crores, almost Rs. 4,000 crores. In this year's budget also the deficit financing projected is Rs. 3800 crores. What did the experts of the Government and the Finance Minister say? Sir, that is very relevant and that is very complimentary to the peasants. The Finance Minister said 'Though the deficit financing is of the order of Rs. 3800 crores, I have a confidence that if the kisans in this country give us a better crop, in that case, the economy will be able to absorb the shock of this deficit financing'. Sir, it is a great tribute which he has given to the peasantry of this country. Of course, I am not confident whether deficit financing will halt at Rs. crores at the bidding or direction of the Finance Minister. Probably it may go up still further. But he himself has admitted that only if we are able to absorb the shock of deficit financing, it will strengthen the base

of agriculture in this country. If we are able to build up better buffer stock and if agricultural crop is better in the coming year, that itself will be able to absorb the shock to the economy. That itself shows how the primacy of peasants is accepted by all concerned.

Sir, after a long time I have got this opportunity to raise this vital question of remunerative prices for agricultural produce. I thank the Speaker for that. He himself being a farmer, he realised the significance of this subject, Sir, while debating and discussing this problem, forgetting all our party affiliations and loyalties, let us all rise like one man in this House and see that remunerative price for agricultural produce is ensured, a new economy is built up and a new and prosperous India emerges. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate myself for having come back again to this House after the turmoil of the General Elections because I am able to hear the speech made by my Hon. friend Prof. Madu Dandavate. I feel as if I am thirty years younger while hearing almost every word of the speech that he has made. I am prepared to accept it as my own. I wish to thank Prof. Madhu Dandavate and I wish to congratulate the Opposition also for having come forward with this proposition. I am sure that the whole House would be unanimous in agreeing with him, in placing before us his impassioned plea for a fair deal for our agriculturists including the kisans as well as 'khet mazdoors'. I am very glad indeed that the opportunity has been given to our new Prime Minister to change the very title of the Agriculture Prices Commission, that is, from Agriculture Prices Commission to 'National Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission'. I speak subject to correction. In that he has already anticipated Prof. Dandavate's

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

as well as our demand, the 'kisans' demand, for remunerative prices. Indeed, he has committed himself to this proposition that agriculturists should be paid remunerative prices. Now, how are these remunerative prices to be fixed? They should be based on agricultural costs. Prof. Dandavate already spelt out various items, the most important thing being, of course, credit and also the land cost. That also has got to be taken into consideration when all these various factors of production including the fertilisers and other inputs are taken into consideration including the whole family labour that has contributed to the production by the farmers themselves, their wives and children and everybody and these farmers can be assured of remunerative prices. We are all in favour of parity between agricultural and industrial labour. I have pleaded for it for the last several decades. I am also in favour and I am sure my party also would be in favour of paying as good wages to our agricultural labour as are being given to the industrial labour who are given a fair deal. Indeed, the International Labour office for a very long time continued to neglect the agricultural labour. It was on the pressure that was brought to bear upon it by myself, as well as the late lamented labour leaders in this country, like Mr. N.M. Joshi, that that International Labour Office began to pay some attention to agricultural labour. It was in 1923 that we initiated the 'Kisan Movement' in this country. The first thing we did was to organise agricultural labour conferences and the next conference was of the land-owning kisans because even at that time, we were convinced that agriculturists, the 'khet mazdoors' as well as land-owning kisans should work hand in hand cooperate with each other and work as two equal partners in carrying on this great profession, this activity, this industry of agriculture. Therefore, both of them should be treated as honourable partners and agricultural labour should be protected and paid properly. I have

been pleading with the Government in those years when I was in the opposition, as well as during the last fourteen years in which I have been cooperating with them again, pleading for adequate representation on this Commission for agricultural labour. My Hon. friend, the predecessor of our present Minister for Agriculture, was agreeable to it. He accepted it as a matter of principle. We are lucky to have had Rao Sahib as a kishan himself, a landowning kisan, and now his successor, Shri Buta Singh, as a leader, as a spokesman of the landless kisans. These two friends have come to us fortunately from the same State and they have been representing our kisans and the charge had been laid upon them to look after these people. I sincerely hope that very soon it would be possible for my Hon. friend to get the support of the Cabinet to change the constitution, or whatever it is, of this Commission so that it would be possible for him to have representatives of agricultural labour also on it.

I need not go into all other details mentioned by my Hon. friend, Shri Dandavate, because I have already prefaced my speech by saying that almost everything that he has said should be considered to be as if I have myself made that speech.

There should be parity between industry and agriculture, parity between not only the professional classes and agriculture. The most extraordinary thing is that professional classes have come to be the most favoured class here in our country. If there are any kind of vested interests at all, it is the professional classes. My friend was talking about the bureaucracy. The professional classes, official and non-official, the private enterprises and the public enterprises the whole lot of them have come to be the most powerful social element in our society. I want parity between these three elements, the industrial labour and industrialists, the professional classes as well as agriculturists.

And agriculturists should be treated at par with the others, whenever they make any kind of comparison and try to assess their respective needs and demands. Once that principle of parity comes to be accepted, there would be an answer to the query, the question that was put to me again and again both during the last election as well as after the election when I met my kisans again. All the kisans were asking me: 'Why is it that the price of cotton today is about the same, if not less than, what it was in 1975. When I fought for an increase of that price by demanding that the Cotton Corporation should come to the market. It was the same price, what is known as the basic price, the support price and the rest of it. While during the last eight years, all other prices have gone up, allowances have gone up, the agricultural price was still there the same. This is the real difficulty. This difficulty can be overcome if the whole House is to accept and the Government is to implement the new decision, or the new-proposal, that agricultural costs should be given first consideration in trying to fix the support price. The support price as well as the remunerative price, both have got to be prescribed, and at the level of support price whenever the peasants are not able to find market or merchants or demand, Government must be prepared to come forward and purchase it, offer necessary price to the farmers, either in one instalment or in a number of instalments. All those details can be worked out, but that has got to be done. If we protect the farmers and agricultural workers, as my Hon. friend Shir Dandavate said, we can ensure the continued and continuous progress of our social economy as well as economy as such. If peasants are neglected, as have been neglected for a very long time, how can you expect the country to progress at all? This is one of the reasons why the progress in this country has been very slow. There has been some progress, — there is no doubt whatsoever—after we achieved freedom. But it is so tortuously slow. It could have been speeded up if only the peasants have been properly

looked after and if only the agricultural labour as well as self-employed labour is properly looked after.

The last thing that I would like to say is this. Sir, I am all in favour of this cooperative supply of not only inputs, but also all the services of the latest machinery, tractors as well as power tillers and various other smaller things, pump sets. Now in the management of these cooperatives also, we must see that there is no interference either from Government or from any political parties and they should be free from any kind of mischief, so far as politics is concerned. I want an independent authority like the Election Commission to ensure that there will be real democracy in the management of these cooperatives. Otherwise, the kisans would come to be exploited by the bosses of the cooperatives in the same way, even may be worse also than is the position today under the dispensation of merchants and all the rest of them. Once we have all this organisation, machinery and equipment for farmers as well as their workers, we have got to ensure, we have got to see to it that they are treated as self-employed people. They should be given the necessary privileges as well as opportunities to enjoy their economic freedom and social freedom. They should not come to be enslaved like some of those peasants in some of the socialist countries under the *Kolkhoz* and *Sovkhoz*. Peasant proprietorship must be the base; it must be the basic rock on which this peasant problem as well as the agricultural problem has got to be solved in our country.

Sir, with these words, I would like to associate myself with Prof. Dandavate and I would also like to express my gratitude to him, and I congratulate myself for this. If I were to consider myself as the third generation, Dandavate belongs to the second generation and it was my proud privilege to have had him as one of the listeners, as one of the comrades in one of the Citizenship Colleges that we have had in Bombay. And there

[Prof. N. G Ranga
whenever I had any opportunity of talking about any social economy in our country at all, I would always be talking only about kisans and their need for parity economy. I have embodied all these thoughts in my book "Challenge of the Peasantry". He has presented our kisan's case just as well as I would love to. But then, as I am situated today, I may not be able to do it. I support him and I hope the House will support the plea that he has presented in such an effective, eloquent and dynamic manner.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have fixed two hours for this discussion and already 45 minutes are over. I request the Hon. members to restrict their time to five minutes. I expect your cooperation.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI (Howrah) : Since the time allowed is only four and a half or five minutes, it is as well if we lay our scripts on the table instead of giving a speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can do that.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the Hon. Speaker for allowing a discussion regarding the necessity to fix remunerative prices for agricultural products. I would also like to express my gratitude for the analytical speeches of our Hon. friend Shri Madhu Dandavate and our political itahcuShri Ranga. Right from the student days, without seeing him, we used to adore Prof. N.G. Ranga as the kisan leader.

After his speech, certainly I am left with only a few points to make. First of all, I would like to express my concise and concerted opinion that merely changing the name of the Agricultural Prices Commission to Commission on Agricul-

tural Costs and Prices will not serve the purpose. I think the main, theme, the main objective should certainly change.

There is a Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. It calculates the price of every industrial product and it makes its recommendations to the Government of India; and the Government of India will, with all generosity and liberal view, immediately allow the industrialists to increase the prices of their product from a small pin to the biggest machine or industrial goods. But, unfortunately, on platform, though they make election promises, on paper they will say, a kisan should get remunerative prices, I am sorry to state that the kisan is denied remunerative prices. It was mentioned just now by our two distinguished members regarding the support price and remunerative price. I submit the support price should be a remunerative price, because in the Indian economy where the average landholding is only 1.5 acres, it is the small farmer, it is the marginal farmer, who is compelled to sell his produce immediately after he gets his crop; whereas the middle farmer or a farmer with sound financial position, withholds his stock; he will sell his stock at a later date when he feels that the price he gets is a good one. So, there is every necessity to fix the remunerative price mainly to protect the interest of small and marginal farmers. Apart from that, actually, in the last two years, iron and steel prices were allowed to increase by 30 percent, cement by 25 percent, non-ferrous metals by 15 percent, aluminium by Rs. 3000 per ton and paper by Rs. 1000 per ton. Whereas the prices a farmer is getting are very low.

In regard to the composition of the Agricultural Prices Commission, hitherto two officials are there and one representative of the farmers is there. Unfortunately, the voice of the representative of the farmers was not given due consideration. For example, in 1983-84, two

official members thought that Rs. 132 should be fixed as the minimum procurement price for paddy, but the representative of the kisan recommended Rs. 152 per quintal on paddy.

In fact, he has rightly pointed out a genuine difficulty that is being experienced by the farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal, where the farmer and the agricultural produce are subject to cyclone or disturbances of weather, due to which the farmers are losing very heavily and in the absence of crop insurance the loss is causing ruination to the farmer. So, he recommended Rs. 157 that is, Rs. 5 more keeping in view the peculiar circumstances of the Southern States, those adjoining the Bay of Bengal or the States where they are bound by the Arabian Sea and the North-Eastern States, but that recommendation was also vetoed. That was not accepted by the Commission.

Similarly, for coarse varieties like jawar, ragi, and maize the commission recommended Rs. 124 and the Member representing the *kisans* suggested Rs. 144. But that was also not taken into consideration.

I should like to bring to your kind notice that injustice done to the farmer is very very great, and it is because of this negligence, and the indifferent attitude towards the farmers that the farming community in the country is paying a very high price. Now they are importing Rs. 600 crores. worth of edible oils every year from other countries. I do not know whether this Government has any vested interest importing such huge quantity of edible oils from abroad. Some people are thinking that there is something behind the curtain and the ruling party is gaining something through those transactions. I would like, however, that such things should not take place.

Similarly, the price of sugarcane also is not remunerative. I will tell you. What is the logic in fixing Rs. 14 as the minimum price, statutory minimum price? It should be at least fifty rupees more. From the sugarcane bagasse comes, which is sold at a high price, and from it molasses come, out of which alcohol is prepared, and from it arrack is produced. From arrack hundreds of crores of income comes to the State Governments in the form of State excise. But the farmers is not getting the benefit. The contractors are becoming *karorpatis* the State governments are getting income, but the farmer is not benefited.

In my State, the state of affairs is really sad. I am very happy that in Maharashtra several co-operative sugar factories are running and the farmer is benefited. In our State, cooperative sugar factories are not functioning properly and the Government has to bear the losses to a great extent. Even the Government of India is also making available huge amounts by way of ways and means advances. Remunerative prices should be given to the sugarcane growers.

Some people say that the APC should keep the consumers' interests also in view, as if the people are living only due to those prices fixed by them or as if they live only on sugar. An increase of one rupee per kilogramme of sugar will not be much. After all, one has to pay for his clothing, for his daily needs, and on other items of consumption for his daily necessities, and they also are going on increasing. So, I request the Hon. Minister through you, to have a change in the basic attitude towards the farmers.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that the farmers are having apprehensions about the wrong policies of the Government. Dr. Patel, who was Governor of Reserve Bank of India, in his lecture in 1981-82 said :

"At the back of the minds of policy-

[Shri V. Sobhanadreesware]

makers was also the fear that higher prices readily conceded might what the appetite of the producers and something like a producers trade unionism might develop and cause distress to consumers, stake inflation and deny resources for development."

This is very unthinkable. While the Government has conceded several hundred crores of rupees worth of incentives and royalty to several tycoons in this country, it is really regrettable that the Government should think in this way in regard to several crores of kisans spread throughout the length and breadth of the country. In fact, as Prof. Ranga has stated, Andhra Pradesh farmers are suffering because they are not able to sell their paddy at the Government announced prices. The FCI is not purchasing their paddy. While FCI has purchased several lakh tonnes of paddy from Punjab, it has hardly purchased 70,000 tonnes of paddy from Andhra Pradesh. This is our bitter experience. This is not good. They apply one cut, two cuts, three cuts. Actually the farmers are selling their paddy at lower prices to the rice millers' because there is no other alternative. In fact, the people think that the representatives of the FCI are hand in glove with the rice millers. This causes lot of difficulties to the farmers. I request the Minister to kindly immediately check up with the FCI and see that they purchase paddy from the farmers.

There is a lot of gap between the price paid to the farmer and the price recovered from the consumer on any item. Unfortunately, middle-men are exploiting the situation. Near the city the farmer is selling vegetables at throw away prices whereas in the market the consumer gets it at a heavy price. I request the Government to at least form, on a trial basis, producer-consumers cooperative societies in cities and towns so that the farmer can get benefit

and the consumer can get things at a lesser price. We can start this experience with vegetables first. With the experience we get, the practice can be extended to other crops.

I also request the Minister to see that prices to be paid to the farmer in a particular seasons should always be announced in the beginning itself. I request the Minister to announce such a change immediately and implement it.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) :
 After listening to two learned Professors there is hardly anything left to talk. But there is a difference between yesterday's professors and today's students because of generation gap.

I think the Government that in this Budget they have taken very positive steps to help the farmers in the form of crop insurance and also in taking some more measures which will help the farmers. But as the Government is actionoriented, expectations are always from someone who really listens and acts.

80 percent of the population of this country lives in villages which mainly depend on agriculture. They are either farmers or farm labour to help the farmers. If we can help this category of people and this percentage of the citizens, the whole country will be helped. So, it is a national cause for which the House is sitting here to discuss this subject.

The late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri always said 'Jai Kisan'. Late Pandit Nehru also showed his feelings by declaring in his will that "After my death the ashes of my body should be spread over the lands of the farmers". with these sentiments, the whole House feels that the Government today has to take some actions which hitherto by some reasons have

not come to the notice of the Government.

19. 00 hrs.

I will quote a survey which was carried with 1970-71 as the base. The survey shows that in 1979-80, the increment in the agricultural input requirement was 116 percent whereas the increment in the agricultural production was 89 percent. With these figures in hand when we know that the increment in the input is more and the production is not going with that high increment, the Government certainly should take note of that. The operational cost which varied from 58.96 percent to 61.48 percent in 1971-72 to 1973-74 became 60.90 percent to 63.19 percent in early 80's. Similarly, the fertilizer cost became 22 percent, cost of human resources roughly 16 percent and the mechanical cost roughly 13 percent. Comining all these production cost which was Rs. 109 in 1977-78 taking Punjab as a sample because Punjab is one State which produce maximum wheat, it was Rs. 115 in 1980-81 and is estimated between Rs. 130 and Rs. 135 in 1983-84. When the support price was Rs. 151. When the total production cost is Rs. 130 to Rs. 135, giving a support price of Rs. 151, I think, is not a very reasonable cost for a farmer to survive and to continue helping the nation for the food cause. It is bad luck of the farmer that when the crop is good, the price goes down and if the crop is bad, the price goes up. It is the other way round. When you work hard and produce more foodgrains, you should be given more incentives and more price for the produce but it is the other way round in the case of a farmer when we say a support price.....(Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAYATE : If the candidate is good, the vote goes down.

SHRI RAFESH PILOT : I would not

be knowing that, Sir, because I have very little experience in that.

When the cost of wheat at fair price shops was declared Rs. 172 per quintal and for flour mills as Rs. 208, per quintal, the farmer was given only Rs. 151 per quintal whereas wheat from other countries was purchased at Rs. 203 per quintal. You cannot give that price to your own farmer who is producing more wheat for you. It certainly requires a thinking by the Government as to what is the reason behind this, why there is a restriction on increasing the price of foodgrains produced by our own farmers. You announce a support price today but problem is that the farmer is for from the media. Our efforts have not been very hard to keep the farmer well informed. The farmer does not know what is in reserve for him from the Government agencies. Therefore, what happens is that the FCI gives a support price of Rs. 151 per quintal but the man who is at the counter of FCI, has got power with him to reduce the price to Rs. 146 or Rs. 147 if he finds that the quality of the wheat is not up to the mark. I must tell the Hon. Minister for his information that the marking done by the man at the counter is sometimes, suspicious. A middleman comes in between and says, "This wheat is inferior and you cannot be given Rs. 151, you can be given only Rs. 146". Here the corruption breeds in. I would expect the man at the counter to tell the farmer "your wheat is not properly cleaned; so, you will get a little less; but if you clean it, you will get full price in future". After all, what is meant by the support price? It means that whatever the farmer produces and brings to the market, as long as it is fit for use, should be accepted at that price. First of all, why give the discretion of a margin to the person who sits at the counter? This is adversely affecting the farmers. The middle man goes to the village, ahead of the FCI representatives, tells the farmer "you give me one rupee per bag, I will see to it that your entire lot is taken without

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

checking". The farmer jumps at this offer and he also commits some irregularities, because he is certain that he will get Rs. 150, instead of Rs. 151. So, this gives scope for corruption and the sufferer is the farmer.

Some measures like surprise check would also help. It should be carried out. Last time when I toured certain parts of western U.P. I came across this practice and reported it to the then Agriculture Minister. He did institute a few surprise checks, which produced some good results. The officials will be afraid of the surprise check and it will help the farmers.

Now fertilizer subsidy is given to the farmers. But they are not well informed as to what they are entitled to get. The subsidy is distributed by officials at the lower level or rank. That official tells the farmer that the subsidy on fertilizer is so much per bigha. He does not give the details and the poor farmer does not know what he is entitled to get. In some cases, it is not really given; it is given only on paper... (Interruptions) There are two types of subsidy. One is to issue fertilizer at a lower rate of interest. It is issued on paper it is in a particular name, it is deposited but really the man in between gets the money. These are the complaints which we have received in two or three States. That is why I have brought it to the notice of the Minister. It is right, should react on it. If it is wrong, it is our good luck that it is the wrong information. The farmer should know what is the fertilizer subsidy and how it is given to him.

Most of the farmers are not well educated. There are cases where fertilizer is supplied after its utility period is over. Even though the date of manufacture and period of expiry are stamped on the bags, the farmers are not educated enough to check that. So, Government should take measures to ensure that the farmers

to ensure that the farmers really get the benefit.

Under the Electricity Act, all the State Electricity Boards have to allot a fixed percentage of power to the rural areas. Unfortunately, no Electricity Board observes this condition. The result is that the farmers get the last priority in the matter of supply of electricity. Further, whether electricity is supplied to them for 10 days or 15 days, whatever may be the quantity he has actually utilized, he has to pay a flat rate. If you supply power to the farmer at the proper time and in the required quantity, it will help him to increase the production, which will ultimately help the country.

As Prof. Dandavate has stated, agriculture should be treated on par with industry. Unless that is done, the small and medium farmers cannot come up to the level of the big farmers and agriculture cannot develop in the way industry is developing.

My second suggestion is that the Government must monitor the system at district level and also have an information centre at the district level so that the monitoring and information is side by side. What the Government has given to the farmers, they should monitor to see whether it has reached the block level or the Panchayat level; and the information centre should be available there itself so that the farmer reaches the centre to know what is meant for him and what has reached for him. Therefore, only the district level monitoring can solve the problem. For the last five years we have been raising so many Call Attention Motions, so many 193 discussions have taken place, but we have not been able to achieve the results which we really thought of achieving.

Lastly, I hope with the Hon. Minister hearing very carefully to my suggestions, he will pay attention to my suggestions. As Prof. Dandavate has said that sometimes people who are not connected with farming, who do not know what

farming is, make the maximum use of this word. Even the politicians have exploited the farmers a great deal by using this word 'farming'. But it is being exploited further in cases like bank nominations. When you nominate a director from a farmer class, it is 'nominated' because the farmer sits in the panel and he heads as a representative of the farmers. But I am sorry to tell sometimes the farmer's nomination is given to somebody who does not even know what the spelling of farmer is. So, these measures should be taken into account sympathetically to help this neglected class. You have done a lot, but more is required.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) :
 I congratulate Prof. Madhu Dandavate for having brought this motion.

The agriculture prices for a long time have been agitation the minds of our farmers. Unfortunately, even the ruling Party also that merely after distributing lands to the tillers and giving some credit to the cooperative societies their work is finished. We have to realise that total economy of this country depends on agriculture which is served by nearly 70 percent of our people. But it is the great misfortune of our country that planning and administration have miserably failed to look into the agriculturists problems.

Prof. Dandavate has rightly pointed out that long ago agriculture should have taken up as an industry. It should have been treated as an industry. I remember long back in the early fifteen Mr. Tata has written an article, where he had suggested that if you want to improve agriculture in this country, you must treat it as an industry. At the same time I remember that there was a movement from the hotel owners demanding that hoteliering should be treated as an industry. We now find that hotels are being treated as industry, while the people who serve the whole of this

country are completely neglected.

I will now quote one or two examples to show how they are treated. When they are given credit, that is known as credit. But is it really credit? The agriculturist gets a loan. He has to pledge the whole plot of land for taking a loan to dig a well for his farm, while an industry is given credit, when it only pledges the plot and the machinery thereon which is likely to produce some material. Why is this discrimination, I ask? The first attachment is on the movable property of that poor chap and the second all his land which he has pledged with the Bank society or, say, with the Government, that is sold off. I do not know why this discrimination should be continued.

Prof. Ranga, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and later on Mr. Rao also have spoken about remunerative prices. I would like to add one more point. When you think of cost of production you have not only to think of the cost of the inputs, but of the land and the labour that the whole family puts into that plus also the risk factor. Hardly 20 to 25 per cent of our land is irrigated, through major, medium and minor tanks and also underground water. Most of the cultivators are dry cultivators who are completely neglected. When I saw the formation of the APC, I found it was not represented by even a single dry farmer. It was represented by the only one representative who comes from an area which has more irrigation in the whole country. I feel sorry for it. When we know the very fact that in this country the dry cultivators are more who always take the risk, they have to depend on the weather and rain and they have to face the vagaries of nature. Why don't we take their representatives on the APC? Prof. Dandavate pointed out very well the ignorance of these people. I remember that we had suggested that a qualified man, a Master's degree-holder in Agriculture,

[Shri Uttam Rathod]

who had experience of dry cultivation especially in the tribal areas should be appointed as a Member of APC, preferably from South. Earlier the APC comprised only Members from northern India. We fought for it and we saw that an agro-economist from South was taken on the APC. As the professor rightly said, an agriculturist only knows the difficulties of agriculturists better than an economist with a degree. So, I suggest that under these circumstances it will be better if the cultivators get the credit-- I do not want 'loan' for them, the word 'loan' should be removed, it has to be 'credit'-- as it is given to the industrialists. How is it that agriculture is not treated as an industry? Is it not a fact that the whole economy will go to dogs if the rabi or kharif crop has failed? It must be a fact because it was on the strength of this that the Hon. Finance Minister could say that it would be possible for him to face inflation to the tune of Rs. 3000 crores and odd if the crop is better. Sir, if it is so, how much attention are we paying to it? Remunerative prices must contain the risk factor also. Secondly, credit should be provided to these people at a low rate of interest. Today credit is provided by the RBI to the apex banks and the apex banks pass it on to the district banks with their share of 2 per cent and the district banks give it to the cooperative societies who, in turn, give it to the cultivator adding 3 per cent more. I do not know why we should have such a hierarchy. We can remove one or two of it and reduce the rate of interest to the farmer. Recently the Maharashtra Government has decided to extend loan at the rate of 6 per cent to cultivator. (Interruptions) Sir, please allow me a little more time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There are many occasion when you can explain all these things.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : I will not repeat the points made by others.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Sir, one hour more should be given. This is a very important topic.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Even if we extend it by one hour, it cannot be finished because there are many speakers. That is why I am asking. Let them be precise on what they want to express, because there are so many occasions we are going to have on this when we can give more thought to it.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The Maharashtra Government wants to extend the loan to the cultivators at the rate of 6 per cent, and the RBI and the Government should try to help them.

Crop insurance about which the Finance Minister has recently said, does not include groundnut and cotton. Groundnut and cotton in this country are also grown by dry farmers. So, they should be covered by crop insurance.

Warehousing facilities should be provided in the rural areas for the benefit of producers. Again, when the question of export comes, what you will see is that CCI is allowed to export one lakh bales. One lakh bales are allowed to the Marketing Federation of Maharashtra and one lakh bales to Gujarat Cooperative Society. When the total purchase of Maharashtra State is to the tune of 18 lakh bales and the CCI is only 4 lakh bales, I do not know why this should be so. This ratio should change.

(Interruptions)

Sir, my last the request to our Minister would be for the linking of raw produce with the finished produce. That must be the principle. In case of cotton, last time, the Ministry of Agriculture accepted it but the Ministry of Commerce did not accept it saying that it was a

complex problem and that it would not be possible for the Ministry to decide the price. When we can correct any irregularity in INSAT-IB from here, how is it that we cannot decide the price of cotton after linking the price of raw cotton and the price of finished goods ?

These are some of the things which I wanted to present before you. I hope, taking the consensus and taking the mood of the House into account, the Hon. Agriculture Minister will think on all these points and decide in favour of the farmers and cultivators.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I once again want to remind the Hon. Members that we are going to have an 8-hour discussion on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture. At that time, you can touch all the points which you like. Now, the only concern is about the price policy which you are interested to express. But now I am feeling that most of the Members are speaking as if the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture are going on. So, I just want to restrict the discussion only to the price policy.

I am giving only three minutes to each Member.

[Translation]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jargipur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the issue of remunerative prices for agricultural produce should be considered very seriously not only in the interest of the farmers but also in the context of the economy of the entire country. I will expect the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to ponder over this issue with due seriousness. In the words of the first Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, "agriculture is the biggest private sector". In any industry or factory if the owner feels that his production is not proving profitable, he stops production and the factory is closed down.

I will congratulate our valiant farmersthat even without getting a remunerative price for their produce, they have kept up their production in exchange for their blood and sweat.

Sir, I feel that the very policy and method which is followed in our country for fixing the price of agricultural produce, is very erroneous. This must be rectified. The cost of producing one quintal of any crop cannot be the same in all areas. It will differ from area to area. The cost of cultivating one acre or one hectare of land cannot be the same at all places, this also differs from place to place. Somewhere it is more and somewhere it is less. I will give an example in this respect.

In 1980-81 in Bihar, the cost of cultivating paddy on one hectare of land was Rs. 2089. But in the same year, the cost in Tamilnadu was Rs. 4727. In Andhra Pradesh, in 1981-82, the cost of cultivation of paddy on one hectare was Rs. 3845. In Orissa it was Rs. 2077 whereas in Madhya Pradesh it was Rs. 1800. So we see that somewhere the cost is Rs. 1800 and at somewhere else for the same thing the cost is over Rs. 4500. Therefore to fix the price of any agricultural product uniformly on an average basis, may be beneficial for some areas but non-profitable and very harmful for some other areas. Therefore at the time of fixing the price of any agricultural produce, it is necessary to keep this aspect also in view. And for that, I feel, that it is necessary to have representatives of various State Governments and of various 'Kisan Samajs' or farmers organisations in the Agricultural Prices Commission. They must also be associated in the process of fixing the prices of various agricultural commodities. I hope the Hon. Minister will duly consider this. Sir, the support price or the remunerative price that is announced by the Government from time to time is not even acceptable to the farmers in most

[Shri Zaizal abedin]

cases, far from being remunerative or profitable. The price that is given to them as support price, fails to support them. Sir, if the price of agriculture produce does not increase in proportion to the rise in cost of the farmers inputs, then the farmers will lose their production capacity. I entirely agree with Shri Rajesh Pilot. Who said that in our country it is very unfortunate that the prices of agricultural commodities fall with a rise in production and the price rises when there is a shortfall in production.

In this House, we had demanded many times that the price of jute may be fixed at Rs. 300/- a quintal. But that demand was not conceded. Last year we saw that due to a poor jute crop and a huge shortfall in production, the price of jute went up to Rs. 900/- or even Rs. 1000/- a quintal. Sir, a few days back the issue of potato prices was raised in this House during Question hour. Government announced the price of potato at Rs. 50/-. Far from being remunerative, this cannot be even a support price. But it is a matter of regret that in some States the farmers are unable to get even that price for their potato crop. They are compelled to sell their crop at Rs. 30/- or 32/-. The Government should at least ensure that whatever support price or remunerative price is announced by them, may be actually available to the small farmers, the marginal farmers, the bargadars, sharecroppers etc. It is indeed a shame that even after 37 years of independence most of our poor farmers continue to be in the clutches and at the mercy of the speculators, the middlemen, and the traders and the industrialists. The farmers will not get a remunerative price for jute but he has to purchase jute goods at a high price. Farmers won't get remunerative price for their sugarcane but they will have to buy sugar at a high price. Farmers don't get the right price for cotton but he has to buy cloth at a high price. The industrialists are raising the prices of their pro-

ducts everyday but the farmers who supply the raw materials, do not get a remunerative price for their product. Therefore, just announcing a price is not enough, it must be ensured that the farmers actually get even that price. We have seen that when a support price is announced, the Government agencies who are supposed to buy the crop at that price from the farmers, just disappear from the market. As a result, the poor small and marginal farmers, the sharecroppers, the bargadars etc. are compelled to sell their produce to the middlemen, at a far lower price. Now these very farmers, when they go to buy finished goods as consumers they have to pay a very high price. If this situation does not change then how can the farmers continue with their process of production? This is the big Question today. Sir, unless the farmer gets a remunerative price, he will not be able to buy the industrial goods which he requires in his everyday life. In this situation there is a possibility of the entire economy of our country collapsing some day.

Sir, in the end I will again request the Hon. Minister to find out how the farmers can be given a profitable and remunerative price and not merely support price for the crops produced with their blood and sweat.

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I congratulate my Hon. friend, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, on raising such an important discussion in the House. I also convey my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker who has permitted the House to discuss this important issue.

With a continuous increase in population and improvement in the Purchasing power of the people, the demand for agricultural commodities is continuing to increase. The demand for foodgrains by the turn of the century would be 200

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million tonnes as per the National Commission on Agriculture. Also, the Irrigation Commission has calculated that by 2000 AD the country will need 200 million tonnes of foodgrains.

The self-sufficiency of foodgrains which we claim is only short-lived. Drought and adverse weather conditions force us to go to the foreign market to import wheat.

In these circumstances, sufficient stress has to be laid on ensuring remunerative prices for agricultural commodities by which the farmers may be interested in producing more, foodgrains and agricultural products. But what we find is that the majority of our farmers are small and marginal farmers. 75% of our farmers own less than 2 hectares of land of their own which is another important factor why we should ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce. It is the farmers alone who can help in increasing production. The basis of fixation of such prices is the Agricultural Prices Commission on which the Government fully depends. APC fixes the prices, as we are told, on the basis of the cost of agricultural operation and inputs etc. but it is unfortunate that the report of the Agricultural Prices Commission is not made public. We do not know on what basis the fixation of such prices is done by the Agricultural Prices Commission. I do not know whether the Agricultural Prices Commission takes the above factors into account while fixing the prices.

The services to be reformed by the farmer are like those to be performed by the manager of a firm. Just like the manager of a firm, the farmer has also to arrangement for the supply of all inputs, credit from banks and cooperative societies, meet the revenue officers for various purposes and perform such other essential services. Agricultural operations are subject to Adverse conditions like disease, epidemics etc. The cost of transport from the production

point to the market is also involved. I do not know whether these factors are taken into account by the Agricultural Prices Commission while fixing the prices. These factors should be taken into account by the APC.

While fixing the support or remunerative prices, the APC is not taking into account the dry land farming because we could not provide irrigation facilities to at least 50% of our agricultural and cultivable land in our country. Most of the farmers are producing their agricultural produces from dry land. It costs more than that of the irrigated land. There are many States in the North Eastern region and also in the Eastern region like Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal also where irrigation facilities were not provided even to 25% of the cultivable land. So, we should give priority to provision of irrigation facilities to these States while considering about agricultural produce.

I would like to congratulate and express my gratitude to our departed and beloved leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi who in her new 20-Point Programme had stressed on the aspect of irrigation facilities which has been included as the first point. The Economic Advisory Committee has mentioned that the production of rice has stagnated in the Eastern and North Eastern States due to the poverty and lack of proper education of farmers.

The cultivators in those States cannot use modern technology and improved agricultural practices and, therefore, they cannot use the high-yielding varieties of seeds. This shows that in these States the farmers should be given support for producing more agricultural products.

As Prof. Dandavate has very correctly said, there should be parity in terms of trade between agricultural produce and manufactured products, in the absence of which agriculture in our country is

[Shri Chintamani Jana]

losing to the industry hundreds of crores of rupees every year.

From experience we have noticed that the support prices fixed are not acceptable to the farmers. For example, in the case of sugarcane last year, some States Governments had to come forward to give remunerative prices to farmers.

I should convey my gratitude to our beloved and dynamic leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi for fringing Crop Insurance Scheme in the Budget of 1985-86. As mentioned in our election manifesto, the Finance Minister has introduced crop insurance scheme. But unfortunately this will cover only wheat, paddy, oilseeds and pulses and will not cover other crops like betel leaves, groundnut, cotton, etc. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture may kindly consider extending the facility to the other crops as well.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. You can speak at the time of discussion on Agriculture Demands for Grants.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I want to congratulate our Finance Minister for having given subsidy to farmers in the matter of purchase of fertilisers.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. You can write to the Agriculture Minister, and he will look into those things. I am calling the next speaker. Shri Selvendran.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : One point, Sir. We notice that the purchasing agencies are not coming forward to purchase the agricultural produce in time because of which farmers are compelled to have distress sale of their agricultural produce. The purchasing agencies should be asked to be in the market before harvesting starts.

[Translation]

*SHRI P. SELVENDRAN (Periakulam) : Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in order to focus the attention of the House that remunerative prices should be given to the agriculturists, my esteemed friend Prof. Madhu Dandavate has brought forward this Resolution and I am glad participate in this important debate and express my views. Shri Madhu Dandavate has given many worthwhile suggestions and I am sure that the Hon. Minister would examine them for effective implementation.

Sir, there can be two opinion on the floor of this House for ensuring remunerative prices to the farmers. Agriculture is not a profession, but livelihood for a majority of our country's population. If a business man incurs losses in his business, he closes the shop and takes to some other business. But an agriculturist sticks to agriculture inspite of losses due to drought, due to cyclone, due to floods or due to any other natural cause. That is because agriculture is a way of life for him. He does not mind having been born in debt, living in debt and dying in debt. He will not forsake agriculture. In this background, it becomes the bounden duty of the Government to ensure remunerative prices for agriculturists.

The Agricultural Prices Commission makes recommendations to the Government in this regard. Many times the recommendations are implemented in to by the Government. Some time slight modifications are made in the recommendations of APC.

I would only say that there cannot be one price for the produce of wet land and for the produce of dry land. The APC should consider this issue in depth and make recommendations suitably.

*The Speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

In 1984-85 the statutory minimum price for sugarcane was fixed at Rs. 14/- per quintal. This was based on 8.5% recovery. Sir, the recovery from sugarcane is dependent upon the fertility of the soil and upon the sugarcane. It is not depended upon the toil of the tiller. Hence it must be ensured that the remunerative price for sugarcane must be higher than what it is now. As pointed out by the Member from Telugu Desam Party, even bagasse gets better price than that of sugarcane.

Sir, the Food Corporation of India is doing signal service to the agriculturists in the country. The Corporation buys substantial quantities of foodgrains from the farmers and keeps them in stock. Unfortunately, the FCI is not buying directly from the farmers. The foodgrains are procured through middlemen. The middlemen do not hesitate to exploit their ignorance of the farmers. He gets lesser price even for good quality grains by giving an impression to the farmers that the foodgrains are of inferior quality. Even in weighing the farmers are cheated by these middlemen. It is really unfortunate that the agriculturists, who feed the nation, are treated shabbily by the officials of FCI, by the middlemen and traders and even by other sections of our society. The ignorance of farmers has become a handy tool for others to treat them with contempt. This is wrong. The farmers must be treated with dignity. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture should ensure that the FCI buys directly foodgrains from the farmers; the middlemen should be done away with. Then only the farmers can get remunerative prices.

My constituency Periakulam is known for the production of cardamom, which earns foreign exchange for the Government. In the whole world, only three countries including India produce cardamom. Since the Indian cardamom is of the highest quality, it has great market in middle-east countries. In spite of this the cardamom cultivators are not

getting remunerative prices. The Cardamom Board seems to be an exercise in futility, since it has not been able to get remunerative prices for cardamom cultivators. The Minister of Agriculture should look into this problem also and do the needful.

In my constituency Periakulam, Theni is the biggest marketing centre for cotton. M.C. 5 cotton and L.R.A. cotton are brought to the Theni market, which meets twice in a week—Thursday and Sunday. The cotton has to be sold when it is wet. To the two-day markets on Thursday and Sunday, some 40,000 quintals reach Theni. The officials of Cotton Corporation of India, who come to Theni on these days, buy only 3000 to 4000 quintals of cotton. The CCI does not buy cotton directly from the cultivators. The CCI officials buy cotton through middlemen and commission agents. The officials who come to these markets are ignorant about cotton and its quality. Naturally they depend upon middlemen and commission agents. These commission agents are a heartless lot and they cheat the cultivators of cotton in open day light. It must be ensured that cotton is purchased directly by the CCI from the cultivators. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture must exert his good offices in this also and ensure remunerative price for cotton growers.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba) : I am very thankful to you for giving me time.

While discussing a vital issue in this august House and as time is very scarce...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You want a reply from the Minister. do you not ? I want to give more time to the Minister.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : As the time is short, I have to skip many points, but I will deal with the important points. So far as the point of remunerative price is concerned, Prof. Dandavate has elaborated very ably. So I will not go into detail and repeat those points again. The first and most important point is : what will be the cost of production ? Again here I would like to mention another point. While determining the remunerative price and that is the standard of living of the farmers and the agricultural labour, while fixing the remunerative price, are we going to take into consideration what standard of living we are giving to the agricultural labour as well as to the farmer—will it be the standard of living of a beggar in the street or of a class IV service or of a class III service ?

The standard of living which we are going to give the agriculturists has to be taken into consideration while determining the remunerative prices. It is very necessary to give the proper price to the agriculturist. At present the poor farmers has to sell their produce under distress even when they know that if they wait for few days they will get, better price for their produce. The rich farmers who have the holding capacity are able to get more prices. If monopoly purchase are made by the Government then this contradiction will not be there.

Some people argue that if farmers are given higher price then the consumers will have to pay more price. It is not correct. If the middleman is avoided then it can be guaranteed that the producers can get reasonable price and the consumers will also get the things at a lesser price. So Government should think of taking over of purchase of agricultural commodities.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to another important point. The National Commission on Agriculture in its final report in 1976 has recommended that the overall

relation between input and output within agriculture should be such as to stimulate growth in rural areas and further recommended that index number of parity between prices received and prices paid to the farmers both for domestic and for farm expenses should be constructed so that a watch can be kept on the behaviour of parity and corrective measures taken wherever parity gets unduly disturbed to the disadvantage of the farmer. The Commission has suggested that parity should be maintained and if it is not maintained then the agriculturist has to lose.

Today the Hon. Minister has declared the support price of wheat at Rs. 157 per quintal. In 1982 the Haryana government had requested the Central Government to fix the price on the basis of price index. According to the Haryana Government at that time in 1982 the cost of production per quintal of wheat was Rs. 186.30 and on that basis they asked for a price of Rs. 170 per quintal whereas it was fixed at Rs. 150. Now, taking all these factors into consideration the prices which have been declared today are much less and the principle of parity between the agricultural prices and what he has to pay for his maintenance is not there. So, the pertinent question. I want to ask the Hon. Minister is whether the government is prepared to accept agriculture as an industry. If the Government accepts agriculture as an industry then I think we will be going on the right path. I am sure the Hon. Minister will answer to this pertinent question.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : I would like to submit that the Hon. Minister should keep the interests of the consumers also in view while replying.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : I would like the Hon. Minister to clarify in his reply the

position of small farmers and marginal farmers while defining farmer.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am indeed grateful to all the Hon. Members who have participated in the very important discussion this afternoon connected with the welfare of the farming community of our country.

Sir, as has been rightly pointed out by prof. Madhu Dandavate ji, the kisans are the backbone of our national economy. I would go a step further and say that they are the very life-line of our national economy. This was very appropriately put by the Hon. Finance Minister when he started his Budget speech. This House will kindly recall that the Finance Minister started his Budget speech by paying his tributes to the kisans and the farmers of our country by saying that Rural Development and Agriculture will continue to be at the centre of the scheme of things in planning by the Government of India. That shows how much importance the Government attaches to the welfare of the peasants and farmers in this country.

Sir, I will touch upon some of the suggestions made by Hon Members with regard to the pricing policy of agricultural produce in our country. Some of the Hon. Members have made some general observations. I will deal with them at the time of discussion of my Ministry's Demands.

As Hon. Members are well aware, the main objectives of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce are aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encouraging them for higher investment and adoption of improved technology for raising

productivity of their resources, increasing production and at the same time safeguarding the interests of the consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. Towards this end, Government announces each season procurement and support prices for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public agencies such as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

Now, Sir, a pertinent question has been asked by almost all the Hon. Members who have participated in this Debate.

As we expected from Prof. Madhu Dandavate, he has given new dimensions to the debate today by highlighting some of the very, very important aspects which the Agricultural Prices Commission must take into consideration before deciding the support price for agricultural commodities. This was highlighted by Prof. Ranga ji, our veteran freedom fighter, who has championed the cause of the kisans all his life.

Sir, the Government decides on the support price for various agricultural commodities, taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices, the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which, in the opinion of the Government, are important for fixation of support prices. All these are taken into account.

Some of the Hon. Members wanted to know as to that are the various elements that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices should take into consideration while arriving at a

[Shri Buta Singh]

reasonable price to be declared as a support price. For this purpose the Commission is supplied with estimates of cost of cultivation and production generated through the Comprehensive Scheme for studying the cost of cultivation being implemented by the Agricultural Universities and Research Institutes in various States. As of now, a total of 9,000 holdings are studied every year. Prof. Dandavate ji, these costs are not arrived at only while sitting in the Krishi Bhawan. We Make spot study and case study of each crop and not only in one State as suggested by some of the Hon. Members, but we take into account the variation in each State under different circumstances, under most favourable circumstances, under unfavourable circumstances, in rainfed areas, in dry lands, etc All these things are done every year. About 9,000 holdings are studied every year through the Universities. The universities are working in close cooperation with the Agricultural Departments in various States and the Extension Services are also available with them. The experts from the Commission go to the various areas to study per-acre/hectare input used.

Now, the Commission also takes into consideration the changes in the input costs since the completion of the study and provides for such changes before formulating its price recommendations. The Commission has developed the practice of consultations with the State Governments and various other public institutions and concerned interests including farmers, trade and industry before finalising its recommendations. At present the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends to the Government support prices for 20 major agricultural commodities. The Commission however recommends about 12 major agricultural commodities for fixing the support prices. One Hon. Member has said that we are fixing support prices for only one or two commodities and most of the other commodities have been left out.

For the information of the Hon. Members, I may mention the 20 major agricultural commodities. They are : Paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, gram, arhar, moong, urad, sugarcane, cotton, jute, tobacco, groundnut, sunflower, soyabean, rapeseed and mustard.

Now, what are the considerations that the commission takes into account before making the cost price as reasonable remunerative cost ? The Commission takes into account not only a comprehensive over-view of the entire structure of the economy of a particular commodity but also a number of important factors as indicated hereunder :

1. Cost of Production
2. Changes in input prices
3. Input/output price parity
4. Trends in market prices
5. Demand and supply
6. Inter-crop price parity
7. Effect on industrial cost structure
8. Effect on general price level
9. Effect on cost of living
10. International market price situation
11. Parity between prices paid and prices received.

These are the various factors taken into account. I am sure the Hon. Members, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and Prof. N. G. Ranga will agree with me that these are the various constituents which any reasonable body more so the Agriculture Prices Commission should take into consideration. These are the points which most of the Hon. Members highlighted in their speeches and I can assure the Hon. Members that the Government is very much alive to the various conditions under which our peasant and farmers are working.

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to Ensure Remunerative *to Ensure Remunerative*
Prices For Agricultural *Prices For Agricultural*
Produce to Farmers *Produce to Farmers*

The cost of cultivation/production take into account includes all paid-out costs, such as those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs, as for example, seed fertilizers, manures, pesticides, and irrigation charges including cost of diesel/electricity for operation of pumpsets. Besides, cost of production includes imputed value of family labour, The cost also covers depreciation of farm machinery and buildings.

20.00 hrs.

Now, these are the very principles on which the Agriculture Prices Commission goes into the details and then arrives at a price which they think reasonable and remunerative for the farmers. Much has been said about the facilities being provided to the agriculturists and to the industrialists. As Prof. Dandavate said, on the point of credit facility, given to the farmers—if you look at the volume of credit that has flowed to this sector—between 1970-71 and 1983-84 it is like this. The co-operative credit disbursement in 1970-71 was of the order of Rs. 745 crores whereas in 1983-84, it touched the figure of Rs. 2900 crores. The rate of interest charged from the farmers is 10% to 11.5% which is quite concessional as compared to the industry from 12 to 17 percent. Similarly, the share of marginal and small farmers out of the figures that I have given is little over forty percent. Therefore, the thrust is on the weaker section of our peasants and farmers. The institutional credit provided by the national network of our banks as also the specialised bank NABARD through the cooperative system in our country is helping the farmer. I do not claim that this is ideal but to say that we have not been considering the plight of our farmers is also not correct. The Government, specially after the sixties, 1965-70, have

been paying special attention to the needs of the farmers. What is wrong with the present system of cultivation in our country is not facilities. Of course, yes, we must provide the facilities to the farmers, but it is the basic pattern of holding, as mentioned by the Hon. Member, Shri Dandavate. The revenue system varies from State to State. In one State, it is quite progressive, in the other State, it is not. The nature of landholdings in our country is varies from the very primitive to the latest, the most modern methods of landholding. In some of the States, especially those ruled by Jagirdars and Nawabas, the peasants and farmers were treated as slaves. They used to pick up the entire produce of the farmers leaving only a small portion with him, irrespective of the fact whether he can feed his family for the year or not. Therefore, the landholding itself is the biggest problem of our agricultural community. In that also, there is further fragmentation of holdings. If a farmer holds six acres of land in one village, it would not be at one place; one acre on one side, two acres on the other, and three acres still somewhere else. The fragmentation of small holdings makes it impossible for the cultivator to use any kind of modern technique. He cannot use his tractor, dig a tubewell, because he has to carry the water from one corner to the other and it will include so many fields in between and that gives rise to disputes and litigation. The secret of success of some of the States which have been quite often mentioned in this House, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Western U.P. etc...

PROF. MAHDU DANDAVATE :
 You mentioned the volume of credit that was given to the peasants. But there is one lacuna in that. If you find out the percentage of credit that was needed and actual credit that was given to the peasants, you will find that that will be a small amount.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I qualified my

[Shri Buta Singh]

statement by saying that this is not ideal. I would have welcomed that every farmer must get what he requires, but there is a big constrain on the resources. There are many agencies in some of the States, that I was going to mention, for example Punjab, Harayana etc. In addition to the short term cooperative credit, the nationalised banks, these States have evolved a very fine system of land mortgage banks. These banks themselves go to study the conditions of a farmer and they themselves come to the conclusion how much credit is needed by a farmer. We have to have that kind of infrastructure all over the country, so that the farmer can get what he requires to enable him to put with his best. We will continue to strive to see that these condition are made available to the farmers.

SARI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : The land development banks charge penal interest from the farmers and that interest is more than what the money lenders charge and they do not come under the Money Lending Act. When they charge the penal interest, the cultivator is practically ruined. Will you kindly that this penal interest is not charged from the farmers, and the Money Lending Act is also made applicable to these bankers ?

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : I would like to bring one matter to the Hon. Minister's notice. I have raised this issue many a time in this House. The Punjab National Bank, recovers an amount of Rs. 1600 against the loan of Rs. 3000, given by it.

The Government should issue some directives against such recovery. There is a provision in the Civil Procedure Code that no one can recover more than double the amount of loan, but Punjab National Bank recovers five times the amount given as loan. It should be checked.

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I will definitely note down the suggestions by the Hon. Member. What I have been trying to bring before the notice of the august House is this. It is not that Government is not alive to the various problems that the Hon. Members have raised concerning the plight of our farmers. It was mentioned that the terms of trade, of industry and agriculture are at a great disparity. Obviously, you cannot compare one with the other, because there are so many factors. What constitutes the industry sector does not constitute the agriculture sector. There are in built disparities.

According to the data published in the *Economic Survey* which was presented before this House, the terms of trade, of industry and agriculture in the recent years have moved in favour of agriculture. The wholesale price index numbers of agriculture and manufactured products do not fully reflect the impact of subsidy on food, which is in the year 84-85, Rs. 850 crores. It appears to be a subsidy to the consumers but in effect it is the difference between the higher procurement prices paid to the farmers but not fully passed on to the consumers through higher issue prices.

Secondly, the subsidy in 1984-85 was Rs. 1080 crores. These are meant to keep the input costs of farmers low. You see that it is a big dose.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : All these benefits are availed only by the big land lords.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Ultimately it increases the total foodgrain production in the country. That is the total impact of these subsidies.

Apart from the above, some of the other important inputs of farmers, such

as electricity for agriculture and water for irrigation are supplied to farmers at subsidized rates. As was mentioned by Shri Rajesh Pilot (I must say, I agree with him) all that is mentioned is not made available and all that is said in our policies is not made available to the farmers. We have to be very vigilant about it. We cannot leave it to the mercy of the middling agencies whether it is bureaucracy or private agencies or anybody. We have to monitor and our Prime Minister has already asked the Administrative Ministers to be very vigilant about the monitoring of the various schemes that we have formulated for the welfare of the poorer sections of the society.

Sir, in the sector of electricity, power is made available to the farmers comparatively at a lower rate. I agree that the misuse of flat rate which is charged from the farmers is reported from some of the States.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : In some States there is the system of minimum charge, which is sometimes more than what the farmers consume.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, because it is a flat rate, they have to pay, even if cuts are made on the electricity supply because of some erratic system in electricity transmission itself. But if you compare it with industry, then it definitely works in favour of the farmers. Especially, when it is the season when the crop is near about harvest, even at the cost of industry we supply electricity to the farmers. In this connection, this year the Hon. Minister of Energy and myself have been personally in touch with most of the Chief Ministers to see that the farmers are not starved for want of supply of power, because the crop was at a critical stage and they responded very well.

Sir, the index of prices of industrial products exaggerates the receipts by the industry inasmuch as a bulk of their prices includes various excise and other duties levied by both Central and State

Governments. Over time, the duties on most of these items have been increased whereas agricultural products are generally exempt from such taxes. Also, the incidence of such taxes on the important inputs of agriculture is negligible or relatively low. These are some of the comparisons which are working in favour of agriculture as compared to industry. If the Hon. Members mean that the attention which is being paid to industry, the same attention should be paid to the agriculture, I am one with them. We will do all that is possible within our means to see that the agriculture do not suffer for want of government's attention. You know, this is a task of national importance and the industries have been getting favourable terms in term of credit, in terms of power supply, in terms of permits. The agriculturists have not been getting that favour. But with the new thrust of our government, we will see we will make sure that so far neglected sector in our agriculture is taken care of especially the Hon. Member from Orissa mentioned that the north eastern region feels neglected, the problem in the north eastern region is not more than that of the cultivation itself; the problem of north eastern region is the management of water. There are certain areas in our country which are suffering from want of water; there are certain areas in our country which are suffering because water is more than the desired quantity. We are paying special attention to it. I have already directed our scientists in the ICAR to find out the variety of paddy and other crops which can stand well in the water available in the north eastern region; as the Hon. Prime Minister himself has taken up this matter a number of times, we will pay special attention to the north eastern region and also desert-prone areas. There is a definite scheme for improving the desert in the various parts of our country and we will be paying more attention to the dry farming rainfed area of the north eastern region with a view to increase the food-grains in our country. Having said all that, I must say that much is desired to

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be done in the field of agriculture. But I cannot agree with the Hon. members that the prices so far we have been paying to the agriculturists are working to the disadvantage of the farmers.

If I give you, in brief, the impact of the pricing policy of our government, you will realise how far it has gone to help the farmers in raising our annual foodgrains production. The support price by the government has a positive impact on the growth of agricultural sector. Rice production, which was caught in the trap of 52 to 54 million tonnes, achieved a new height of 59.8 million tonnes in 1983-84 and is expected to remain high during the current year. Wheat production has achieved a record level in each successive year during the last four years and is expected to achieve another record during the current year. Anticipated production will be much higher than in the last year. Similarly, we are surpassing 6th Plan target of 44 million tonnes by a handsome margin. Similarly, oilseeds production which was hovering around 100 lakh tonnes has scaled a new level of 120 lakh tonnes last year and is expected to do about 130 lakh tonnes this year. Pulses production has also been going up though it is still short of our requirement and we will pay special attention to the production of pulses especially in the dry farming area. (*Interruptions*) I understand what the Hon. Member has in mind. Whenever we take irrigation to the field, the pulses disappear because the farmers switch over to the better variety of crops. So we will make it possible by suitably evolving the seeds for high yielding variety of pulses to make it more attractive for the farmers so that the areas under pulses do not shrink sugarcane production reached a record level of 189.5 million tonnes in 1982-83, but weather factor was subsequently not conducive. However, in the case of fibre like jute and cotton, the unfavourable weather conditions have affected the realisation of our target level. In the case of potato and onion, a record level of production was achieved in 1983-84. During the

current year, the production of potato is expected to be still higher and this speaks amply that the pricing policy of the Government of India has not been working as a deterrent, rather it has been encouraging the farmers to grow more foodgrains, I am sorry. I have to reflect on one of the observations made by my friend, Shri S. P. Sadu.

I thought he would not have come to that level, but having said that, I must say that he was not fair when he said that the ruling party is mixed up with the import of edible oils. It is easy to say all these, but it is difficult to prove. But I have discovered one thing in Andhra Pradesh. That is, the programmes which were given under the 20-Point Programme have been mis-named. Programmes like the NREP, and the LRGP have been called in Andhra Pradesh, 'Ramaravudi' We should believe and we should try to live in honesty. If those programmes were given by the Government of India as national programme, their levels should not have been changed in Andhra Pradesh, just to win a few votes. That should not be the approach and that has never been our approach. I can assure the Hon. Members that there is no truth whatsoever in this and I repudiate the charge made by the Hon. Member against this Government.

With these words I again express my heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Members and especially to the Hon. Member who initiated the debate for having highlighted the problems of Indian farmers and I can assure him that the Government will spare no efforts to see that the farming community in our country is able to play its given role in nation building and increasing the food production of our country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

20.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 22, 1985/Chaitru 1, 1907 (Saka).