

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Fourteenth Session — Second Part
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday October 13, 1989/Asvina 21, 1911
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, you know that Shri V P Singh has said that he or his family members had no foreign accounts. The Minister should come with a comprehensive statement whether the Reserve Bank of India or the CBI have investigated the matter regarding Ajeya Singh's assets. It is a very serious matter.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please write to the Ministry of Finance.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): You ask the Government on our behalf to have a discussion on this....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I can hear only one person at a time.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Look here, just listen to me. If you listen to me, you will come to know.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to have a discussion on it, please give it in writing.

[English]

If there is time, we can do it. Find the time; I do not know.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Several Members have given notices for discussion on this subject and the Government is ready for that. We can have a discussion this afternoon. (Interruptions)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): I have given a notice for discussion under Rule 193...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is over. What more do you want now?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to lay two very important

posters on the Table of the House and I would also like to point out that it is a very grave situation. Shrimati Subhadra Joshi, Chairman of the Sampradayikta Virodhi Committee and Mr. Goel have drawn my attention to the life size posters displayed at the railway station. I have also see these posters. In these posters the organisers have written, "you were welcome to the capital of Hindu Rashtra. They have made an *appeal* to Hindus for the Ram Janambhoomi.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, please sit down.

[English]

There is a certain way to do certain things.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Howsoever objectionable thing it may be, it should be presented in a proper manner so that some solution could be found out for that.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I was going to say the same thing. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can give it according to the prescribed procedure.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: We have to halt this onslaught on democracy. They are creating conditions of a civil war.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. Communalism and democracy cannot go together.

[English]

Democracy and communalism cannot stay in one scabbard. They are poles apart. Violence and democracy cannot go together. It is so simple.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give it in a proper manner. I shall send it to them.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: We want the Government to take notice of what is happening. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I am laying it on the table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not lay it on the table. I am just telling you the proper way.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this poster was on display at the railway station.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, the Home Minister will be here. I can understand their auguish and concern. But we are having a discussion here...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I was going to say.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar): Sir, there is an unprecedented situation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is going to be covered during the course of discussion today.

[English]

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI: Many people have been killed in Anantnag, Srinagar and Sopore. I stand here to mourn the

deaths of the innocent people. It is state terrorism which is taking the lives of the people of Kashmir. I stand here to mourn their deaths because in this biggest institution which is the highest forum...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do it in this House. Why are you acting funny?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever Mr. Kabuli says does not form part of the record. I have not allowed him.

*(Interruptions)**

[At this stage Shri Abdul Rashid Kabuli came and sat on the floor near the Table]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kabuli, will you withdraw from the House?

*(Interruptions)**

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: There is a duly elected Government in Jammu and Kashmir. This is a state subject and that Government will take care of it. Nobody can dismiss that Government. Only the people of Jammu and Kashmir will decide. All these issues will be decided by the vote of the people. We shall go to the hustings and the people will decide it. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Look here, Please keep quiet for a minute.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kabuli, will you

withdraw from the House. I will like to name you!

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: I would like to appeal to the hon. member that this House is in the process of discussing the communal situation. The hon. Home Minister whom he wants to intervene is going to reply to the debate. The hon. Minister is going to participate in the debate. It would be in the fitness of things that you participate in the debate in the normal course. We are amenable to discussion, we are amenable to reason. You can put forth your complaints during the course of the discussion. *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The behaviour of this hon. gentleman is abominable. It is deplorable. He has transgressed all limits of democracy. You can have your say but the minority cannot dictate. I am not going to allow like this. Will you withdraw from the House or shall I name you?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much. I don't like this. This is derogatory.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allow a single word of his to go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

[At this Shri Abdul Kabuli left the House]

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for permitting me to speak. I was going to submit that today all the newspapers in India have brought out certain new facts on Bofors issue which have created fresh apprehensions in the minds of the people. I request you to allow a discussion on this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: On what?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: On the Bofors deal.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Is there anything significant in it? Mr. Shahabuddin, you give it in writing. Earlier also, I had allowed a discussion for about 55 to 56 hours. Even now I have no difficulty in allowing a discussion on it, but if time does not permit it, what can I do?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, the Government is ready for discussion. Time permitting; if the House is willing to take it up after today's business, then we can discuss Bofors. No problem, if the House wishes it.

MR. SPEAKER: The House is meant for discussion and no discussion is barred.

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that in your constituency Shri Devi Lal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What do I know?

CH. RAM PRAKASH: When he was in Congress Party, he was a good man. But now when he has left it...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I do not allow it.

[English]

No aspersion on a person who is not a Member of the House and who is not present here.

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH: You know about Gurgaon. All the Panchayat land in Gurgaon...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow any names.

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH: In spite of that they have pressed 10 to 15 thousand bulldozers into service on the rest of the land in the Shivalik hills.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You write to the Governor.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State subject. When I did not allow one person, how can I allow the other.

*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing. No, not allowed.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH: Please let me know as to why don't you dismiss such a Chief Minister.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Governor to take action in this matter. You may please represent to him. Do you understand or not. I also know that things are done in this manner. It is wrong. You represent to him,

then only something can be done in that regard. I cannot do any thing in this regard.

(Interruptions)

CH. RAM PRAKASH: You are one of my old and senior colleagues and have also been my old mentor. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have lot of sympathy for you.

(Interruptions)

CH. RAM PRAKASH: You may recall that once when you asked me to speak on the subject under discussion. *(Interruptions)* I had expressed my views on it. That is why I have requested you to dismiss this fellow immediately. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sympathetic to you and would continue to be so even in future. But I cannot do anything more than that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Prakash made a point in regard to Haryana. But a very unconstitutional thing is going to take place. The President Janata Dal of Haryana has given a notice also to that effect. It has been reported in the newspapers too. They have decided that in future only such persons would be appointed to the posts, from the S.P. to Peon, whose applications are recommended by the respective District President of Janata Dal. Can there be more unconstitutional thing than this? You can see it yourself. In a democracy, the part voted to power forms the Government which belongs to all the people, but if such things will be allowed to be done, I think, this will encourage corruption. The District President of the Janata Dal will take illegal gratification for recommending candidates for selection.

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow a State subject to be discussed here.

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

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: We are here because of the Constitution....*(Interruptions)*....

[English]

It is completely unconstitutional.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: This point is for this House to consider. It is totally unconstitutional, unacceptable, unsupportable and undemocratic. If it is so, it simply cannot be permitted, if the rule of law has any meaning...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARI): Shahabuddin Ji, why don't you come out? What do you have to say? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The hon. Member is right in drawing attention to this; I think the Department of Personnel should look into this matter. That is all I want to say. It is a matter fit to be raised, and the Department of Personnel should make an enquiry into it, if it is true.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARI): But it is utterly unconstitutional; and it amounts to subverting the Constitution. Therefore, the matter is very serious, and this should be noted by the entire House and the Government. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This allegation was made in the House earlier also. There are other things too. These things do not satisfy my sense of reason. I do not simply believe that any one can do this. I had stated this thing in the House on that day also that it did not appear to be rational that somebody would use money power to secure resignation from anybody.

...(Interruptions)....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: It is an assumption. There can not be a greater impropriety than this that no application would be considered for selection to the posts without authorisation from the ruling party.

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It is also wrong.

[English]

I am living in a democratic society, of which I am proud.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Sir, whatever I said has been reported in the press also and all the hon. Members have also gone through it. It has been stated openly in the public meeting that the unemployed...(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These things have to be taken care of.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: The Department of Personnel should look into this matter. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: As the servant of this House and as the custodian of the rights of the people, I think that if these things happen, they have to be taken very seriously. They should be looked into because it cuts at the very root of democracy. Secondly, I also deplore and I said on that day on the Floor of this House, with all responsibility, knowing the implications of what I was saying, that I cannot believe that a man will be rewarded or a man can be asked to tender his resignation by offering some(Interruptions)....

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Bribery ?

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot say. But it is something I could not believe. But if somebody says that some money from this or that person has been given, it neither enhances the prestige of the person who has taken it nor does it enhance the prestige of the person who has given it. Both ways it is derogatory. It cuts at the very root of a democratic society. I do not understand what to do about it. It is for the Government and the people who are incharge to take action. You have to think about some norms about this problem as representatives of the people.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not my job. This is the job of the Constitutional Head of the State, that is the Governor and the Home Ministry.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: The Home Ministry should do something about it.

MR. SPEAKER: You can represent about it. I am not the proper authority.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: The Department of Personnel should look into this matter.

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH: I have visited Germany, U.S.A. and many other foreign countries. Everywhere people ask the same thing** (Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow anybody to say all this. No, no, you cannot say these things. I will not allow. I cannot allow derogatory words against the person.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: I

do not want to say anything against him personally.

MR. SPEAKER: I can only guarantee one thing that I can always allow discussion. As Mr. Shahabuddin just now said, that a discussion may be allowed on Bofors. I have got no objection. I never had any objection. I had had discussions on it before. I think it was more than 54 hours debate. We have already had it. If there is time I have no problem because this is the only forum where you are project your views. The Opposition can have its stay. But, eventually, till the next election or if there is my change anywhere, the majority shall always have its say. You can discuss it. You cannot force your will on others. The majority can only be determined by the people of this country and the people have always acted according to the best interest of this country. They know what to do and what not to do. I have full faith in them. Some people might boast that they can do this thing or that thing. It is impossible. It is foolish to think like that. People will decide according to their own judgement and in the best interest of this country. That is why I say that we should uphold it. The tradition should be upheld. The discussion may be held without any impediments whatever may be the case.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): This depends upon the constraint of time. Because of what we may not be in a position to have discussion. But the Government can make a statement clarifying the position as the Government sees it. At least that statement can come.

MR. SPEAKER: You can have discussion. We can sit late. Can't we do work? We go and water fields at night. It does not matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Mahabharat serial, Draupadi was not shown disrobed but everybody watched a scene of Mahabharat in Rohtak, where 3 girls were disrobed in public and people offered clothes to them to cover their bodies. Corruption and crime is increasing in such circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State subject. I cannot do anything about it.

...(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may talk to the Governor, you bring it to the notice of the Governor.

...(Interruptions)...

CH. RAM PRAKASH: We are not getting any protection from the Governor, I was even shot at. There is no safety for us there.

HON. SPEAKER: Sharmaji, do you want to say something?

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): What does the Governor do? He finds himself helpless. He does not listen. He does not even have the courtesy of acknowledging the letters of Members of Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: That is his responsibility. I cannot force the Governor.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Where should we go?

MR. SPEAKER: You can go to the President. He has the authority.

Now we take up Papers Laid on the Table.

11.26 hrs.

of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, Thanjavur, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8349/89]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Award of the Board of Arbitration (JCM) dated 12.8.1985 in C.A. Reference No. 9 and 10 of 1983 re grant of higher pay scales to Senior Scientific Assistants, etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): On behalf of my colleague, Shri K.C. Pant, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Award of the Board of Arbitration (JCM) (Hindi and English versions) dated the 12th August, 1985 in C.A. Reference Nos. 9 and 10 of 1983 regarding grant of higher pay scales to the Senior Scientific Assistants, Draftsmen, Store-keeping Staff and Civilian Motor Drivers in Defence Establishments together with a statement explaining modifications preferred in the Award in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8348/89]

Annual Report and Review on Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, Thanjavur for 1988-89

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, Thanjavur, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working

Report etc. of Sree Anantha Grameena Bank etc. for period ending 31-3-89

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): On behalf of my colleague, Shri Eduardo Faleiro, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Annual Report (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Report of the Sree Anantha Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8324/89]
- (ii) Report of the Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8325/89]
- (iii) Report of the Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See. LT-8323/89]
- (iv) Report of the Akola Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8322/89]
- (v) Report of the Murshidabad Gramin Bank for the year

- ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8333/89]
- (vi) Report of the Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8332/89]
- (vii) Report of the Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library See No LT-8343/89]
- (viii) Report of the Junagadh-Amreli Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8335/89]
- (ix) Report of the Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8334/89]
- (x) Report of Panchmahal-Vadodara Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8338/89]
- (xi) Report of the Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8339/89]
- (xii) Report of the Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 8336/89]
- (xiii) Report of the Gurdaspur-Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8331/89]
- (xiv) Report of the Etah Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8337/89]
- (xv) Report of the Ambala-Kurukshetra Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8319/89]
- (xvi) Report of the Mandla-Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8317/89]
- (xvii) Report of the Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library See No. LT-8327/89]
- (xviii) Report of the Dhenkanal Gramya Bank for the year ended

- the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8326/89]
- (xix) Report of the Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. Lt-8328/89]
- (xx) Report of the Bhilwara-Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8318/89]
- (xxi) Report of the North Malabar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [placed in Library. See No. LT-8321/89]
- (xxii) Report of the Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8329/89]
- (xxiii) Report of the Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8326/89]
- (xxiv) Report of the Kakathiya Grammeena Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8342/89]

(xxv) Report of the Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8341/89]

(xxvi) Report of the Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 together with Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8340/89]

Report of Committee of Parliament on Official Language—Part 3, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language—Part 3 (Chapter 1 to 15) and (Chapter 16 to 18) for the year 1988 under sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8350/89]

Statements showing action taken by Government on various assurances, promises, etc, given by Ministers during various sessions of Eighth Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI-MATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth Lok Sabha:-

(i) Statement No. XVII—Third Session, 1985. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8351/89]

(ii) Statement No. XXII—Fourth Session, 1985. [Placed in

Library. *See* No. LT-8352/89]

- (iii) Statement No. XXIV—Fifth Session, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8353/89]
- (iv) Statement No. XXII—Sixth Session, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8354/89]
- (v) Statement No. XIX—Seventh Session, 1986. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8355/89]
- (vi) Statement No. XIX—Seventh Session, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8356/89]
- (vii) Statement No. XV— II part of Eighth Session, 1987. [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-8357/89]
- (viii) Statement No. XIV—Ninth Session, 1987. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8358/89]
- (ix) Statement No. XII—Tenth Session, 1988. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8359/89]
- (x) Statement No. VIII—Eleventh Session, 1988 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8360/89]
- (xi) Statement No. V—Twelfth Session, 1988 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8361/89]
- (xii) Statement No. IV—Thirteenth Session, 1989. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8362/89]
- (xiii) Statement No. I—Fourteenth Session, 1989. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8363/89]

Review by Government on Indian Petrochemical Corporation Ltd., Vadodara for 1988-89 and Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Madras for 1988-89

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Vadodara, for the year 1988-89.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, Vadodara, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8364/89]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Madras, for the year 1988-89, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Madras, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8365/89]

11.28 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 11th October, 1989, agreed without any amendment to the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1989, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th July, 1989."
- (ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held today, the 12th October, 1989, adopted the following motion in regard to the appointment of Members of the Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Shipping Agents (Licensing) Bill, 1987:

"That this House recommends to the Lok Sabha that the Lok Sabha do appoint two Members of the Lok Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Spinning Agents (Licensing) Bill, 1987, in the vacancies caused by the resignation from the membership of the Lok Sabha of Shri Satyandra Narayan Sinha, a member of the said Joint Committee and resignation from the membership of the said Joint Committee of Shri P

Namgyal, and communicate to this House the names of the Members so appointed by the Lok Sabha to the said Joint Committee'.

- (iii) 'In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 12th October, 1989, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th August, 1989, in the Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1988:-

Enacting Formula

1. Page 1, line 1,—

for "Thirty-ninth" substitute "Fourteenth"

Clause—1

2. Page 1, line 4,—

for '1988" substitute "1989".'

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salem-pur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. My point of order is that Shri Kabuli Saheb has just shown indiscipline. Shri Kabuli has been elected on National Conference ticket, he has broken the discipline of his party.

MR. SPEAKER: I will take note of it is a member belonging to his party raises the point.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Action

should be taken against him for indiscipline as provided under the Rules.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is no more a member of that party.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: He is no more a member of the National Conference. Now we take up the calling attention, Shri Mohanty.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question, it should be taken up for discussion under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA: Many hon. Members wanted to take part in it. It is a burning problem. It is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER. There is no time.

...(Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, what are you doing? I have got no time. If there is time, I have got no objection.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Calling Attention can be converted into Rule 193 discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be done if there is no time.

(Interruptions)*

SHRIT. BASHEER (Chirayankil): I also support that, Sir. (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record except Mr. Mohanty's speech. Mr. Mohanty, you carry on.

11.30 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Steep Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Steep rise in prices of essential commodities and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record except what Mr. Mohanty Says.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mohanty, you carry on.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): Sir, I share the concern of the Honourable Members over the increase in the prices of some of the essential commodities and I would like to apprise the House of the various measures that have been taken to check the rise in prices. I would, however, like to submit that although there has been increase in the prices of some of the commodities like sugar in recent

[Sh. Sukh Ram]

weeks, the overall price situation is not alarming as is being made out.

2. Honourable Members are aware that there is normally a seasonal increase in the prices of essential commodities during the lean season from April or mid-May to September. The prices, however, start declining from the mid of August or early September. In 1989, the seasonal dip has been delayed by a few weeks and the WPI has exhibited a decline in the week ending 23.9.1989.
3. The analysis of the wholesale price index of essential commodities indicates that while index of foodgrains including cereals and pulses was higher by 6.1% over the period of one year as on 23.9.1989, the WPI of sugar, khandsari and gur was higher by 20.7%, edible oils were higher by 6.8%. The increase noticed in the prices of essential commodities in recent weeks is partly seasonal; and the larger increase in the prices of items like sugar and tea has to some extent been due to a decline in production.
4. The Government have been keeping a close watch on price situation and have taken a number of steps to augment supplies especially of rice, sugar and edible oils. In the case of sugar, Government have released an additional festival quota of one lakh tonnes through PDS during the month of October besides the normal allocation of 3.32 lakh tonnes. The quota for free sale sugar was also raised to 6 lakh tonnes. Thus for the month of October, 1989, the total releases amount to a record level of 10.32 lakh tonnes. Despite the fact that

the Government have maintained the releases through PDS at normal levels and of free sale sugar at levels higher than the corresponding period in the previous years a psychology of scarcity was nevertheless created following reports of shortfall in production. Although initially the Government wanted to avoid imports in view of foreign exchange constraints it decided to import 3 lakh tonnes of sugar to create confidence and ensure greater availability. The sugar mills had raised the ex-factory price to Rs. 1000-1100 per quintal in the first week of September was this development which pushed up the retail price of sugar to inordinately high levels. As a result of the efforts of the Government the sugar industry reduced the ex-factory price to the level of Rs. 775 per quintal. Members would appreciate that it was the intervention of the Government at a time when there was psychology of shortages and prices were rapidly escalating that has resulted in a decline in the prices of sugar, which we are confident will continue.

5. In the case of edible oils the Government had consciously followed the policy of movement towards self-sufficiency and cutting down of imports. The total arrival of imported oil during Oil Year 1988-89 is only 2.70 lakh tonnes as compared to 18.19 lakh tonnes during the year 1987-88. The Government had, therefore, announced an integrated policy on oilseeds in order to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers as also fair price to the consumers. Under this policy NDDB was entrusted with the task of market intervention operation. The prices of groundnut

oil generally remained stable at reasonable levels through most part of the year, and started exhibiting a rise only in recent weeks. As soon as the groundnut oil prices started rising, imports of one lakh tonnes of palmolein were effected and bulk of these are being put through the PDS. The NDDB also has been enabled to implement a market intervention operation to bring down the prices of edible oils. Already with the commencement of the arrivals of new groundnut crop in Gujarat, signs of easing of groundnut prices are visible. As far as mustard oil is concerned, the prices generally remained lower than those in the previous year.

6. There has been no abnormal price rise in the case of wheat and rice. The wholesale price of rice have risen only by 5.5% over the year ending 23.9.1989. It may be mentioned that support price for paddy was increased last year by 6.6% in the case of common variety, 10.41% in the case of fine varieties and 14% in the case of super fine varieties. In the case of wheat there is a marginal decline of 0.8% till 23.9.1989 as compared to corresponding period in the previous year. In order to enhance the overall availability of rice through the PDS, the Government have contracted import of 5 lakh tonnes of rice.
7. In regard to pulses the Government have continued to allow imports by private trade under OGL. Till 30th September, 1989 about 2.63 lakh tonnes were registered with NAFED for such imports.
8. It will thus be observed that

Government have been taking necessary steps to contain the rise in the price of essential commodities. As a result of various measure taken by the Government and in view of the bumper kharif crop likely to arrive in the market shortly, the prices have already started showing a decline. Government are confident that in the light of measure taken by them not only will these essential commodities be readily available but the declining trend in their prices will also be maintained to the coming months.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): I have listened very attentively to the hon. Ministers. I would like to take up my last point first so that he should have time to answer to me. There was some sort of an agreement with the Sugar Mills Association that they will sell sugar at the rate of Rs. 7.75 per kg. But sugar was being sold at more than Rs. 14 per kg all over the country. Because of that the common man has been exploited to the tune of hundreds of crores of rupees. Many I know whether you have any mechanism to recover that amount and give it back to the common man?

In you statement you have said that the rise in prices is due to seasonal changes. I would place before you the wholesale price index. If you see the wholesale price index of first 8 months of 1989 and first 8 months of 1988 you will find that the rise is 5.8 per cent. Then how can you say that this is due to seasonal changes? Let us come to the consumer price index. If you take the first five months of 1989 and first five months of 1988, you will find that the rise is 7.4 per cent. You cannot explain away by saying that these are seasonal factors. The Reserve Bank of India has expressed its concern that although the input is there, the stocks are there and the Government has resorted to import, still prices are rising. That is very disturbing feature in the

[Sh. Brajamohan Mohanty]

11.37 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

economy. The Reserve Bank has advised that the Government has to take up appropriate fiscal policy so that prices can be contained and there is stability in the prices. It has also advised that the deficit financing which is there to the tune of Rs. 11,000 crores in a year, should be contained. The value of the rupee every year is going down. Today the value of the rupees is 11.93 paise. So, it is a very serious thing. Let us not explain it away by saying it is because of seasonal pressure and this and that. We have to very seriously think of it. You imagine how the bureaucratic pressure, the bureaucratic mischief, is going on. Who did not know that sugar was selling in the market at Rs. 14 per Kg.? But it is only when we took it up seriously, when the matter was reported to the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister took the initiative, that appropriate steps were taken. I myself had told the Prime Minister about this when the last session of the Parliament was coming to an end. So, my submission is that when somebody suggests that the bureaucracy is conniving with the unscrupulous traders who are indulging in misappropriation or who are exploiting the people and accumulating profit, how can you deny that?

Now, I come to the latter part. You have entered into an agreement with the traders but nowhere in the country sugar is available at Rs. nine per Kg. I had sent to you a telegram from Puri, with a copy to the State Civil Supplies Minister. You know, Sir, that in Puri sugar is selling at Rs. ten per kg. The Civil Supplies department also told me that bringing the levy sugar from Madras would cost them Rs. ten per kg. So, selling sugar at Rs. nine is a dream. No doubt, from Rs. fourteen it has come down.

You have given one lakh tonnes of sugar as festival quota but have you given any guideline for the distribution of that sugar?

The rural people are deprived of their legitimate dues. If you take the figures from all the States in India, you will know what is the per capita distribution of sugar during the festival season in urban areas and what is the per capita distribution in rural areas.

Now, I come to the oil sector. So far as oil is concerned, it is not available in the market. Most of it is being sold in the black market. No serious steps are being taken to see that it does not go to the black market. Vigilance is there, no doubt, but you can improve upon it. That is very essential for the life of the poor man. My submission is that the Public Distribution System is not functioning properly and also there have been some discrepancies at the stage of distribution. As a matter of fact, people have been deprived of it. So, this is the situation and I have given you a telegram also about this.

Now, I come to rice. Your explanation is quite interesting. You say that the procurement price has gone up. But what is the percentage increase in the procurement price and in the market price? The price of control rice was Rs. 2.89 per kg. and the free sale rice was selling at Rs. five per kg. The control price has been increased from Rs. 2.89 to Rs. 3.35 whereas the free sale price has gone up from Rs. five to Rs. 5.50. So, how is your increase in the procurement price in tune with the increase in the market price? So, the logic is not helpful to you.

Now, I come to groundnut oil. It is selling in the market at Rs. 30 to Rs. 35.

Then, Sir, regarding the coarse rice, the situation is very very disturbing. That is the poor man's food. Sukhramji please consider helping them. You come from a common man's background and I would only request, appeal to you, that you should consider this request sympathetically. What will happen to them? Every political party and the Government is now preparing for elections and this is the opportune time and some of the bureaucrats and unscrupulous traders will take full advantage of the situation and exploit the people.

Now, I shall come to kerosene. Sir, in Puri and Cuttack in the month of September, for about 15 days kerosene was not available. Sir, I am advocating for the poor people in the country. I do not know whether you belong to upper-class of the society.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are other persons who can advocate of my cause.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: If you don't endorse me, then I am helpless. So, Sir, in Cuttack and Puri, kerosene was not available for 15 to 20 days in the month of September, during which period even the world may change. Another point I would like to submit before you is regarding the coarse rice. You have distributed raw rice in Orissa and Delhi. And through the public distribution system you are sending the variety of raw rice which is costing Rs. 3.80 per Kg. I have requested you that you should release coarse rice through the public distribution system in Orissa. Sir, whenever we think of India, we should think of the poorest of the poor. Let us not be influenced by the people around us. We have to think of the poorest of the poor, in the country.

Now, I come to the consumer movement in the country. Your consumer movement in the country is very very weak and that is the reason why all these unscrupulous persons are taking full advantage of. You should know that the Sugar Mills Association has fixed ex-factory price of Sugar at Rs. 775 per quintal. That means only Rs. 1.25 per Kg. is left for retailers. There is transport charge, cartage, etc. Have you examined whether this margin will be sufficient for them? You allow Rs. 1.25 per kg. and the retailers have to take sugar from the mills upto the selling point and they have to bear the transport charges, cartage, etc. That is why they are reluctant to sell it at Rs. 9 per Kg. I want a categorical answer from you, Sir. Will you assure us that sugar will be sold at Rs. 9 per Kg. all over the country and rice will be adequately supplied to the people? One specific measure you should take is that you should augment the supply of the edible oil. You must take very drastic steps against

black-marketeers and unscrupulous traders. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that all the blackmarketeers would be hanged at the nearest lamp post. I do not want you to hang them, but I want that you should arrest them and take action against them.

My last point is this. Sir, you kindly tell the Income tax people that those who have taken so much money by exploiting the people through unscrupulous, should be made to pay back the money. Let the money be recovered in some way or other. That should be the answer. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me, at the outset, take a very strong exception to an attitude of complacency on the part of the Government. Sir, it is strange that while the Government had admitted in its statement that there is an increase in prices, at the same time it has been submitted that the situation is not at all alarming. This is the attitude of complacency in the midst of inflationary pressures. The whole situation has been explained away in terms of two factors: (1) Seasonal variations and (2) shortage in production in certain areas like sugar. Sir, this is the attitude that has first to be corrected and without the correction of this attitude, nothing much can be expected. Look at the strange and startling phenomenon that we have. The present inflationary tendencies are in the wake of an overall better performance of the economy. The situation is that there has been an overall growth in the performance of the economy. The overall growth during 1988-89 was 10 per cent in real gross domestic product. Similarly we find that the overall industrial growth is expected to be 8.8 per cent after decline of 7.3 per cent in 1987-88. Similarly, in agriculture there is an overall growth. In the wake of this overall growth we are now having this phenomenon of increase in the prices. It reveals utter lack of management. How many examples am I to place before this House with respect to the fact that there has been an utter lack of management resulting into the situation? Sir, take the question of sugar. We are under the impression

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

[English]

at the time of Budget that there is going to be a bumper production. We have even been told of exports of sugar, but now we find the targets were not reached. When did it become clear that there is shortage in reaching the target? I believe, if I am not wrong, in March 1989 itself it was very clear that there is a 10 per cent shortage of 10.2 million tonnes target as far as sugar is concerned. Still there was a sense of complacency, still the talk of exports went on. Still there was no step taken at that particular time to arrange for the import of sugar when the prices were at a lower level in the international market also. So, that is the situation. I, therefore, charge that this price rise is Government-made and is as a result of a total lack of management. Take the question of sugar itself now. The Government must explain to us that sugar has now been bought at the rate of 517 Dollars from the international market at a time when the sugar was available in the international market at 460 Dollars. What a tremendous overpayment it means! How many crores of rupees does it amount to? Shall I say, at least the figure of Rs. 25 crores? What is the suggestion? The suggestion needs to be explained to us. Even the Reserve Bank of India has pointed out that this increase in import costs is also responsible for the present inflationary tendencies. Of course, we are thankful to the Prime Minister. He took immediate notice to the situation. He discussed the situation with the Ministers and with the officials. He pulled them up and asked them to be alert. But do you know how our bureaucracy has functioned? I was myself a witness to the fact that a freedom fighter was speaking on phone to the office of the Commissioner of Food and Civil Supplies and telling them the numbers and addresses of the shops which have the stocks, but refused to sell do you know the reply that he got on the telephone?

[Translation]

"The officer is busy. He does not have time. You speak some other time.

I was there and I was listening to everything that was going on. Even after the Prime Minister pulls up the officers, we have the sahibs and the freedom fighter, true to his nature, was saying 'Sahibs had left India on 15th August, 1947. Where is the Sahib?' But, that was the situation. So, that attitude of complacency is there and also alertness of the bureaucracy is required. The Government must explain to us to how heavy costs have been paid in the international market for sugar. Then, what will be done in order to make sugar and rice adequately available? We have a host of reasons. Let the Government not dismiss away the whole situation by saying that there was shortage of production in certain areas. If it is so, what are you doing with respect to the increase in the yield per acre? Our yield per acre is very low. What is being done there? The need is for vigilance, for proper monitoring and therein lies the entire slackness. There are various reasons, demand and supply position, uncontrolled expansion of money supply, rise in import costs, increased budget levies, rise in external debt service payments and so many other causes. They all need a re-look in your fiscal policy.

It is your defective fiscal policy that is responsible for the present situation and I hope the Government will have a serious re-look at its fiscal policy as is also demanded by the Reserve Bank of India.

Sir, look at the question of dissavings by the Central Government. It is rising continuously. Subject to correction, I may say that the dissavings now stand as Rs. 8,602 crores during 1988-89. What is being done in this particular respect? It is simply a statement saying that everything will be alright, the situation is not alarming and it is only a seasonal increase, whereas even the Reserve Bank of India has cautioned you of the defects as far as your fiscal policy is concerned. The question is adequate availability of rice. In Kerala, they are rice eaters. So adequate supply of rice has to be there. Otherwise, we are bound to have this kind of

a situation. It is true that our public distribution system is at fault and the supplies are erratic.

12.00 hrs.

This needs proper attention. The Government says steps have been taken. For example, they talk of sugar import. I thank them for the import. But the steps should be timely steps. It was clear that there was going to be shortage of sugar. Still the attitude of complacency went on as far as the Government is concerned.

I, therefore, say that these inflationary pressures lead to erosion of the living standards of the poor, commonmen, of the unorganised labour. Therefore, this attitude of complacency of just dismissing away the whole thing lightly, should not be taken.

Sugar, Khandasari, Gur group has registered highest increase, namely 28% in the year and over 17% in the last 3 months. I request that the various points that have been raised here should be properly explained by the Government. The Government should also have a proper monitoring system, a very continuous monitoring system as far as the prices are concerned. Otherwise, the situation such as this is man-made and Government-made phenomenon, when our economy is performing well.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, increase in the prices of essential commodities is a matter of grave concern. The Central Government is also perturbed over it, but the situation is of its own making, as it failed to take timely decision regarding the import of sugar. It has been stated, as is evident from the reply of the hon. Minister, that a rumour regarding shortage of sugar was spread by the vested interests. Prices soared because of this phobia of shortage created by the vested interests. I would like to know if the rumour was baseless, why did the necessity of import of sugar arise? I fail to understand

the reason why 3 lakh tonnes of sugar is being imported if there was no shortage of sugar in the country. If actually there was no shortage rumour would not have made any impact on prices. Rise in prices of sugar is indicative of the fact that it was not merely a rumour but there was actual shortage of sugar.

Secondly, sugar factories raised ex-factory price of sugar by Rs. 1,000. Why did they do so? Why did the Central Government not exercise control over it? Three-four months back, sugar was available at Rs. 5 to Rs. 5.50 a kilogram, but now the sugar factories have raised it to Rs. 7.75 a kg. I would like to know why agreement was signed with the sugar factories allowing them to raise its price to Rs. 7.75 a kg. Can it not be lower than this? In the absence of check on bureaucracy and the sugar factories, later are increasing the price. Rise in sugar prices would have been fruitful, had the benefits been passed on to the farmers also. In our country, 75 per cent are farmers who are engaged in the agriculture. Rise in prices has only benefited the sugar mills and the hoarders and not the public at large. The Government is requested to explain all this as the people have been adversely affected. The Hon. Prime Minister swung into action and discussed it with the officials. Release of 10.32 lakh tonnes of sugar has somewhat reduced the prices, but it should be brought down to Rs. 7 as earlier sugar was selling at Rs. 5.50. All efforts should be made to bring down the price of sugar, as nobody can be happy with sugar selling at Rs. 9. By 20th October, 3 lakh tonnes of imported sugar will reach India, but further steps need to be taken.

Thirdly, causes of rise in prices must be looked into. Price of tea has increased by 75 per cent. Prices have increased by 75 per cent, not by 100 per cent as has been stated. Prices soared due to short fall in production. All steps must be taken to remedy the situation and early decision is required to be taken and export commitments of tea should be cancelled.

[Sh. Virdhi Chander Jain]

Fourthly, G.D.P. has increased by 10 per cent, agricultural production by 25 per cent and industrial production by 8.6 per cent. In 1987-88 because of drought, prices increased by 10.6 per cent, but what is the reason for the current rise in prices by 8.6 per cent? Even if it is seasonal rise, why could it not be kept under control? It badly pinches the farmers when they have to purchase the commodities, which they sell at cash prices at the time of harvest at inflated prices during the off-season. Seasonal rise in prices by 10 to 30 per cent must be checked. A policy must be adopted to minimise seasonal rise in prices.

Alongwith inflation value of Rupee is also declining. The present value of rupee, to which has come down to 11 paise, is also a matter of grave concern. In this connection, urgent steps are required to be taken.

With these words, I would like to request the hon. Minister to clarify the point raised by me. Urgent steps need to be taken to control the prices by removing shortages of commodities and strengthening the public Distribution System.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the hon. Members who have expressed concern for the rise in the prices of essential commodities. In my view, the Department of Civil Supplies which is supposed to be the friend of the masses is proving itself to be their enemy. The people are suffering today because of the rise in prices of sugar and essential commodities and never before did the people suffer as much as they are suffering to-day.

Sir, the hon. Minister, in his statement, has attributed it to the rumour mongering about the shortage of sugar which led to rise in prices. This is not one day's creation but it would have taken at least 6 to 7 months. For the last 6 to 7 months, the administration is pondering over the issue of import of sugar to improve the stock position so as to prevent

any immediate rise in price. So the question arises as to why so much time was taken to take a decision. This resulted in loss of crores of Rupees of foreign exchange to the country as has been stated by Shri Banatwalla. Not only this, the public also had to buy sugar at high prices during the last two months. Who is responsible for causing this misery? Decline in price of sugar now cannot undo the wrong already done. The Government of U.P. has promised to bring down the price of sugar to Rs. 8.50. Even if the price is brought down to Rs. 8.50, it remains to be explained to the public why delay took place when rise in price was anticipated and the discussions on it were continuing. If the guilty are not brought to book, the public will never forget the current rise in the price of sugar. During the last four years despite all sorts of propaganda launched by the opposition, the common man was behind the Congress Party. But now the common man is disillusioned because of the rise in prices of sugar, tea, pulses, rice and wheat flour. Everything has gone out of hand. Only after the Hon. Prime Minister took the initiative, sugar was imported and availability augmented. Discussions were held with the sugar manufacturers to augment supply and steps were also taken to streamline public distribution system. For all this the Hon. Prime Minister as well as the hon. Minister deserve to be thanked. Not even a single arrest of sugar hoarder though they are the real culprits, has been reported in any newspaper. It seems the Department of Civil Supplies did not feel its responsibility to take action against the hoarders. Everywhere, be it in Delhi or at any other place, the Department of Civil Supplies failed to take action against the hoarders and the this gives an impression that the bureaucracy is hand in glove with the hoarders. In my constituency, the price of sugar shot upto Rs. 18 a kg. and that of tea increased by 75 to 80 per cent. A cup of tea at a road side shop is available at Rs. 2. Quality of wheat flour available is so inferior that one fails to believe that it is really wheat flour meant for human consumption. Fungus infested rice is supplied and the prices of edible oils have also increased. Prices have increased in the areas affected by shortage.

Similarly prices of pulses have also increased. I would like to emphasise that still it is not too late to take stern measures to check the rise in prices. Action should be initiated against the officials responsible for laxity or collusion with the hoarders, howsoever big they may be, whether they are posted at the Centre or in the states, for causing hardships to the common man. If guilty are not punished and prices are not checked, results will be disastrous. I would like to support the demand made by Shri Jain to bring down the price of sugar to Rs. 7.50. In my view, there is only one way to undo the wrong, that is to bring down the price of sugar to the rates prevailing two to three months back. My only submission to you is to take action against the people colluding with the profiteers to create artificial scarcity of commodities, for which the Government is fully empowered and competent.

[English]

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): I would take only a few minutes. The unprecedented rise in the prices of essential commodities like sugar, kerosene oil, edible oil and even the foodgrains has not only caused hardship but also scare. I do see that prices of sugar were brought down a little; but still the prices are very high. I would like to know a few things from the hon. Minister which I have noted down. I would request the Minister to enlighten us on these points.

We all know that the Government had announced a price monitoring committee. But I would like to know whether that Committee has ever functioned. If so, how many meetings of that Committee were held and what action was initiated by that Committee? Did it foresee the rise in sugar prices as it was known that in the last season the sugar production was down by as much as 10 lakh tonnes or even more?

Is the Government aware of the large scale diversion of cane to other uses like Khandsari manufacturers, Gur and even illegal distillation? If so what steps were taken to prevent this? Is the fall in sugar production

last season mainly due to this diversion? What prosecution was launched and what was done to prevent this diversion?

Has there been a strategy for managing supplies? If so what is that strategy? Government should have known that demand would go up due to higher purchasing power of the people due to all round increase in salaries of many organised groups and larger liquidity in the economy. In view of this a supply management strategy was equally important. So, I would request the Minister to throw some light on this.

With the imported sugar coming, will the Government ensure that there is proper spread of this sugar within the country? Many States are suffering heavily and sugar prices have gone up even more sharply in some of them due mainly to lack of stocks. Even in Delhi many shops including Super Bazars are short of stocks all the time and the fair price shops are saying that they do not have sugar to sell at rationed prices. What steps have been taken to check whether these shops are selling all the sugar they get or are not diverting some stocks?

Organisations of private sector like FICCI have promised to hold the priceline. Has the Government started a dialogue with them on this and on how to use their organisation to ensure that stocks are not hoarded?

Government did extremely well, I must say, in controlling priceline in the drought year 1987. What then happened that this tight control got relaxed in the year of good harvest and the prices went out of control? There has to be some introspection on this point and let us know the result of that introspection.

In the last, I would like to say that there should be some concern at the fall in the rupee exchange rate also. The Rupee-Dollar rate was Rs. 13.02 per Dollar in January 1988. It is Rs. 16.77 for a falling Dollar in September 1989. This upsets our export import trade and has, in turn, impact on our prices, particularly when several imported

[Smt. Kishori Sinha]

commodities, components and capital goods affect our cost of production. What has the Finance Minister to say about this, I want to know.

SHRI SUKHRAM: Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have drawn the Government's attention towards the rising trend in prices of essential commodities and expressed their concern for it through this Call-Attention. I am obliged to explain all the points raised by the Members so that doubts could be cleared. As already stated in my statement. I share the concern over the increase in prices of various commodities particularly the increase in the price of sugar. In my statement, I have attributed this to the shortfall in production of sugar. On the basis of production of sugarcane as estimated by the Agriculture Ministry, we had estimated that this year sugar production would be nearly 96 lakh tonnes. The sugar industry's estimate for this year was 102 lakh tonnes. In March and April when we came to know that production was falling, we sent our teams of States where sugarcane is grown. The teams were asked to find out the reasons as to why production has fallen short of the estimated targets. The team came to the conclusion that apart from early flowering of sugarcanes, particularly in U.P., sugarcane was diverted to make 'Khandsari' and jaggery which led to shortfall in production of sugar. Besides, recovery was also very low. In the end, in May and June we came to know that this year sugar production would be less than what was estimated. We had estimated sugar production to be 96 lakh tonnes but the actual production came to 88 lakh tonnes only. But, in addition to these 88 lakh tonnes, we already had an opening stock of 23,000 tonnes. The F.C.I. had this much of sugar stock available beforehand. If we consider the total stock we had enough sugar to meet the country's demand. Compared to the previous year, an additional 5 lakh tonnes of sugar was released for free-sale in the market this year. As soon as we came to know the rising trend in price of sugar, we took appro-

prate steps like making an higher monthly allocation of more than 5 lakh tonnes and making it mandatory for sugar mills to release 20% of sugar every week. They were warned that if they did not abide by the orders, they would be prosecuted and their stocks would be seized. In towns with a population of over one lakh, the stock limit with each sugar dealer was 500 quintals whereas in towns with less than one lakh population, the stock limit was 250 quintals. Now in the former case, the limit has been reduced to 250 quintals and in the latter to 125 quintals. In case of Khandsari manufacturers, we have made it mandatory for them to dispose off 25% of their opening stock in the month of May. Similarly, we have issued direction to the Jaggery manufactures.

[English]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: How much sugar did you export?

SHRI SUKH RAM: We have exported only 35,000 tonnes of sugar. That was under contractual obligation. It is fact that at the initial stage there was recommendation that we should export about 3 lakh...

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: Please also tell at what price you made this export and what is the price that you paid for import of sugar.

SHRI SUKH RAM: At the moment I do not have the figures of the exact price but it is definitely higher than the cost of production of sugar here. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You try to get the exact figure and pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I will supply that information.

[Translation]

Along with this, we have received complaints of smuggling of sugar to Bangladesh and Nepal. I wrote letters to the Chief Ministers and the Home Ministers of U.P., Bihar

and West Bengal. I also went there personally to meet them. As a result, nearly 1000 quintals of sugar that was being smuggled was seized. I do not have information related to other States but we wrote to the State Governments to launch an intensive de-hoarding drive in their respective states so that the hoarded stock could come into the market. Apart from this, upto September we have conducted raids at 2808 places, checked 3027 licence-holders resulting in the cancellation of 77 licences, arrest of three persons and registration of cases against 35 persons. The raids led to the seizure of 10,370 quintals of sugar. We wrote to all the State Governments and they conducted raids in their respective states, although as you said, it was not reported in the Press. Then I noted that the price of sugar was not coming down despite all the steps taken by us. One of the reasons for this was that Opposition leaders, vested interests and our detractors in trade and industry had conspired to tarnish the image of the Congress (I) Government by making this an election issue.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: All these things were happening in the country, a conspiracy was being hatched. Was the Government sleeping all this while? Why were efforts not made to put an end to the conspiracy? Please do not take this issue lightly. This is a serious situation (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have listened to you, now you please listen to what I have to say.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I would like to say that by his saying that they were hatching a conspiracy, nothing but our weakness is exposed. If they were conspiring against us, I would like to ask him whether he make any efforts to foil their conspiracy.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Sukh Ram, we are sorry for you as your reply is not going to convince us. This issue cannot be disposed of in such a cursory manner.

SHRI SUKH RAM: They tried to create

artificial scarcity and build up an atmosphere that sugar would not be available in the month of October and if at all available, the rate would be not less than Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a kilo. This led to hoarding tendency. On the 10th or 12th of September, I called a meeting of the representatives of the sugar industry. At that time, the ex-factory price was Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1100 per quintal. I told them that the price would have to be reduced. Levy sugar is sold on control rates while the Government does not have any control over the prices of free sale sugar except its distribution. We told them that if the prices of sugar were not brought down, large stocks of sugar would be released in the market to bring down the price. At that time, the price of sugar had shot up to Rs. 13 to Rs. 14 a kilo although official figures said that the price was Rs. 12 per kilo. At this juncture, the industry voluntarily agreed to reduce the price and no legal restriction was imposed. It was decided to reduce the rate to Rs. 775 per quintal. I want to declare in this august House that I am personally not in favour of the rate of Rs. 775 per quintal. I want to submit that it is very difficult to manage the sugar economy. It is easy to say but difficult to manage. One one hand, we have to watch the interest of sugarcane growers by giving them remunerative prices for their produce. In Maharashtra, the support price is Rs. 35/- a quintal, Rs. 33 to Rs. 35/- a quintal in Haryana and the Uttar Pradesh it is not less than Rs. 33/- a quintal anywhere. Firstly, remunerative prices have to be given to the growers, secondly, sugar has to be made available to the consumers at the fair prices and thirdly we must ensure that the mills do not become sick. Unless there is co-ordination between these three aspects, the sugar economy cannot be managed properly. Another aspect is related to the consumption of sugar. Last year, the consumption of sugar in the country was 93 lakh tonnes and this year it has increased to 99 lakh tonnes. This shows that the consumption level of sugar is rising very fast in this country. Production has to be increased to match the rising level of consumption. Unless we maintain a balance between these two aspects, we shall continue to face problems.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Have we every said that this balance should not be maintained? Has the Government maintained this balance?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Another thing that needs to be understood is that as far as costing is concerned it is the responsibility of the C.A.C.P. and the B.I.C.P. As much as 45% of the sugar is sold through levy. A statutory minimum price is fixed for levy sugar. The price of levy sugar is Rs. 5.25 a kilo. The loss incurred by the sugar industry on levy sugar is compensated by comings from free sale sugar. We can release more sugar and bring down the prices of free sale sugar, but it will result in sickness of sugar mills. This aspect cannot be ignored either.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We will discuss this matter after six months.

*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I cannot allow all the Members. Only the Members who are in the list will be allowed. Mr. Minister, do not Listen to him. You continue your reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM: On one side is the prices of levy sugar and on the other the prices of free sale sugar. We can control the price of free sale through the release mechanism and we have adopted this mechanism this year too. As I said that as compared to last year, an additional 5 lakh tonnes of sugar were released this year due to which we could bring about depression in the prices. As I said that a psychology of shortage has been created that there is no stock of sugar and there would be no sugar for distribution during the month of October. And that is why there has been a rise in prices. When I met the representatives of the sugar industry, they did not tell us that Rs. 775/- would be the ceiling price. I would like to assure this august House that in the near future the price of

sugar will come down. Today, the rate is Rs. 9/- to Rs. 10/-. I visited half-a-dozen States where sugarcane is produced such as Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and others. There I spoke to the local administration, sugar mill owners, sugar dealers and those who took on the spot decisions that were causing delays and got a first-hand information regarding the import of sugar. In Maharashtra, sugar is available at Rs. 9/- a kg. But we would bring down the price further. At present, sugar is available at a price of Rs. 9/- to Rs. 9.30/- a kg. but efforts would be made to make it available at a price of Rs. 8/- to Rs. 9/- a kg. keeping in view the interest of the economy of the country, the Government was against import of sugar. Last year also, it was not imported due to foreign exchange constraints. But a phobia was created that the prices would not fall unless sugar is imported. This is evident from the fact that Shri Banatwalla and some other hon. Members just now made a complaint that sugar was not imported in time. I do agree that sugar was not imported in time.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: At what price?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Please have patience, I am coming to the point. Of course, there has been a delay in the import of sugar but it was because the Government was not at all willing to import it and we resorted to it only when we considered it essential for controlling the prices and to satisfy the sentiments of the market. That is why the decision was delayed. I would also like to make one thing clear to the hon. Members that the international market of essential commodities is highly sensitive. Prices in the international market depend on as to which country is the buyer with the entry of populous countries such as Russia or China in the market, prices are affected. The price of sugar in the international market was 350 dollars two months ago. International market tries to get information through its intelligence sources about the anticipated demand from the populous countries such as India, China or Russia of the commodities to be made in the

international market. Therefore, it would not have made a difference of 2 to 5 dollars in prices, if India had put its demand 2 months earlier. I do not think that there has been much variation in prices. Shri Banatwalla has also stated that the Government should have purchased it earlier when the price was 460/- dollars instead of purchasing it at the prevailing price of 517/- dollars. I agree but it could not be done because of some reason. So far as the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies is concerned, we never purchased sugar but when the Ministry of Commerce expressed their inability to purchase sugar for us, only then a decision was taken to constitute a committee under the chairmanship of the Food Secretary and the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and STC were made its members. When the tender was first opened, we came to know many things. Then the committee recommended purchase of it from the dealers registered with the S.T.C. When I found that the prices quoted by unregistered dealers were less by 50 to 60 dollars, I could not muster courage to ignore it as we are living in a Parliamentary democracy. We are bound by certain rules & regulations. We cannot follow China which goes to the international market and directly negotiates with the private parties without floating any tender and the deal is struck with them. But we cannot do so. We have to float tenders and the entire world knows that we have floated tenders. We have to face the Parliament and the press. I agree that time factor should have been the main consideration but I could not afford to take risk. Had I decided the matter without floating the tenders, objections would have been raised in this august House and the media would have cast aspersion on the Government, as could be evident from the fact that aspersion are being cast on the Government without any basis. That is why I directed my ministry to take it into consideration. I was told by my Department that the Ministry of Finance have not fixed any parameter for it. I was advised to get the parameter fixed by the Ministry of Finance. But I did not want to be grilled by the press persons or the hon. Members of the House on my failure in purchasing sugar

when offers were there at the rate of 450 to 460 dollars. I could have been taken to task for my failure in getting the parameter fixed by the Ministry of Finance. When I asked them whether they satisfy the parameter, they replied that the parameter was too harsh to be tried. So it was withdrawn on paper. They asked for 2-3 days time. I granted them 2-3 days' time. I wanted to save a sum of Rs. 18-20 crores of the country. That is why the matter was delayed by 5 to 6 days and I am personally responsible for this delay. I held discussions with the officers of my Department on the matter as I did not want to be grilled by the hon. Members in the House on the score that lower tender has been deliberately ignored. Sugar trade is under the control of a handful of persons or parties. Their previous offers had to be rejected. We were to purchase 220 lakh tonnes of sugar. They were ready to meet our requirement of 220 tonnes of sugar for which they quoted their prices. As wanted to have competitive prices, so we invited tenders again. Today, about 60 lakh tonnes of sugar has reached the ports and 2 1/2 lakh tonnes are likely to reach by 20th of this month. As regards purchase of sugar at the rate of \$ 518/- \$ 519/-, opportunities were given to unregistered parties also. I wanted to create an atmosphere of competition. One of the parties furnished 3 per cent bid bond also and gave performance guarantee of 10.7 per cent. That is why the deal could be struck at 480 dollars. It was all due to our attempt to create competition and our bid to save foreign exchange. In such circumstances, we decided to go in for import of sugar. We did not have addresses of unregistered parties who quoted their prices in response to our tender floated second time. That is why they could not be informed. Addresses of registered parties are available in London from where they could be contacted. As regards unregistered parties, the Finance Ministry decided that they should deposit 3 per cent bid money. Upon this, some of the parties stated that they were not aware of it. On their request, we gave them yet another chance. Some of the parties responded to our offer.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): He has purchased it at the cheapest rate for which he deserves to be congratulated by the hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: Our registered suppliers purchase sugar from them. For the first time, I made efforts to purchase it from the parties other than those registered with us. I tried to build up competition. This new avenue would prove beneficial in future also.

My submission is that we have been able to control the price of sugar and monitor it. Today sugar is available at the rate of Rs. 9/- a kilo. I do agree that it might have been sold at rates higher than this at some places. There are still some difficulties. We would soon overcome them. Please have patience for sometime. I assure you that I will be able to make it available at a price ranging between Rs. 8/- to Rs. 9/- a kg.

(Interruptions)

SHRIG.M. BANATWALLA: I would like to recite a couplet of Ghalib for you:

"Mana ke tagaful na karoge lekin,
Khaak ho jayenge hum tum ko khabar
hone tak."

We cannot go on promises only.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Banatwalla ji, both of us are to face the electorate. The thing would be brought under control very shortly. Prices would be kept under control after elections also. It is not merely for the sake of elections but the only intention behind it is to provide sugar at reasonable prices to the consumers.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salem-pur): Free sale sugar is being sold at the rate of Rs. 730 to Rs. 800/- a quintal. As you know that one quintal sugar is extracted out of 10 quintal sugarcane. They are getting Rs. 200/- extra on one quintal of sugar. On the same analogy, the price of sugarcane should also

be increased at least by Rs. 40/- quintal.

SHRI SUKH RAM: On one hand, demand is being made to increase the price of sugarcane by Rs. 40/- a quintal, on the other, it is also demanded that the sugar should be provided to consumers at the rate of Rs. 5/- a kilogram.

(Interruptions)

That is why I have released 10.32 lakh tonnes of sugar for the month of October. It is a record in itself. This much of sugar has never been released in the past. I would like to make a request to the hon. Member to go to their respective constituencies and find the areas of scope of exploitation. Co-operation of traders and sugar industry will have to be listed. We will have to keep an eye on the persons who are involved in hoarding and black-marketing activities and action should be taken against them. And this is not the responsibility of the Government machinery alone, rather we the people's representatives should also come forward to shoulder this responsibility. We should go to our respective area to identify such elements and assist the law. We are elected representatives. It is our duty to go to the field. Our duty is not confined to the Parliament only. Just now you were referring to public distribution system. About 50 thousands tonnes of sugar was sanctioned for the month of October to each State Government. But the Hon. Prime Minister directed that in view of two major national festivals falling in this month, the quota should be doubled...*(Interruptions)* Half kg sugar is provided to a family of five members. Full quantity of levy sugar is available today but there must be some leakage there and the concerned Department has to check this. Charges have been levelled that the Department of Civil Supplies is totally inefficient. It can be said for the states also, you should also keep a little watch in this respect and...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: When we report against anybody, no attention is paid.

SHRI SUKH RAM: It is not good that you are blaming us for the of the State Government...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: 95 per cent of the total sugar is cornered by the employees of the Department of Civil Supplies and the dealers. It is not supplied in rural areas. You get the matter investigated...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SUKH RAM: I would like to submit that you should bring specific cases to my notice, I can take up the matter with the State Government. If you want that I should personally visit a particular place, I am ready to do so.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: You can investigate the matter in every district. Everybody is ready to make complaint. The hon. Minister appealed to bring specific cases to his notice. We will bring such cases to his notice...(Interruptions)...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Hon. Minister, Sir, people don't want speeches, they want only ration...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He will take everything seriously

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think the Minister will take note of the concerns expressed by the hon. Members. They are saying that they are getting many complaints. You take necessary action.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKH RAM: If they give me, I will take action. We release first to the State Government and the State Government further distribution it through their Fair Price Shops. If they give me some other better alternative, I will definitely consider it. (Inter-

rptions)

I will take action against them.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not allowing anything to go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You reply. I cannot allow everybody.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUKH RAM: An hon. Member mentioned about the increase in the prices of rice. The price are not very high. There was about five per cent increase in one year. It is true that we had a record production of 172 million tonnes of rice and prices should have come down, but we have another responsibility also. The Government intervenes on behalf of the growers and provides incentive price and support price to them. Yesterday only, the Hon. Prime Minister raised the support price and has announced a good package for the farmers. When the growers will be provided support price, it will be reflected in the market price also and it is very difficult to stop it. If the Government does not intervene, the prices will fall to such a low level that the farmers will not like to grow rice as it would be unprofitable and consequently, a difficult situation will arise. I would like to submit that artificial scarcity of rice has been created in the market. We have met the basic requirement of the States. There has been a record production. The estimated procurement of rice is likely to be 10 million tonnes. We are going to restore the 20 per cent deduction made in the allotment of rice-eating States due to stock problem.

So far as edible oils are concerned, the production was 178 lakh tonnes of oilseeds. Earlier, 18 lakh tonnes of oilseeds were imported.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): The price should be reduced. What are the prices of edible oils?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Till now we have imported 2 lakh tonnes. We used to distribute 80-85 thousand tonnes of oilseeds to the States every month till last year's drought but now it is only 10 thousand tonnes. There would have been a sharp fall in the prices of oil, if this had not been done. We represent the growers as well as the consumers, so we have to keep the prices at a reasonable level. NDDB was appointed as the marketing agency. It entered the market and purchased mustard and groundnut. Now we are releasing that stock. So far as the civil supplies department is concerned, we are selling edible oils through Public Distribution system at Rs. 16 per kg. to the poor. This is being done to make the country self-reliant and reduce dependence on imports. The price of groundnut oil has increased but I think there will be fall in the prices, as we expect a good crop in Gujarat.

Regarding tea, the Ministry of Commerce is taking suitable steps so that the prices come down. I have conveyed your feelings to them. Similarly, the Ministry of Agriculture is importing pulses through NAFED and OGL. We are not self-reliant in the matter of pulses and oilseeds. For the first time we are heading towards self-reliance in the matter of oilseeds and we hope that we shall make further progress in future.

Just now, Shri Banatwalla raised a point that the value of Rupee has declined. I would like to submit only one thing that so far as inflation is concerned, according to the international standards, inflation upto one digit is not a matter of concern for the developing countries. Last year, there was about 30 per cent inflation in China and there is 100 per cent inflation every year in the Latin American countries but it doesn't mean...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Please don't let it reach in that level here.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: The people here do not have the capacity to bear so much inflation. How can you compare the people of India with those of America.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I do not say it should be the same here. When you compare, I would like to submit...

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Your department will make 100 per cent inflation if you say like this in the House.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Banatwallaji, I am trying to say that even in a controlled economy like China the rate of inflation has been 30 per cent whereas we had only 8 per cent. That is what I want to compare. I am not saying that it should be here as well. Instead we are making efforts to bring it down. For this, the Hon. Prime Minister and my Ministry have taken effective steps and we will try to make the essential commodities available of cheaper rates. I know you concern. Even though I am a Minister, I am also a representative of the people like you. I sense the feelings of the people. The Government, the Hon. Prime Minister and myself are making all out efforts to bring down the prices of essential commodities. Now-a-days, some opposition parties are trying to exaggerate the things with the sole aim of giving a bad name to this Government. Their only motive is character assassination and mud slinging whether it be imports or any other thing. They have only one point programme and nothing else. The same is true about essential commodities also. I join you in your concern and apprehensions regarding this issue and I will try to keep your suggestions in mind. I shall try to ensure that there is no shortage of essential commodities and efforts will be made in the coming days to take effective steps to bring down their prices. With these words, I express my gratitude to all of you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we adjourn for lunch and shall re-assemble at 2 P.M.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

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

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

MATTERS UNDER-RULE 377

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now Matters under Rule 377.

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Need for solving the drinking water problem in Bundelkhand, especially in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BHISMA DEO DUBE (Banda): Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh and particularly my constituency Banda has been again affected by scanty rainfall. A meeting of Irrigation Department was held on the 6th of this month. We came to know from the figures that even if there is average rainfall this year, we would not be able to meet more than 30 to 35 percent of our irrigation needs. In the coming months, there shall not only be a problem on the irrigation front but also drinking water problem for human beings and animals. Water level is fast receding in the entire district. There will be acute drinking water problem from February onwards during the next summer. I can say with certainty that if timely steps are not taken to solve the problem, there will be loss of human life also besides loss of cattle wealth.

So I would request the Government to start preparations on a war-footing to solve the problem and settle the long standing water dispute distribution between U.P. and M.P. by the Central Water Commission. Another request in this regard is to provide drinking water to the backward district like Banda. The State Government should be allocated Rs. 10 crores separately so that hand pumps are installed in every village extensively.

- (ii) **Need to check rise in prices of the essential commodities and to ensure their supply**

[*English*]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Price rise of different essential commodities has become a matter of grave concern for the common people. All possible economic and administrative measures should be taken to ensure that prices come down to a reasonable level. It is high time that five to seven essential commodities which are of daily use of common people, should be identified and it should be ensured that in no circumstances, prices of these commodities are allowed to rise and also ensure steady supply of these commodities.

[*Translation*]

- (iii) **Need for a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): The population of Morena district in Madhya Pradesh is about 15 lakh. Besides, the district headquarter, the headquarter of Chambal division is also situated in Morena. There are a number of schools and colleges in Morena. But there is need for a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the area. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Morena city so that the children can be provided good education and the backwardness of the city and the district could be removed.

- (iv) **Need to provide adequate financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh Government to help the State overcome the drinking water problem there, especially in Sehore, Bhopal and Devas districts**

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal): This year the rainfall has been satisfactory all over the country. But there was less than average rainfall in more than 80 per cent districts of Madhya Pradesh. The crops of paddy and soyabean have already been

[Sh. K.N. Pradhan]

damaged and there is a possibility other crops being damaged if the rains do not arrive in time. The next crop is also in danger.

Besides, there will be acute shortage of drinking water, as the ground water level has receded further. Sehore and Bhopal districts in Madhya Pradesh are the worst affected by drought. The drinking water problem in Bhopal is going to worsen further. During the last five years, the big lake was never upto to the brim. Due to scarcity of water, the lake water may get polluted.

Water has not so far been released from the Kolar Project. Today, the people of Bhopal have started realising that the problem of drinking water in Bhopal can be permanently solved by bringing water from Narmada and the Government should take immediate steps in this regard.

Arrangements should be made from now onwards for the relief work and for providing water to the districts like Devas, Bhopal and Sehore. The Central Government should also provide adequate financial assistance to the State Government in these circumstances.

- (v) **Need for sanctioning construction of the Navatha and the Khariaguti dams to ensure supply of water to Hatnoor weir on the River Tapi**

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol): Hatnoor weir on River Tapi in Maharashtra is now complete. This weir is to get water from the Navatha and Khariaguti Dams. But the construction of these projects has not started yet. These projects are major irrigation projects. The farmers of Khandva District of Madhya Pradesh and those from Amravati, Jalgaon Districts of Maharashtra will be mainly benefited with the completion of these projects.

The soil of this area is very fertile. It can

produce large amount of food and other agriculture products if supported by irrigation facilities.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister for Water Resources to look into the matter and sanction the projects.

- (vi) **Need to ensure early payment of dues to the sugarcane growers**

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Guraru in Gaya District is a place which is predominantly a sugarcane growing area. On the basis of the production of sugarcane on a large scale, Government established a sugar factory there. But, during the past three years, this sugar factory has remained closed. The farmers from whom the Government had bought sugarcane had not been given the reasonable price for their produce. The sugarcane growers are much disheartened which has resulted in the fall of production of sugarcane.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that their dues are paid to them on time.

[Translation]

- (vii) **Need for measures to improve the lot of Beedi workers**

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Beedi workers of Madhya Pradesh in general and Satna district in particular are facing unprecedented difficulties. Thousands of such workers in Nagud Maiter Ramnagar, Amarpatan, Satna, Regaon, Chitrakoot, Barrwara, Vijayaraghgarh and Rampur Bagena which come under the constituency of Satna are without any means of livelihood. They are facing a situation of near starvation. The owners of the Beedi industries have discontinued the practice of granting 'Patta' for making Beedis to the Beedi workers after nationalisation of Tendu leaves trade. Despite the announcement of the minimum wages, a beedi worker on an average gets not more than Rs. 10 to 11 per day as wages. Previously, the beedi

worker used to get 850 grams of leaves for rolling beedis which has been reduced to 600 to 7000 grams per worker per day. In most of the places this is the quota being granted. With the nationalisation of Tendu leaves trade the workers have definitely been benefited but the owners of the beedi industries have taken this step out of a feeling of revenge against the Government. Similar conditions prevail in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country.

The Central Government should give special attention towards this problem. The Central Government should bring forward a legislation in this very session to ensure that a worker gets at least one kg. leaves per day for manufacturing beedis and is paid at least Rs. 20 per day as wages. The Government should also taken steps to provide employment to all the beedi workers of Satna and other areas of the country.

(viii) **Need for expediting the extension of railway line from Jammu to Udhampur**

[English]

BEGUM AKBAR JAHAN ABDULLAH (Anantnag): Despite assurance from the Central Government the work on the railway trace between Jammu and Udhampur is going on at a snail's pace.

The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have facilitated acquisition of land, still the progress on this project is slow. I would plead with the Railway Ministry that the allocation for the current year must be doubled and the Ministry should ensure that the money is spent within the stipulated time.

Construction of rail track is necessary from another angle also. The Jammu Srinagar road gets closed during winter months bringing many difficulties to the people in Kashmir Valley. The extension of Railway line upto Udhampur will definitely ease the situation.

(ix) **Need for extending the benefits of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana to the unemployed youth of the four major metropolitan cities**

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, I want to congratulate our Government for Nehru Rozgar Yojana for the urban youth. In this programme, the youth from four big metropolitan cities, namely Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Delhi will be deprived of the benefits from Nehru Rozgar Yojana Scheme, as these four cities have been excluded. So, I urge the Government to make some special programme for the unemployed youth in these four cities, specially in Calcutta. Unemployment problem is a big problem. So, Government should give some opportunity to the urban areas like Greater Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and Bombay through either Nehru Rozgar Yojana or any other special programme.

(x) **Need to provide adequate rail/road facilities to Vaishali in Bihar for developing the tourist potential in the region.**

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): Sir, although my constituency Vaishali is a historical site, yet the lack of communication and transport facilities are preventing the full use of its tourist potential. It needs rail and road connection immediately so that tourists who want to visit Buddhist pilgrim spots or who come from such distant lands as Japan are able to visit the place without much difficulty. For the overall development of the area also, these connections are essential. There is need to have a broad gauge line from Muzaffarpur to Raxaul which should be extended up to the border of Nepal to facilitate trade between the two countries. The roads in the area are in poor condition, particularly the culverts and bridges which cannot take heavy load. Even from security point of view, this is not a desirable situation. Either the Jhansi or Shahid Express should be extended up to Muzaffarpur and a halt for the University provided between Ramdayal Singh railway station and Muzaffarpur junction. The Muzaffarpur-Dhurian train should be reintroduced.

14.17 hrs.

NATIONAL WATERWAY (QUILON-KOTTAPURAM STRETCH OF WEST COAST CANAL AND CHAMPAKARA AND UDYOGMANDAL CANALS) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall go to the next item—Bills for consideration and passing. Mr. Rajesh Pilot, you can pilot your Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):* Sir, with your permission I would like to say a few words while moving the National Waterway (Quilon-Kottapuram Stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals) Bill, 1989 for consideration and passing of the same. From ancient times, inland water transport has served as a cheap and economic means of transportation in our country. However, with the advent and development of the faster means of transport system by rail, road and air, the inland water transport has got neglected adversely over the years.

Nevertheless, inland water transport has still maintained its edge over the other modes of transport in certain areas where it enjoys natural advantages.

Today, transportation by inland waterways is recognised all over the world for its inherent advantages of being the cheapest mode of transport for bulk haulage over long distances, specially between places located along the water front. Its energy efficiency, low pollution effect and great potential for generation of employment among the rural weaker sections of the society is universally accepted. Ever since Independence, the Government has been seized of the need for developing inland water transport infrastructure and restore to IWT its rightful place in the total transport system of the country.

The subject Inland Water Transport finds place in all the three Lists of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. However, the role of the Union is limited to regulating shipping and navigation as regards mechanically propelled vessels on National Waterways declared by Parliament by law to be National Waterways. The responsibility and executive authority declared as National Waterways rests with the State Governments.

Keeping in view the slow pace of development of inland water transport in our country, several committees constituted by the Government of India in the past have recommended declaration of certain important waterways as National Waterways. The Allahabad-Halida stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system and the Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river have already been declared as National Waterways. The Government of India has also constituted the Inland Waterways Authority of India for the development, maintenance and regulation of National Waterways for safe and convenient shipping and navigation. Presently, the Inland Waterways Authority of India has taken up the task of developing and maintaining these National Waterways.

Before a waterway can be considered for declaration as a National Waterway, it is essential to undertake hydrographic surveys and techno-economic studies to assess the extent of development works required and their financial implications. Such studies have been completed on the Quilon-Kottapuram Stretch of the West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals. On the basis of the studies and the potential of improvement in inland water transport of this stretch, it is now proposed to declare the Quilon-Kottapuram Stretch of the West Coast Canal Champakars and Udyogmandal Canals also as a National Waterway.

Sir, as may be observed, this is purely a non-controversial measure which, I hope,

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

will be accepted by the House. And, Sir, let this Bill be the one which is passed without discussion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the declaration of the Quilon-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals to be a National Waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of the said stretch and the canals for purposes of shipping and navigation on the said water-way and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Now, Mr Charles may speak.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, so far as Kerala is concerned, a great dream has come true. For the last several years declaration of West Coast Canal as National Waterway has been the longstanding demand of Kerala and I am happy that the IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) set up in 1986 has done a very marvellous job under the dynamic leadership of the dynamic Minister, Shri Rajesh Pilot and the Chairman, IWAI. The whole State and all the people of Kerala are extremely grateful to the Minister for declaring this West Coast Canal as a Waterway. The statistics will reveal how important it is to develop the Inland Waterway system. One Horse Power is estimated to move 150 km on road, 500 km on rail, but 4000 km on water, that is, just about 30 times the movement of cargo on the road. So also is the generation of employment opportunities for the weaker sections of the society, specially in a State like Kerala. And I am happy that Kerala has a long stretch of about 1900 kilometres in the West Coast Canal stretch alone, which is going to be a National Waterway. In this connection, I have one more request, Sir. The Minister is kind enough to order for the techno-economic study and the hydrographic survey of the stretch from Quilon to Trivandrum and from Trivandrum to Kovalam. We

are grateful to him for this. This study is going on now. So, I would plead that action may be taken for declaring the stretch from Quilon to Kovalam also as National Waterway so that the Capital city can be connected with the Kasargod area in the northern most part of Kerala. The fast moving vessels, if plied, can reach from Trivandrum to Kasargod in 10 hours. For your information I will tell you that if it goes from Kovalam, there is another proposal to connect it with Kanyakumari. That will benefit Tamil Nadu also.

With this, I give my wholehearted support to this Bill and I thank the hon. Minister for this. Thank you.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I do agree with what the hon. Member has said that this is one of the very cheapest modes of transport and the Government is so aware of this requirement and from the First Five Year Plan in which allotment was a few lakhs of rupees for the Inland Waterway, today we have gone up to Rs. 150 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan and we are hopeful that the Eighth Plan will have a very high figure so that this sector can be doubled further.

Sir, the suggestion which has been given by the hon. Member is a very good suggestion so that tourists could also be attracted. But I will check up, Sir, and if it is possible, I will include. If the hydrographic survey and all these things have been completed and with the rules and regulations it could be included in this, we will include, Sir. That I assure him.

With these words, Sir, I thank the hon. Member and the whole House which has supported this measure.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the declaration of the Quilon-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals to be a National Waterway and also to provide for the regulation and development of

the said stretch and the canals for purposes of shipping and navigation on the said waterway and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: we now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

14.26 hrs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

{English}

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to alter the names of certain castes and tribes in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

In the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes notified through the various Presidential Orders, there are some entries which have been subject of criticism on the ground that they sound derogatory because of their disrespectful or undignified connotations. The various State Governments/Union Territory Administrations were requested to send their proposals for the removal of derogatory names from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and suggest dignified alternative names so that the derogatory names could be substituted. The response of the State Governments/Union Territory Administration to our suggestion was not encouraging and only a few proposals were received from them which were examined in consultation with the Registrar General of India. The Registrar General of India while furnishing the comments had suggested that suitable alternative names for each of the community would have to be found out with full knowledge of all the members of the concerned community.

The present Bill seeks to provide for the removal of derogatory names from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and substitute them with dignified names and at the same time ensuring that members of these communities continue to be treated as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes without facing any difficulty.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to alter the names of certain Castes and tribes in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA

(Motihari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the amending bill introduced by our hon. Minister of State for welfare. This amending Bill has been brought forward for the fulfilment of some noble intentions. By this measure it is proposed to provide alternative names to certain categories which have derogatory names. For example, the name 'Bhangli' is being substituted by 'Balmiki'. It is welcome that measures are being taken to give nine names substituting the derogatory names of certain castes and tribes in Mizoram and in other regions. Our party and the Government has always endeavored to ensure that the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society and who are engaged in the menial jobs are accorded a position of dignity and due respect in the society, it is with this perspective that reservation has been provided for them, I support it. Along with it, I would like to draw your attention to one or two points more.

Recently, the Government has recognised eight communities in Ladakh as Scheduled Castes. It is no doubt a welcome step and I support it but I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards one point. There is a community known as Tharu living in the areas of Champaran, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Lakhimpur Khiri. It is a very backward community but it has neither been included in the backward communities nor in any other category. Their condition is akin to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They live in the backward areas and in hill areas and their condition is deplorable. I would like to submit that the Tharus live even in Nainital in Uttar Pradesh and their total population is about 10 or 15 lakhs. They are also engaged in agriculture but they are very backward and their condition is akin to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in every respect. It is requested that this community should also be enlisted as Scheduled Caste, as has been done in respect of the 8 communities of Ladakh.

With these words, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing forward a commendable bill through which such welfare measures can be taken.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill.

In Maharashtra many non-Scheduled Tribes communities are taking advantage of the benefits meant for them by calling themselves as such. In the area of Haina Kontli of Vidarbha region, the people belonging to Kosti community are taking undue advantage in the name of 'Halabi Kosti' community. These caste certificates were issued to them in 1977-78. The caste certificates were issued in 1977-78 are still valid. They make true-copies of such a certificate and reap the benefits. They also get appointment in Government service and take the advantage of other facilities on this basis.

It is seen that communities other than the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are taking undue advantage of the programmes meant for the upliftment of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The hon. Minister should pay attention in this direction as well.

Similarly, people belonging to Machhimar Koli and Suryavanshi Koli communities are taking undue advantage by calling themselves as Tokri Koli. This should be stopped. Similarly in my district thane Thakurs are taking undue advantage by calling themselves as belonging to 'K. Thakur' and 'M. Thakur' which are scheduled castes communities. They are entering the educational and employment fields in large numbers on this basis and are spoiling the chances of the bonafide people to get their due because they are better placed to score in the merit list. The bogus people are thus reaping all the benefits. Our Hon. Prime Minister is committed to the upliftment of the poor, the Adivasis and the Harijans. He wants all facilities to reach the backward communities and all the reserved vacancies to be filled. But a lot of undesirable elements have crept into these backward classes. Attention must be paid in this direction. I want to say that the caste-certificate issued in 1977-78 should be cancelled and fresh caste certificates

[Sh. Manikrao Hodlya Gavit]

should be issued to the genuine people in the current year 1988-89.

I am full of hope that our hon. Minister will pay attention in this direction and provide justice to the Adivasis and other backward sections of society. I thank you for giving me time to make my submission.

[English]

SHRIK. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1989.

I welcome this Bill brought forward by our hon. Minister for welfare to change the names of some castes and tribes because they are derogatory according to the pronunciation and connotation. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one particular aspect. It has been mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reason that in the year 1967 there was a Bill for the purpose of amending the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Various proposals came from different States. Even the Joint Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes recommended to make some changes regarding some castes and tribes because there are some spelling mistakes, some commissions and omissions. Certain tribes have been deprived of their privileges which they are entitled to get according to the Constitution of India.

Here, I would like to draw your kind attention to Serial Number 5 of the Scheduled Tribes List of Orissa. In that, the Bhattada Tribe is there. Its name has been mentioned as Bhattada or Dhottada. The actual pronunciation here is so bad. The actual name of the Tribe is *Bhatara*. In the list it has been mentioned 'Bhattada. When we ask for the clarification, the Government of Orissa says that it means the same thing and there is no difference between the letter 'r' and 'd'. The Government of Orissa says that

both the names are the same. Although the Bhattada tribe is there, there is no such tribe known as Dhottada. So, Bhattada should be named as *Bhatara*. There is no distinction between the letter 'r' and 'd'. But why should Dhottada be there. It is a very ridiculous thing. But at the same time, I do not want to include any tribes here because they are already there since the British days. There is no difference whether the name is changed or not.

There is another aspect. About five years back, the Government of Orissa gave a clarification stating that according to the Supreme Court Judgement, the actual spelling should be interpreted properly. According to that, somebody interpreted it saying that that tribe was not a Scheduled Tribe according to the spelling. Again the Government gave another clarification saying that that tribe is the actual tribe and there is no difference between *Bhatara* and *Bhattada*. That is why I draw your attention to clarify this. That Government had already reported to the Government of India to correct the spelling according to the list prevailing in other States. This tribe is in existence in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and also in Orissa.

Regarding Serial Number 55 there is a tribe called the Paroja tribe. There are two sub-castes—one is called the Jhodia Paroja and the other is called the Penga Paroja. As far as I know, Shri Jhagura Jhodia was a Member of the Legislative Assembly holding the reserved seat for five years. Out of that paroja tribe, 50 per cent of the parojas belong to Jhodia caste. Now, they interpret that Jhodias are not Parojas. So, they are not allowed to enjoy the privileges of the Scheduled Tribes. It is a miserable thing. It should be clarified that Paroja means there are two sub-castes—one is Jhodia Paroja and the other is Penga Paroja. The Government of Orissa has given a letter of clarification to the Government of India also to clarify this position and include this Jhodia also in the Paroja list. In this connection, I welcome this Bill which is meant to alter the names to certain castes and tribes in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These names

sound derogatory in the State of Meghalaya, in Assam and also in other States. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to consider bringing a separate Bill to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order as early as possible. If it is possible, it should be brought within this Session itself.

SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN : (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill is unexceptionable as it stands. But the dissatisfaction that has been expressed over the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, notified in Presidential Order from time to time, is not at all met by this Bill. There have been situations and the hon. Minister is fully aware of them that the same group of people who are classified as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in one State are not so classified across the border in another State. Sometimes the same family whose kith and kin are divided over two States receive the benefits in one State and does not receive the benefit in the other. For example, Virajbanshis. Virajbanshis are a protected group in West Bengal but they are not so in Bihar—across the border in the same part of the country. Now that is one great deficiency and contradiction in these Orders as they stand.

The second deficiency is that sometimes the same sub-caste group or sub-tribal group that is to say, basically having the same profession, the same place in the social hierarchy, the same economic occupation is sometimes called by different names—in one name it receives protection and in another name it does not.

And the third category is, of course of a much wider import and that arises again not from the Constitution but from the Presidential Order, that the particular social group, a sub-caste or a sub-tribal group, to enjoy preferential treatment, to enjoy what is called positive protection, has to profess a particular religion; otherwise it does not qualify. For example, we have many cases of the so-called Christian Harijans in South India par-

ticularly and they are deprived of this benefit. In my reading of the Constitution, it cannot permit any discrimination on religious grounds.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Where is the question of discrimination?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Well, I define it in that manner. That, as I said, is a question of much wider import that requires, perhaps, much more effort to arrive at a national consensus of what needs to be done. But the first two categories that I have mentioned that social group going by the same name enjoying protection in one State and not enjoying protection in the next State or the same social group following the same occupation, having the same *Biradari* and yet enjoying it in one name and not enjoying it in another, that needs to be corrected. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister that a much more comprehensive amendment is called for in this Presidential Order in the light of experience and information that we have accumulated for the last twenty or thirty years.

With these words, I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAL): Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members for the support that they have extended to the Bill and the welcome extended by all the Members. As the Bill is quite innocent, I hope everybody will welcome it.

Two points have been raised. One is about adding of some tribal names. As you know, this is only connected with derogatory words and so, we are going to remove by this Bill, those derogatory words and not anything else. Government will come with comprehensive list and than all other points which have been raised here will be considered.

About Maharashtra, as Shri Gavitt has said, the scrutiny committee has been set up by the Maharashtra Government to check all the bogus business. And I hope that they are

[Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai]

going into this matter and they will find out how they can minimise this bogus business. According to the Article 341 Article 342 of the Constitution, as you know, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are specified in relation to a particular State and as such this inclusion of any community in the list is examined with reference to the social condition of the Members of that community in the relevant State. The social condition of the caste varies from State to State and it will not be proper to generalise any caste as Scheduled Caste or Tribe in the whole country. So, uptill now, all castes are not generalised all over India. But, the Government is still considering to bring a comprehensive list and that when it comes, we can have more time to discuss it in detail and in depth. With these words, I request the House to pass this Bill.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: What about Basthada and Basthara?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: That will also be taken as a correction. It will also come with the comprehensive list.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the spelling?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: If it is derogatory, then we can think of it for correction and something new. We will have to come with a comprehensive list. That can be considered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is :

"That the Bill to alter the names of certain castes and tribes in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration"

The Motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause by clause considera-

tion of the Bill.

The question is

That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

" That clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title a stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: I beg to move

" That the Bill be passed".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted

14.47 hrs.

NAGALAND UNIVERSITY BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up the Nagaland University Bill. Shri L.P. Shahi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Nagaland and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

I am happy to inform the Members of this House that this Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha, without any amendment. Today, we are fulfilling the commitment made by the Prime Minister to the people of Nagaland when he laid the foundation stone for this University in 1987. Earlier, UGC and the Department of Education were hesitant about that. But, later on, the UGC appointed a team which visited Nagaland and thereafter that team suggested that a University should be established here—a central University—which should not be a normal type of University, but should concentrate on a certain discipline.

We have, in the past, thought that the people of Nagaland had an inspiration and a desire for having a separate University. Uptill now, the people were getting education in the North Eastern Hill University at Shillong. But the experience has shown that there are some inter-tribal rivalry also, in the hostels, between the Nagaland and Meghalaya people. In the end, we came to the conclusion that in order to fulfil their desire, we should have a University Campus—a separate campus—for Nagaland, within its boundary and that is why a central place was earmarked and selected for locating this University. After the location of this University, four departments of NEHU which was so long running at Kohima will emerge with this University and NEHU will not have its jurisdiction in Nagaland now. So far as Nagaland is concerned, it has 19 colleges and about six thousand university students enrolled in it. So, we have to start that and for starting this, we appointed a consultant to go, look into it and to give a report. He submitted a report and the report indicates that during the next five years, we will have to spend about sixty crores of rupees to set up this University. So, it is a happy occasion

that I am bringing it before this House for consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Nagaland and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Shri Syed Shahabuddin.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am rather in an unhappy position. I cannot possibly grudge the Naga people a university of their own and yet I feel that the entire pattern of higher education in this country is like a pyramid upside down. I think we are increasing the expenditure on university education, but spreading it so widely that the standard of university education is going down and a large number of colleges and institutions are growing like a mushroom all over the country without sufficient support in terms of academic or non-academic infra-structure; without caring for the standards to be maintained at reasonable level and yet a university has become almost a symbol of Statehood like having a Governor or a second Chamber or in some cases like having State flag.

I really do not understand why NEHU experiment failed. NEHU after all was a great experiment.

Today North-East lies emotionally dis-integration. Shall we take it that the dis-integration of NEHU is yet another evidence of that spiritual dis-integration that has overtaken the people of the North-East? It means not only in political matters they cannot stay together but even in educational matters they must separate. Will the hon. Minister tell us whether it is academically justified in the context of our country's situation to have a university for six thousand students? There

[Sh. Syed Shahbuddin]

are hundreds and thousands of colleges in this country each of them with more than six thousand students. There are universities in our country with five lakh students spread over its affiliated institutions. So are we treating the people of India in terms of equality; it has nothing to do with the question of State. It has something to do with the quality of education; with the per-capita expenditure on higher education; with the access to higher education in geographical and spatial terms. That is one criticism that the hon. Minister must explain to us as to why it has become necessary to have a university for half a million people and for six thousand students with nineteen affiliated colleges.

My second point is that when I look at this Bill I wonder that, perhaps, it is very easy for the Ministry of Education to produce bill after bill. there is mass production. You just change the name—call it Nagaland or Mizoram—and the whole Bill remains the same word for word. So it is a very easy thing. The Ministry does not have to do much work. They have only to type and re-print it and come to Parliament and get it passed.

I would also like to submit that the pattern of universities that is envisaged in this Bill—and in the Bill passed in the last Session—is highly centralised and highly authoritarian. It totally contravenes the spirit of academic autonomy. These universities are not autonomous institutions. They are not academic institutions. They are merely extensions of the Ministry of Education like its attached and subordinate offices where the Vice-Chancellor is like a servant at the beck and call of the authorities in Delhi or perhaps of the State Government.

Sir, a university must have an organic link with the people. I would like the Minister to re-consider, for example, the composition of the court. If this university is supposed to incorporate and give expression to the legitimate aspiration of the people....then in that case the university court is the link between the people and the university. Then, how far

does the composition of the court reflect that organic link, reflect the aspirations of the people? That is my question. If it consists only of ex officio members of Government or Government administrators and some professors of university, such university has no link with the people at all. It will not satisfy the political purpose that you have in mind of giving expression to the desire and the aspiration of the people. That is my second question.

The same applies to the question of appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. If you look at the clause here, you will find that. I shall not go into details as we all want to save time. But, as I said, those features are not unique to this Bill. That has become the accepted philosophy of the Ministry of Education under Mr. Shahi and Mr. Shiv Shanker that by virtue of these pieces of legislation which are passed so easily without due consideration, these universities are being reduced in status. They are being managed like administrative departments and that should cease if universities in India are to play the role that we expect of them. This is my general criticism.

Again I say I am in a very unhappy position. The Nagas are valiant people. Now if like all other States, they want to have High Court of their own and a university of their own and perhaps a second chamber of their own, well, that is the way we are going, that is the direction in which we are moving. This is not a very happy sign, Sir. With these words, I reserve my position on this Bill. I cannot support it; I cannot oppose it.

PROF N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Sir, I would like to say a few words about this. Mr. Shahabuddin has raised very important questions. But I don't think that this is a time for the Government as well as the Members to give as much serious consideration as these questions deserve it. These questions have to be discussed more seriously in other platforms. First of all, the UGC will have to consider and the educational authorities will have to give a serious consideration.

It is true that, as we have said, quite a lot of confusion has come to be introduced into this sphere. There are what are known as deemed universities also. But then what are we to do so far as the Naga University proposal is concerned? It is an ancient demand. They started making this demand long before their State came into existence. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's name has come to be associated with this because it was he who took the initiative in giving a status of statehood and creating the Nagaland State for the first time. Before that, for such small areas and smaller population, there were no separate States at all. That is one of the reasons why his name has come to be attached to this university.

The next thing is that this is not the first time that names have come to be attached. Personal names of certain distinguished persons have come to be associated with the universities. It has become a practice with us. There are several other universities. There is Pant University also. Some other names can be conjured up. Whether personal names should come to be associated with the university names is also another matter which has got to be considered by the educationists.

Now, why is it that for this five lakh of people alone a university is being created? One looks to wonder. I agree. I had the opportunity of going to this area long time ago when Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda happened to be the Home Minister. Mizoland people could think of separate entity of themselves only by suggesting that there should be separate university for Mizoland. Shri Nanda thought that it was an absurd proposition. He refused to agree.

15.00 hrs.

Then they made it a great point of this issue. From that they jumped on to the other additional point of dispute as to whether they should have a separate State or not. And then for 30 years, they had gone on fighting. Now, only four lakhs or five lakhs of people achieved a separate Statehood. We had to

eat a humble pie, the whole of India had to eat a humble pie to reach an agreement with their leader who almost, I think, became a citizen of England for some time. They had to make him come back here. We helped him to become the first Chief Minister by creating a separate State. These are all explosive problems. This is a huge country with people of different social, tribal and cultural developments. Therefore, all these exceptional things have got to be acceded to and we have no escape from these things. There may be four lakhs of people in a particular State. They have got claims for some other neighbouring areas. There are Nagas in neighbouring States. Now, for all these people, some kind of a cultural status would come to be conceded by the creation of this Nagaland University. And they may gain some kind of satisfaction.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Nagaland University cannot establish institutions outside the State of Nagaland.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : All these things will have to be considered separately and not this stage. All that we have to do is to make another conception other than the earlier conception of universities. According to the earlier conception, there used to be colleges and no universities. Then, Calcutta University came into existence. My hon. friend was talking of a few thousands of students and universities. Calcutta University at one time, was the only university for the whole of that region, for the whole of Bengal including Bihar and a part of Orissa. We have marched far far ahead from that stage of history even in regard to education. I do not think that my hon. friends, the Minister can be taken to task for introducing this Bill. Let us go ahead with this Naga University and let us hope that other tribal people in other States of the north-eastern part of India will be satisfied by this and if by chance they are not going to be satisfied and if they would go on insisting upon similar prestigious educational institutions to be created for themselves also, then we would have to think of the advisability or otherwise of conceding to them what is known as Deemed

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

university status and then raise the status of some of their colleges which are already there in Cachar and other places, to the status of Deemed university and be satisfied with this. The only question is the amount that has got to be spent on this. Now that also is a question of proportion as to how much is to be given, how much is to be paid to the vice-Chancellor and so on. Then the other question of control over all these people and whether it is going to be an additional department attached to the Education Minister or not are also to be considered. I do not know whether my hon. friend is aware of the fact that there are universities where the State Governments have got very great control over their local universities and arrogate to themselves the power to remove a Vice-Chancellor and to appoint another Vice-Chancellor and to dismiss a Syndicate and to appoint other members of the Syndicate. All these things are there. It is a complicated question. It is not going to be simplified anyhow at any time. But so much of complication is not necessary and not advisable. Some serious study has got to be made and that can be made not by the Central Minister alone. The Central Education Minister and the State Education Ministers all over India would have to sit together and seek the cooperation of the educationists and Vice-Chancellors of the various Universities and thereafter help us to have a comprehensive, more sensible and more workable educational system in which there would be a greater element of autonomy, and less element of autocracy, so far as the management of institutions is concerned.

I am glad that this Bill has come to be introduced at long last; it should have passed long ago. I wish all success for this University

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity. I rise to support this Bill. May I congratulate the Education Minister as also the Prime Minister for taking a decision now. It should have been done earlier. Whether a

University is set up in a State for six thousand students or half a million students, that is not the criterion for taking a decision in such matters. The question is that the people of the State have been asking for a separate University. It has been a long standing demand of the people. It should have been set up a long time ago. Once again, I congratulate the Prime Minister for setting up this University. This is one of the bold steps taken by the Government.

After all, education is an elementary need of the people and it is the duty of the Government to provide proper opportunities for it to the people, whether they are tribals, scheduled castes or others. Of course, Nagaland has a peculiar topography. I feel that when the Naga people receive education in the Nagaland University, the education system would be fitted with their culture and habits. And we should extend all support to this. It would help them to come within the mainstream of India.

I fail to understand the criticism made by Shri Shahabuddin against this Bill. I do not understand his difficulty. It should, in fact, be appreciated that if there are six thousand students, the teaching staff would be able to give better education to the students. Of course, I agree with one remark of Shri Shahabuddin that the standard of education must not go down. The standard of the University should be maintained. I can accept that and that aspect should be taken care of. This decision is definitely a correct decision taken at the correct time. So far these six thousand students were under the North-Eastern Hill University, now it has become a separate University. Is Shri Shahabuddin not supporting the case of decentralisation? By setting up a separate University, are you not offering them better opportunities for education? With the smaller number of students, is it not easier to give them better education? I cannot understand any opposition to this Bill.

I whole-heartedly support this Bill. I only want to make one suggestion. After all, education is a basic necessity. In a demo-

cratic country like ours, it is the duty of the Government to spread education all over to all class of people. But simple giving education will not serve the purpose. One thing should be kept in mind that the education should be job-oriented, producing a number of graduates otherwise will not serve any purpose. So, that has to be looked into. Here, I also convey my thanks to Prof. Ranga who has mentioned about the Calcutta University. One of the points mentioned by Mr. Shahabuddin was that this is a place where only 19 colleges are there and there are 6000 students. So, what is the necessity of having one more university there? You forget about those days when there was wide jurisdiction with Bihar and parts of other places. Even today—I am not here to criticise the State Government - this Calcutta University although have a number of colleges under its jurisdiction but they cannot hold examinations. Is it good for the students? So, what is the point of having a University with hundreds of colleges functioning under its jurisdiction and you cannot hold examinations? If you cannot complete your academic year within the specified time and thereby causing tremendous injuries to the students, then what is the use of having a university? Therefore, there is nothing wrong if 19 colleges are taken under one university and proper education is given, proper examination is held for the students and also the students get proper time to go in for higher education. If I have to compare the present position of the Calcutta University, I welcome such decentralisation of the University as has been enunciated in this Bill. In future, if more universities are to be set up, I think it will be better for the benefit of the students at large.

With these few words, I whole heartedly support this Nagaland University Bill, 1989.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on this Bill. This is a welcome piece of legislation. By means of this, we are going to have a new University in the North-Eastern part of our country.

The people of Nagaland have been demanding the establishment of such a university for quite a long time. That way, it is a fulfilment of a promise made or an assurance given to them. Our Prime Minister, particularly, deserves congratulations. After having visited extensively, he has had a fair idea of the culture of Nagaland, the people's aspirations there and now he is going to establish a university there. The university is going to take shape there. The dream of the people of Nagaland is going to take a definite shape by means of this Bill.

I also fail to understand the argument advanced by our hon. friend Shri Shahabuddin from the other side. Population is not the basic. The student's strength cannot be the sole basis for the creation or establishment of a university. If population is only the basis, then, the seven sister States (North-Eastern States) would not have come into the picture. Their culture, geographical situation and so many other things ought to be taken into consideration while judging certain things, including the setting up of a university. Education is the primary thing which we want to emphasise upon. If right type of education is imparted, then that would create a new generation, the type of generation that we desire to have. In all our universities, in all our institutions, in all our colleges and in all our factories, man-worthy man should be manufactured. We have made a lot of strides in our country in different areas of development—be it on agriculture, be it on industry. We have marched forward. We have made a spectacular progress. On the other hand, it is an irony that we have to admit that we have lacking not only in India but throughout the world—in humanness. It is the man-worthy man that is somewhat lacking. It is not only lacking in India but throughout the world. Now it has got to be the endeavour of every administration, every Government—particularly our Government; that is why we have created a new Ministry. We have re-named it as the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Our young, dynamic Prime Minister himself took pains personally to see that a New Education Policy was formulated. The whole principle

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

behind this Policy, the whole philosophy behind it is that we have to make a better man. We have to convert our children, our young men into better citizens.

I am also disappointed to see that for different reasons, the New Education Policy could not be implemented in the right perspective. The purpose behind it was not well understood, was not taken seriously by different States. But Education also being the responsibility of the State Governments, they are implementing this Policy, sometimes they complain of lack of resources. Anyway the New Education Policy would bring a lot of hope. But it is not a total success so far.

This Bill is well drafted. As I said, it is a fulfilment of a promise made earlier. But the regular curricula, the routine type of education should not be there. Education has got to be relevant to the changing times. Education is an instrument, as I said earlier, a powerful instrument to arouse humanness and also to bring out the latent qualities that are there in every child. How can we activate them? Education is an instrument in that sense. But if we consider today's education, we are frustrated to a large extent. Education has got to be relevant to our life and our progress. Today, despite all the progress made, the most pressing problem that we are facing is that of unemployment.

I am giving two suggestions. The Vice-Chancellor has been given sweeping powers in this Bill. There is always an apprehension of such powers being misused. Therefore, I would request Government to have some checks and balances. A Students Council is also there.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Mr. Tombi Singh. What Mr. Panigrahi says will not go on record

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No; that is all. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: It is a new university. We wish this university all the best.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): I must, at the outset, congratulate the people of Nagaland, the whole State of Nagaland and also our hon. Prime Minister—and of course, directly our Education Minister who has handled this Bill.

The history of small universities in the north-eastern States is a long one. At the outset, I must express my surprise and dissatisfaction at the attitude taken by our hon. Member Shahabuddin Ji, for his reserving his support for and appreciation of this Bill. I do not say that he needs education; but probably he needs more information on this subject.

It has been my privilege to have associated myself with the formation of the small States politically; and I had been associated—having been a member of the academic community in my own humble way—with the organisation and establishment of the educational institutions, separation of the universities at Calcutta and then at Guwahati from these small States. In the early '60s, U.S.C. under the guidance and direction of the then Prime Minister Pandit Ji. had started looking into these problems through a committee.

I remember, I had given evidence before that Committee on the need for a university for hill areas first; and it has to work through campuses in the small units. Then we had foreseen—the local people, all those who had been associated with this small State—that this realisation some day will dawn upon the whole nation. But, unfortunately, at that time, the UGC Committee could not agree even to the fact that campuses should be opened under the aegis of the Hill University or the Central University to be located in Meghalaya. From that started

another debate with the UGC and the Education Ministry at the Centre. The units are small. So, I do not have to go into the whole history of these small States. Now, today, we have come to realise that the demand of the local people at that time has come through because NEHU was to be established by an Act of Parliament in 1972; and at that time, we had expressed our views that this would not be sufficient in view of the political changes that are coming up in the entire North Eastern States; in the small State a full-fledged campus to be groomed up in order to become of a full university in their small way has to be foreseen also. That was also not realised. But the demand has been there from the Manipur side. Of course, Mizoram has to come as a Union Territory. But from Manipur and other places this demand has been going on. Now, Nagaland being territorially so close to my State and my constituency consist of Nagaland population, I know we have some common problems. It has been my privilege to know and also to discuss with the academic community in Nagaland that a campus now is going to be promoted to a full university and to be cut off from the Headquarters that is NEHU at Meghalaya. This is a very appropriate step and nothing can be more welcome than this. I do not like to go into all those small details. Politically, of course, we have been settled as a separate State. Otherwise, culturally, socially and in education, we have to provide this with its own management, with its own university so that it can groom up a full-fledged group of citizens, State of citizens to take full part in the mainstream of Indian culture. The only question is that we have to sound to the Education Minister is that the universities that are coming up should be looked after properly. The Kassar University will be coming up. It is a Central University. Manipur University is a State University, which is already there. Then Assam has got three universities—Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Kassar. Then Arunachal, in spite of its limitations, small population and all that, has already a university. Meghalaya will be looked after by a Central University known as NEHU. I cannot understand the point by Shri Shahabuddin against the limitations of the juris-

dition of this new University in Nagaland, because all the neighbouring States have got their own universities. Now why should the Nagaland University be again given the temptation to extend its jurisdiction like Nepal and other States, because all the neighbouring States have got their own universities?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I have heard the statement of Prof. Ranga, He says that Naga people living outside Nagaland may also be benefited by this University.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: They can be benefited by the jurisdiction of other universities of the States in which they are domiciled. So, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that, while implementing this well should take care of standard of the examinations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Territorially and region-wise I am so closely linked up with this. By chance, Nagaland does not have an MP in this House. So, being a neighbouring MP, I would like to take a little more time.

Sir, the standard of education of the universities in this area is not so good. I do not know the reason for it, but the standard is not up to that in the other universities in the country. It is of course up to the management of these universities to maintain some standard, but we have to recognise the fact that the standard of education, instruction and examination in these universities is not at par with that in the other universities elsewhere in the country, particularly the universities at Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, etc. All the other universities have come out with post-graduate courses and specialised subjects. These universities suffer at the time of admission. But talent-wise after getting admission in the specially considered categories, our experience has shown that our boys and girls do very well; they match with the rest of the boys and girls in the other parts of the country. Therefore, there is some

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lacuna in the system, or in the very implementation of the laws and regulations. If we keep in mind the standard of education in the new universities and particularly in the universities in the Eastern region, beginning from Calcutta, which is politically so agitated and which has got so many problems, our universities have to improve their standards. This point has to be taken care of .

With these few words, I would like to support this Bill which gives a University to Nagaland. I once again congratulate the people of Nagaland on this account and also thank the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): I welcome this Bill, the Nagaland University Bill, 1989. It was a long pending demand of the people of Nagaland for the setting up of one university in Nagaland. I want to congratulate our Prime Minister and our Education Minister also for having brought up this Bill. But I want to make a request on one or two points only. I am not discussing the bill in detail as the time is short.

(Interruptions)

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Education to only one or two points.

In the last session this House passed a Bill about a university in Assam. It is a very good gesture. But there has been no follow-up. No follow-up action has been taken. Till today no follow up action has been taken by the Government. If the Government is not going to take any follow-up action, then there will be no use in passing this type of Bills. Immediate steps should be taken for preparing a time bound programme and for taking action on a priority basis.

I know the Nagaland people very well. I went there thrice. They are very simple people but only due to lack of education they do not know India very well. They only know

about the people of the Eastern region or the North-Eastern parts, but not the rest of the country. Therefore, through this Bill they will get an opportunity to know the culture of our country, they will also know about the development of the people. They will know our country very well. This Bill will provide them the opportunities.

But at the same time, in Nagaland there are some migrated people, who have been staying there from the very beginning. they are having some feeling that they are being neglected, or that they are being discriminated against. So, I would request you to make some provision for the migrated people also, have been staying there from the beginning. They should get proper education through this University. Otherwise, where will they go? Their culture is like Nagaland culture. Their education and their medium of instruction or culture should be of the same type as of Nagaland. Their standard of living is also like that of the Nagas. But they are being discriminated and they are often told, "You are the migrated people, you are the plains people, you will not get this priority because you are not a tribal". I would like such feelings to be removed. I want you to assure us that there will be some provision for the migrated people also to get some opportunities for proper education through this Bill.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I find this Bill is a progressive measure and I must support it. But it has many weaknesses.

Firstly I support Kumari Mamata Banerjee on the question of minorities in Nagaland because sometimes we do not take notice of minority groups. Recently we gave many benefits in Ladakh but we left out Arugons who have been living in Ley for five hundred years. That mini census will have to be reconducted because we cannot be unjust to such groups.

Then, Sir, coming to the Bill, I must say that this is a progressive measure. I have seen the Bill. I raise a question: why a

Central University? Because Nagaland has its own Legislature. We could have a University by an Act of the Legislature. I do not agree with Shri Shahabuddin, who has said that for six thousand people, we are having a University. In a border sense, he is correct. There may be only five thousand Naga people, but they have a right as they are living at a far flung place and they must have university education. Why cannot we have it by an Act of the Legislature and why do we have it by an Act of Parliament? Because I see in this Bill that there is no autonomy. No autonomy has been woven into the structure of the Bill. It is for Mr. Shahi to say or comment what is autonomy. It is just like say other University, because in all the debates we discuss it here and the Ministry does not take any notice of what ideas are thrown up here. When you start a University, you could just reflect a new thinking.

Once more thing to which I would like to invite the attention of Shri Shahiji. There is a system of proliferation. We have more Colleges and more Universities, but there is no consolidation. There is wastage of resources. You do not know that ninety per cent of funds goes waste in research at Universities. Our Universities are not conducting researches. We have hundreds of Ph.D in languages. Those Ph.D theses are not worth anything. There was an article "Ph.Ds a dime a dozen" Hard earned money of the nation is being wasted in Universities. There is no institution to look after or supervise the Universities.

As far as the University Grants Commission is concerned, it is a defunct institution. I invite the hon. Minister to organise a Conference of educationists and I will prove how UGC is an institution, which gives funds. It does not know how the funds are utilised in Universities. It has no control over the academics of the Universities. The University Grants Commission is nothing but a funds giving institution. It could be a Cell in the Ministry of Education. It is totally a defunct institution. There is indiscipline in the Universities and nobody is there to control the University. So, the hon. Minister should take note of this fact and there should be a probe

into the functioning of UGC. I have serious allegations. They sit in cosy chairs and they do not go into the length and breadth of the Universities in the country and see how Universities are functioning.

Sir, since I must save time for my other colleagues, I come to the Bill now and I would refer to two or three provisions of the Bill. One I criticise and the other I welcome. You have said that now we have Selection Committees. I do not think that this provision has been prepared properly. You said that there will be Selection Committee for appointment of Registrar, Finance Officer, Professor and Readers. And nowhere it is written who will chair the meetings. The Vice-Chancellor by virtue of his office cannot be the Chairman all the time. For instance, there is a nominee of the Visitor. The Visitor may nominate somebody who is far above the level of the Vice Chancellor. You did not say anything about it. So, kindly ask somebody to look into this. Because, when Visitor Nominates somebody on a Committee the Vice-Chancellor may be there and by virtue of his office, he will not be Chairman. That is why, the Vice Chancellor will be the Chairman of that Committee. so, when you appoint Registrar, Vice Chancellor may be the Chairman. But when you appoint a professor and you say there will be a nominee of the Visitor, the nominee of the Visitor may be a person who is holding a higher office than the Vice-Chancellor. So, this is a lacuna in this Bill...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G.RANGA : Have they consulted the Nagaland Assembly?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I do not know. The Nagaland Assembly should have been consulted. This Bill should have gone to that Legislature. It is an unnecessary exercise for this Parliament. Anyway, Mr. Shahi will reply to that.

Then, Sir, there is a good provision in the Bill of having an alumni association for the University. It is a good provision and so many people will be represented on this alumni association. This is a very progres-

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sive measure although its member have been debarred from going to Executive Committee, etc

Then, there is a provision like Students Council. It is a very good provision. I congratulate the Minister of having put such a provision in the Bill. This Students Council is a good idea. But you want this Students Council to meet once a year. University is a dynamic institution. There are day-to-day problems. The Students Council will meet once a year and that too in the beginning of the session. This is a wrong idea. The Students Council should meet four times during the course of a year. I think Mr. Shahi will kindly rise to the occasion that the Students Council should meet more than once at least. He does not agree with me that it will meet four times. At least it should meet two times. In the beginning of the session it will meet and then for the whole year the students will not be associated with it.

Then, Sir, my pointed question is, why did this Bill not go to the State Legislature, instead of coming to the Parliament?

SHRIL P. SHAHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to point out to what Kumari Mamata Banerjee said that we passed the Assam University Bill and then did not follow it up. As a matter of fact, I would like to place it before the House for the information of the House that we have been in correspondence with the Assam Government. We asked them to provide land for it. When they said they were not taking notice of the D O letters then we sent an official letter to the Assam Government. We are waiting for their reply so far as land is concerned we have got an offer of land from an individual and that also we have forwarded to the Assam Government. The appointment of an Officer on Special Duty is already in the move.

Whenever a new university is set up, first of all, we appoint an Officer on Special Duty who takes the preliminary steps for the

establishment of the university.

The criticism was that for six thousand students and nineteen colleges we are going to establish a university. I would like to point out that when Bihar and Orissa separated in 1956, and the Utkal University came into existence, it had only seventeen colleges on its roll. Now, with the expansion of education, the Utkal University itself has given rise to two other universities in the State. So, this is a continuing process. Today there are six thousand students, tomorrow there may be more. After all, what is the number of students in one of the biggest universities of the country or of Asia? What is the number of students in BHU or for that matter Aligarh University? If there are six thousand students, there will hardly be fifteen thousand students in BHU and ten thousand students in AMU. So, it is not the number of students that has to be considered at this stage.

As Prof. Ranga has pointed out, there are Nagas in Manipur, there are Nagas in NEFA also. So, there is an impression that we are making the provision for the minority. When this is going to be a Central university, it will be open to all citizens of the country. It is not necessarily meant for Nagas only. But it is going to be located in Nagaland. And primarily because it is located in Nagaland more Naga students should be there. That is understandable. But there is no bar to other students studying there. After all, it is just like any other Central university. We have tried to make it a little different.

Prof. Soz said why should it not be a State university. The Nagaland Government itself has been insisting on laying stress for a long time on having a Central university, because they don't want to share the burden of running a university. It is their request, so there is no question of sending it back to the State Legislature and Prof. Soz will agree with me that whenever there is too much of inbreeding in the university, the university deteriorates. And we have learnt it to our experience that some of the universities which were running very well till 30 years ago have deteriorated in the recent past because

of too much inbreeding of students and teachers and such of the universities which invite teachers on All India basis, on competitive basis, are still maintaining a higher standard. So, I am confident that this Central University Act is as good as other similar Acts, nothing different from the Acts by which other universities have been established by the Central Government. So, I should say, this University will function like any other Central University and will lead to the growth and prosperity of Nagaland and its students.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Question is :

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University in the State of Nagaland and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 48 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 to 48 and the Schedule were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI L.P. SAHI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

15.42 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Communal Situation in the Country-
Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the communal situation in the country.

Shri Shantaram Naik may speak.

Mr. Naik, have you given the translation of your speech in writing?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: (Panaji): Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In that case only the translation will go on record. If at all you say anything over and above that, it won't go on record.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Yes, I think it is the privilege of this House and for the first time I would like to make a speech in my language, namely, Konkani. the people's language of Goa.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, No one can feel happy in participating on the subject of communal situation prevailing in our country. I also do not feel happy about it for, I feel as you must also be feeling that a situation should arise in the country whereby there should be no need to hold discussion on the subject in this House.

Who has created this difference between man and man? If we feel that this world has been created by the God and, if 95 per cent of our people believe in God, then, why should anyone believe in that which the God has never said. To believe in discrimination between man to man on the basis of religion is virtually to go against the teachings of such religion, it is strange that those who believe in the teachings of their respective religions, actually violate its teachings.

While speaking in this House sometime back, I had quote a few lines from the one of a Hindi film. The name of the film was "Dhool Ka Phool" In that film one old Muslim finds an abandoned newly born child. He is not aware of the religion or caste of the child. He says addressing the child-

"Tu na Hindu banega na Musalman
banega,
Insan ki aulad hai tu insan banega."

Recently to introduce the atmosphere of secularism in the Elections, the Government amended the Representation of People's Act and as per new amendment every political party has seek fresh registration before the Election Commission amending their respective constitution or rules stating that they believe in the Constitution of India as also the principles of Democracy, Socialism and Secularism.

Some of the political parties—despite the fact that they do not believe in the principle of Secularism have made false claim that they believe so. Some other parties

have submitted bogus copies of their amended constitution/Rules before the Election Commission. Other parties could not give their say in the matter. However, there is no time in stressing this matter now, but that I would only like to get my views recorded on this point.

As you are aware in Goa there is a strong unity amongst Hindus and Christians. Goa was ruled for 450 years by the Portuguese. Even at that time the unity was worth seeing. I feel that example of this unity should be followed in the rest of the country. God bless you.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, the way communalism is spreading in the country is a matter of serious concern. This subject is under discussion at present. All the hon. Members who have made their submissions so far have condemned the communal situation. This is of course a correct stand. But this matter should be condemned outside the House as well. This is not happening. The hon. Members are condemning it unanimously inside the House but they are not doing the same outside. We should take such action and make such statements so that we may be able to convince the people that there is no place for communalism in our country.

Sir, it is because of the elections that communal tension is being created in this country. This is being done for political reasons. It is on this account that the Ram Shila Pujan is being given so much of publicity. These people want to play a political game in the name of religion. But I am proud of the fact that the State from which I hail is free from such activities, and there are no incidents of communal violence. I can proudly claim that there is no communal violence in my State.

Sir, before independence, our leaders struggled and shed their blood for the independence of the country. Mahatma Gandhi sacrificed his life for the sake of the country but it is strange that the BJP is playing a

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Konkani.

communal game. The Government should pay attention in the this direction. Crores of rupees were spent for celebrating the birthday of Shri Devlal. This is the way that these people have begun to convert their black money into white. Maharani Scindia said that there is no place for any religion other than Hinduism in this country. Did the country achieve independence so that such inciting statements could be made and incidents of communal violence could have occurred? The people of India do not favour it but this is what our political leaders want. I would like to congratulate the people of India that they have maintained the traditions of the country and have not been misled by communal slogans. If this state of affairs is allowed to continue, each community will claim that India belong to that particular community exclusively and no other community has any right to live here. I would say that in India there is no Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Jain or Buddhist but all are Indians. Humanity is the supreme religion and this is the religion of India.

In view of the constraints of time, I would like to be brief. I would like to request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting of all political parties and discuss the problem of communalism first. The election issue and political battles are not so urgent. All the political parties should join hands and made concerted efforts in fighting a communalism. Political battles can be fought there after. It is only when the country survives that political parties can also survive. If the country disintegrates how can political parties exist? The nation is far more important than politics.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister and the Government that it should invite the opposition parties for discussing the communal situation in the country. Discussions with the leaders of the National Front should be held in those places in particular where the communal problem is very serious and where there have been 54 incidents of communal violence in 30 days.

All the political parties should be invited.

If these political parties have any guts then they should come on one platform and announce that there is no place for communalism in this country. It is no use to discuss it only in the House because a member says one thing in the House and altogether a different thing outside the House. However, what we say before the public outside the House, that is more important. Communalism can be wiped out only if all of us make concerted efforts in this regard. I would like to request the Minister to sit and negotiate with the opposition parties to have some amicable settlement. A tussle with them can't bring in any solution. It has been clearly provided in the People's Representation Amendment Bill as passed by this House, that political parties will not have any connection with the religion. The Government should take some remedial steps in respect of the small political parties, like Shivsena Bajrang Dal, Suraksha Samiti etc. which are trying to disintegrate the country. The Government should take up this issue with the Election Commissioner and take some proper measures in this regard.

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been discussing the communal situation in this House for the last two days. I would also like to express my views in brief.

I hail from a State where even at the time of partition of India, there were no communal riots in any of the princely states of this region, though lakhs of people had crossed over to Pakistan from Rajasthan Border and lakhs of others had come to Rajasthan from Pakistan. However, even in that situation, no such incident of stabbing or killing had taken place in our state. Today the situation in that State is such as it was never before during the last thirty years. It appears from the incidents, that have taken place in the last few months and the atmosphere that is being created in that State, that such incidents may take place in several other places. There could be some or the other deficiency with the princely states but in those days, there was an ideal atmosphere for communal harmony. Even in the State like Kashmir, no

[Sh. Jujhar Singh]

communal disturbances had taken place before, independence. In the pre-partition period when there was communal flare up in all the states of India, communal harmony was maintained in this State. Therefore, today I feel very much aggrieved to see the present situation, and find myself unable to understand as to how the normalcy would be restored in those places. There is another sad aspect of it. Forty years ago, the situation was such in our villages that in case of a communal disturbance in the village, the village head could settle such disputes and resolve the communal controversy. The status of kind of a princely state was above the consideration of caste and religion. The people belonging to all the sections of the society equally respected him. There were many personalities in the district, in whom the people had a great trust. It is very unfortunate that today, communal situation has gradually deteriorated to such an extent that there is no such person in the district or in the country who could influence all sections of people of our country. Today, there is not a single person like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru and Vinobha Bhave, whom the people of this country may listen respectfully and act according to his advice.

Even at the time of partition, there were many such great leaders among the Muslims who held a secular view and all the people of this country used to hear them with great regard Maulana Azad, Shekh Abdulla, Sikander Hayat Khan and Frontier Gandhi were the persons of that calibre, that they were not afraid of anybody and they were impartial. They were national leaders and always spoke in a secular voice and people used to hear them with rapt attention. Such leaders were there in the Muslim as well in the Hindu Community. But it is very unfortunate that today leaders represent only one particular section of the society and they can influence the opinion of one particular community while they are misunderstood by the people of other religions and communities. I would like to submit that whatever is said here on this forum of our Parliament, it should

be said with some restraint and it should promote communal harmony and put a check on the growing rustic trends in our country.

Here, I recall a book 'The Great Contemporaries' written by Sir Winston Churchill. Shahabuddin Saheb, you please listen to me, he had made the following remarks about Kaiser William of Germany in 1914 before the first world war:-

[*English*]

"The least you could do sitting on a volcano is to smoke any yet Kaiser William smoked chimneys of fire sitting on a volcano... Resulting in 1st World War."

So, I would request the leaders of the different communities to use restraint. Instead of exciting the people and exploiting the situation, they should speak in a voice which would cement the various communities and save our country from further trouble...

[*Translation*]

However, I wish that the present unfortunate situation may get abated.

Now a days even our peaceful State of Rajasthan is witnessing communal disturbances, I would like to speak about it in brief. A number of Government employees has been apprehended during the recent communal disturbances. I would like to submit that strict action should be taken against all such Government employees who had been arrested and in whose cases it was established beyond doubt that they had participated in demonstrations so that in future, any other person having such intentions may not think of creating disturbances. If an exemplary action is taken against such persons by the Government, other people will not dare create disturbances in future.

Recently there were some clashes in the villages and city of Kota. Now the Administration has issued an order after the

disturbances that all the licensed weapons may be deposited in the police station. It is very unfortunate that people who are noble and dependable and have been issued licences after the verification of their bonafide are asked to surrender their licences. Hence, it is not something desirable to issue orders requiring these people to deposit their licensed arms. On the contrary, in the State of Punjab, the Government is issuing licences to the dependable and noble persons but in the State Rajasthan, the people, who were already in possession of licences, are being asked to surrender their licences and deposit their licensed weapons in the police station. On whose instructions they are doing it? Today, Guards arms with stenguns are being provided to the Ministers and officers of the Government but it is very unfortunate that Government intends to put a restriction on licensed weapons of the noble citizens. Such a thing did not happen even during the period of British rule. It is not correct to suspect and misunderstand the noble persons. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to direct the State Government not to take such steps in respect of these orders because it increases the bad feelings and also causes humiliation to the law abiding people.

With these words, I conclude, and take my seat.

16.00 hrs.

**DISCUSSION RE: MAINTENANCE OF A
BANK ACCOUNT IN ST: KITTS**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up a discussion on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance in the House on the 12th October, 1989 regarding maintenance of a Bank Account in St. Kitts.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): What

about this discussion?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will continue this...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): We will take up this discussion just now and later on we will continue discussion on the communal situation.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): You are not going to sit after 6.00 P.M. or 6.30 P.M. I believe. Today it is Id-e-Milad-ul-Nabi. We did not raise this question the whole day. There are so many festivals and so many things going on outside...

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Banatwallaji, we will do that. You can speak on it. Let the Home Minister come here. We will keep this in mind so that we can let you go by 6.00 P.M. or 6.30 P.M. Will that be alright? We will certainly keep that in mind.

16.02 hrs.

[English]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Statement made on 12/10/1989 by the
Minister of State in the Department of
Economic Affairs in the Ministry of
Finance re : Maintenance of a bank
Account in St. Kitts**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basheer to speak.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise the discussion on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance regarding maintenance of a bank account by Shri Ajeya Singh, son of the Janata Dal Leader Shri V.P. Singh. This is about a person,

[Sh. T. Basheer]

standing on the top of the House declaring at the top of his voice about value-based politics, fighting corruption etc.

At the outset, I would like to say that the so-called leader, the value based politician, is now fully exposed and his real colours have come out and now his image is sinking in the mud. Who was Shri V.P. Singh ? He was the UPCC President. He was leader in the Congress Party also. He was the Chief Minister of U.P. and he was the Finance Minister of this Government. At that time, opposition had criticised him. When he presented his Budget here, it is the same opposition who said: "look, this is the horrid, anti-poor, bourgeois Budget, not progressive and so on." Then he was reactionary. Then suddenly he became idealist, value-based politician, angel, Messiah of opposition and everything. When Mr. V.P. Singh became acceptable to the Opposition? When this opportunist bourgeois Congress leader became acceptable to this opposition as value-based politician? When Mr. V.P. Singh betrayed his party; When Mr. V.P. Singh betrayed his leader and like a butcher, Mr. V.P. Singh stabbed his leader on the back, of course, politically. Then he became acceptable to the opposition. Then he became the idealist.

Now, I come to the statement made by the Minister. Before that I would like to refer to a point. During the last session you know we had raised a point here. We raised an issue of a letter. You know the letter written by Shri V.P. Singh. To whom? To Shri Haji Mastan. We raised that issue in this House. In the letter Shri V.P. Singh profusely thanked Shri Haji Mastan for his generous donation in Allahabad election. He addressed like this.

" Dear Mastanbhai,

Thank you for the donation and for other help in Allahabd election."

Shri V.P. Singh talks about value based politics, talks about black-money, talks about

corruption. But we know who is Shri Haji Mastan, what is his background and what are his antecedents. Shri V.P. Singh said, "Thank you Shri Mastan, I thank you for your generous help" Shri Haji Mastan repeatedly said that he has received such a letter from Shri V.P. Singh. Now Shri V.P. Singh is silent.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, are we discussing Shri V.P. Singh or are we discussing this statement?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): We are discussing the beneficiary of this account. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will see. We will find out.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : This is totally irrelevant. You keep your speech limited to this account and to the statement.

SHRI T. BASHEER: I will just now show you the relevance. The name of the beneficiary is Shri V.P. Singh.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : That is your assumption.

SHRI T. BASHEER: That is my charge.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Does it give you the authority for character assassination of Shri V.P. Singh?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When in the statement already made the name of Shri V.P. Singh is mentioned, let him be brief on that and then after that he can into the details of the account.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Is that fair? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

SHRI T. BASHEER: What I am trying to tell you is that now we know the real colour

of Shri V.P. Singh and the meaning of what he says.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Don't vote for him!

SHRI T. BASHEER: About this account, this report first came not in an Indian newspaper. This news item appeared in a Kuwaiti newspaper, the Arab Times on 20.8.1989.

16.10 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Almost all the Indian news papers carried this news. The main disclosure is an account with Number 29479 with the First Trust Corporation Limited, St. Kitts, was opened in the name of Shri Ajeya Singh, in which Shri V.P. Singh is included as the beneficiary. During the period from 16.9.86 to 26.3.87, huge amounts were deposited in the account by way of six deposits. The details are given here and everyone knows the details of this account also. Actually, on 16.9.86 the deposited amount is US \$2 million; on 10.10.86, it is US \$ 2 million; on 13.12.86 it is US \$ 5 million; on 18.1.87, it is US \$ 3 million ; on 24.2.87 it is US \$ 5 million and lastly on 26.3.87, it is US \$ 4 million. The total amount comes to US \$ 21 million. Everyone knows the nature of this bank. It is clear that somebody, on behalf of Mr Ajeya Singh approached the First Trust Corporation, St. Kitts. Mr. Mclean, the Managing Director was approached by a person in connection with the Special Investment Programme of the Corporation. St. Kitts has a special programme, special plan for investment for Indians and other foreigners. So, somebody approached him. This person indicated the intention of opening a numbered account for depositing a substantial amount of money. After the details had been settled, requisite forms for opening the account were taken by this person. After two weeks, the same person returned and presented to the Corporation through its Managing Director, Mr. Mclean, completed forms duly signed by Shri Ajeya Singh as 'account holder' and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh

as ' beneficiary.' Photostate copies of the passports of Shri Ajeya Singh and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh were also handed over to Mr. Mclean. All these details were given. As the Minister has correctly put it, from the enquiries made by the Ministry, it is clear that these are genuine. You may remember when this item was published in our news papers, this charge was not levelled by any Congressman. But the news papers said that.

Then Mr. V. P. Singh said that Government must take action. Government should prosecute his son. He made much hue and cry. Then Government was not so much anxious but it was V P Singh who said that Government must take action and prosecute his son. After that Mr. Ajeya Singh came to India and presented some statement. It was quite natural for the Government to ask for more information regarding his statement. On two occasions Mr. Ajeya Singh was asked to furnish some information but the information given by him on both occasions was incomplete.

I quote from the statement of the Minister:

"As some aspects of the transaction could attract provisions of the FERA, the Directorate of Enforcement issued a Directive under Section 33 (2) of the FERA, 1973 to Shri Ajeya Singh on 13.9.1989, which was replied to by Shri Ajeya Singh on 18th September, 1989. Since the information furnished by Shri Ajeya Singh in response to the Directive dated 13th September, 1989 was incomplete, the Directorate issued another Directive to Shri Ajeya Singh on 28th September, 1989. The reply to the second Directive has also been received by the Enforcement Directorate on 9th October, 1989. However, the reply received is still not complete..."

So the information asked for has not been submitted so far by him. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why there is so much delay and why Shri Ajeya Singh is reluctant to submit this information? Why is he not

[Sh. T. Basheer]

submitting full information asked for by the Enforcement Directorate?

Another thing is about Shri Ajeya Singh's statement in respect of his assets. He has said that he lived in hard times between 1977 and 1983 and he was unemployed for a substantial period but as per the statement his total assets are more than half a million US dollars, namely, about Rs. 80 lakhs. Now this point becomes clear that these assets are disproportionate to his known source of income. I would like to know what action Government has taken to find out the facts behind it? Of course, I can understand that a doctor or a physician will get high remuneration in the USA. But a bank employee will not get a high remuneration there. Mr. Ajeya Singh was a junior officer of the bank. In the USA, it is not a remunerative post. I would like to know what was the answer from Mr. Ajeya Singh about how he acquired these assets and what was the source of his income.

Mr. V.P. Singh mentioned last year that he and his family members had nothing to do with the Reliance company. But now he has admitted in his statement that Mr. Ajeya Singh owned 1,800 shares of the Reliance company. This fact was brought out during the election campaign in Allahabad last year. But Mr. V.P. Singh then said that it was false. Now Mr. Ajeya Singh admits it.

As I told you, Mr. Ajeya Singh had said that he lived in hard time between September 1977 and 1983. So, we should believe that the deposits amounting to US \$ 1 lakh held by him in various foreign banks are as a result of savings for six years. He has submitted that he was drawing an annual salary of US \$ 50,000. When he left his place last week, that was the salary. Surely, in the earlier years, he must have earned less. Therefore, the question is: how could he survive in a foreign country on a low salary and yet he could have huge savings?

Shri V.P. Singh always says that his son has not received any favours from him. But

Ajeya Singh was working with the City Bank in the USA. Mr. V.P. Singh was the Finance Minister. So many concessions were given to this foreign bank. It is clear that his son was employed in the Citi Bank, USA, because of the favours done to this bank. This is a fact. This is a very clear evidence. And the periods also prove that it is correct. Sir, Mr. V.P. Singh is a 'Raja'. We know his financial position. His other son, Mr. Abeya Singh, as everybody knows, has flats here. His assets come to crores. The question is why Mr. Ajeya Singh was sent to USA. On the other side, he speaks about value-based politics. Why was he sent to USA? As I had put it earlier, employment in a bank in USA is not so attractive and remunerative. Then why had he gone to work in a bank there? I would like to say that he was sent to USA to cover up and conceal his assets and foreign deposits. I am concluding by saying that Government must look into these aspects. A thorough inquiry must be made into these things and this will definitely establish Mr. V.P. Singh's real colour in politics. With these words, I urge upon the Government to look into all the aspects regarding this issue and to come out with real facts. The people of India are awaiting to know the facts about these things.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to speak much on this subject since Shri Basheer has already given the factual position in the House. However, I have some doubts and I want the hon. Minister to clarify them. I have noticed a few irregularities in the report published in the Arab Times about the St. Kitts account. There are no two views that it is bad to make false allegations against a person but there are a number of leaders in our country who put on masks. They pose to be honest and simple but the moment they are exposed and unmasked everybody knows their real self. We are all elected representatives of the people, no matter whether we belong to the ruling party or the Opposition. However a true leader is a person who makes sacrifice and sets an example before

the masses. Leaders are not born but become by virtue of their deeds. But today there are many such leaders in our country who do not have leadership qualities. They hardly own anything before becoming leaders but the moment they become leaders they own properties worth crores of rupees. The Government had instructed Shri V.P. Singh's son twice to submit a list of his assets but the latter gave a hanky-panky account of his assets. This is why I have doubts which I want to raise in the House. I do not want to hurl false allegations on someone but it is the duty of the Government to verify the assets submitted by him and see if there is any criminal offence against him and whether he falls in the category of an economic offender. The Government should investigate all the evidence received against him and find out whether the news published in the *Arab Times* is authentic or not? If it is true then what instructions have been given by the Government? Do you have any information about his assets and is the evidence given by Shri Ajeya Singh genuine or not? You should see his assets. Since when is he filling his income tax? Just 4 years back he had filed income tax return to the tune of Rs. 40 thousand and now he has filed it to the tune of Rs. 40 lakhs. It is for the Government to see how this figure of Rs. 40 thousand has risen to Rs. 40 lakh because money cannot increase so fast. There has certainly been some bungling as a result of which money has increased so fast. What is the Government thinking about the validity of the information given by Shri Ajeya Singh? What is the genuineness of the evidence given by Shri Ajeya Singh? Is there anything hanky-panky in it?

Sir, my third submission is that Shri V.P. Singh had given a lot of funds to the American City Bank during his tenure. Consequently, its branch was opened in India and his son got a job in that bank. What is the date of his son's appointment? Was it before Shri V.P. Singh became the Minister or after that? Was Shri Ajeya Singh appointed on his own merit or of his father's because it is not easy to get a job in an American Bank. Was there any political nexus? The Government has to

investigate all these things. I am saying this because it is a very important question.

Sir, you know that Shri Ajeya Singh has huge deposits in St. Kitts whereas it is a petty financial institution which can transfer the U.S. dollars. If he has deposits in the First Trust Corporation, as he has said, we do not have any information in this regard. We would like to know if the Government has any such information? Shri V.P. Singh has also said that neither his son nor any of his relatives son is employed in a foreign bank. So is that document forged or authentic? The Government should state if any investigation is being made in this regard and whether this case is being handed over to the C.B.I. At present we are speaking only about Shri Ajeya Singh but there are many other people against whom much can be said. For example, Shri Devi Lal of Haryana whose son-in-law indulged in the land scandal. They indulged in horse trading and M.Ps were purchased. From where do they get so much money. Black money is converted into white by offering it as gift on birthdays. The A.G.P. Government in Assam has become bankrupt. Chandan Basu, the son of the West Bengal Chief Minister was employed on a meagrely salary of Rs. 1200 only but now he owns property worth crores of rupees. Crores of rupees were borrowed from Financial Corporation in the name of West Bengal Lamp and not even a single penny was paid to the unemployed youth. The entire fund went to his son and is still being given to him. His son is enjoying at the cost of public exchequer. If this goes on increasing what will be the fate of this country? Shri Hegde too has been involved in land scandal. I want to ask the hon. Minister as to how these people have made so much money in such a short time? What magic has worked in their case? Did Shri V.P. Singh get this money from the Bofors or from the C.I.A.? Where from did he get it? What is the source? I simply want to know. I do not want to create any personal scandal. But a person who calls Shri Rajiv Gandhi or the Congress a thief has a blackened face himself. Therefore, I want to say that you should hold a detailed enquiry and present a detailed and

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

comprehensive report in the House so that people in the country may know the reality of these persons. All these things should be told in the House. I do not want to say anything against any person. But I would be obliged if you tell in the House as to what is the authenticity of the documents and what steps the Government proposes to take. I do not want to elaborate on it but the Government should take it seriously and not lightly. If this continues the money of our country will go in foreign hands and will later be spent on elections. Some will celebrate Ramshila Pujan, some will try to disintegrate the country, others will hatch conspiracy to murder Shrimati Indira Gandhi and still others will call the Congress a thief. The foreign hand cannot be ruled out in whatever is happening in the country. There is some masked faced who is playing in the foreign hands. This is a very important matter of public interest and therefore, the Government should expedite the matter and inform the House accordingly. You should bring to light the acts of one who calls himself honest, support the B.J.P. and has friendship with Shri Ramarao and Shri Devi Lal.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have read and re-read the statement made by the hon. Minister of State for Finance yesterday in the House on this question that we are discussing today. Here is a bare statement of fact that an allegation has been made in the Press. There was a Press report. Based on that Press report, the tentative accused issued a Press statement and the Government took notice, issued a directive on 13.9.1989, issued a second directive on the 20th September, 1989, an interim reply has been received and some further details are awaited. Simultaneously, the Director (Enforcement) has initiated inquiries on its own and the last sentence says: "Further inquiries are being conducted to verify the information that has come into the possession of the Director."

Now, Sir, unless and until the inquiries are completed and certain facts are established, a *prima facie* case cannot be made out. Then, certain logical conclusions will follow. If the enquiry establishes a *prima facie* case, the person concerned will be prosecuted. If the enquiry does not do so, the allegation shall die a natural death. What is the point of discussion, if the inquiry has not been concluded. The Department can not be said to be guilty of delay?

The hon. Member Mr. Basheer spoke about the delay. I am surprised: 13.9.1939 was the date of the directive; today we are on the 13th October—precisely month. In this period, two transactions have taken place. I am sure the hon. Members are familiar with the working of the Government. At least I am. I have seen it from inside. I think this is express speed, and I compliment the hon. Minister. And yet Mr. Basheer accuses the Department of delay. I do not know what the point is.

Government do not generally act on Press reports, on bare Press reports; and they should not—and I know they do not. They have not acted on all the documents published in "The Hindu". Today, there is that question. The documents have been published; and I do not think the Government machinery immediately takes notice. But, in this case, they took action on a Press report, although the press also said that the authenticity of that report was challenged by the putative accused. In the other cases, even where the authenticity of the documents had not been challenged, the Government did not take notice of the Press reports, did not act on them. Here, in this case, a Press report appears, obviously in my view a concocted, invented report from Delhi; it was deliberately introduced into their foreign Press, then brought back into India, re-published and all that. I know all that hocus-pocus. It goes on. I know lots about such matters. I have been in the diplomatic field: how things are manufactured and how things are flashed on, and things are invented. But let us, say, assume that everything was done in good faith; and yet, a report was published

and Government have taken action. And then, the allegation was flatly, very firmly denied by the accused. And yet the Government took action because it must have had some reasons. I am not questioning the reasons. I am not questioning the motives either. I am taking it as a plain and simple allegation of violation of FERA 1973; and, therefore, irrespective of whose son the fellow was, and whose names are involved, the law must take its course. That is the normal way. We are living in a democracy. We are living under the rule of law. Nobody can go scotfree and nobody is above the law. And, therefore, if such a damaging accusation is made, I think the Government is absolutely right in conducting an enquiry. But I do not yet understand why this debate, before they have come to any solid conclusion.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Why are you participating?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I have to, because there is a debate; just to put the record straight.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Not necessary.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Now I come to this point: From what has been said on the floor of this House, it appears to that the purpose of this discussion is highly political. Of course, we are a political forum. But even politics has a certain level and I do not think we should permit ourselves to sink below that level. I mean our discussion in this august House. We are on the last legs this is perhaps the ultimate or penultimate day of this House. We should not use this forum for character assassination, for questioning the political policies and programmes of our political opponents. Is that a fair game, Sir? Is that a fair game? We shall soon have the election campaign. We shall place it all before the people. We shall make all the accusations that we want; we shall say everything that we wish to. There shall be no holds barred. Why exploit this forum? Why bring down the level of our democratic institutions?

If democracy is to survive in this country, we have to rise above such tricks of the trade.

We cannot permit witch-hunting in this country whosoever may be the party of the Government, whosoever may be in charge of the machinery of power, whosoever be elected by the people. If democracy is to survive in this country, we have to guard against witch-hunting. Americans have a glorious tradition. There was a phase in their history which blighted witch hunting. But then they recovered; they recovered to their glory and that era was over. We are heirs of the democratic tradition of the whole world as they are to ours; and we should have learnt a lesson. Democracy does not thrive on witch-hunting. It hits you back; it rebounds; it becomes counter-productive. The finger which tries this game burns. And that is what I would like the hon. Member, Shri Basheer to realise. My only question to the hon. Minister is that Mr. V.P. Singh is not the only Indian VIP to have a son working abroad or a son-in-law or a nephew or a nephew-in-law working abroad. Many VIPs have. I shall not name them. But, surely, the hon. Minister must have a list or can have a list if he wants. And many of them are working in banks also. I know that also. Many sons and sons-in-laws work in banks. Will he undertake to send out a similar notice and a directive to all such sons and son-in-laws of the VIPs working abroad, at least to those who are working in banks to produce a statement of assets—moveable and immovable? Hardly have we even discussed a question of an individual in this House? That is left for the Executive. But if you are doing it for one, do it for everyone. Go ahead. You bring a statement before the House, before the next Parliament if you come back to power. It should be detailed statement of a assets and properties held by all the sons and sons-in-laws of the VIPs past and present, of this country whose supposed savings far exceed their total income.

SHRI SHANTARAN NAIK (Panaji): I rise to participate in the discussion the statement made by Shri Eduardo Faleiro yester-

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

[Translation]

day. The elections are round the corner. I said it deliberately, because, according to the forces working abroad the man to watch and the most vulnerable man who is available to them is no other than the beneficiary of this A/c No. 29479-Mr. V.P. Singh. It may appear a little bit of exaggeration, but if we recollect all the facts which have been taking place in the last two years, we will find that there is no doubt that in some form or other the external forces are operating. Congressmen are always being ridiculed and fooled whenever they quote external forces in their speeches.

The other day, it had been proved that a force none other than CIA had an agent in a very very high position in this country. Even his suit for defamation was rejected.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):
Whom are you referring to?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I don't think that was the point that you are referring to. I don't think that is the conclusion that you can draw from the failure of that case.

SHRISHANTARAMNAIK: Do you know why the suit was dismissed. The suit was basically dismissed because the author of the book, according to the court, had relied upon certain authentic documents. Therefore, the suit was dismissed. But today I am afraid that CIA is indirectly entering into the election fray. I would advise CIA to register themselves as an election party before the Election Commission because in any way we are having direct fight with CIA in the name of Janata Dal or what not. This is virtually what is happening. Whatever I am saying now may look ridiculous, exaggerated, or whatever it is. Let us have one against one fighting, very popularly known as Congress versus CIA. Let us have it instead of one to one.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganji): Which has been questioned... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: "A traitor cannot become a leader".

[English]

If anyone has to become a leader, he has to be sincere. Some people were sincere. Here he has to continue to be sincere. Some of us have weaknesses whereby we cannot continue to be sincere. This twenty one million dollars deposited on six different occasions is a matter for investigation. Both Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Ajeya Singh have denied the existence of this account. This could be investigated easily whether the passports of Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Ajeya Singh were submitted to Mr. Mclean or not. The xerox copies of the passports perhaps are required according to the law and there the authenticity will be established.

Now Mr. Ajeya Singh says that his assets are half a million US dollars. A man was drawing 500 US \$ per month. Sir, in a place like the United States, one who draws 5000 US \$ per month is just in a junior position and it is very difficult for him even to make both ends meet. Yet half a million US \$ are his assets. Secondly, even his last posting was in a small branch of US Swiss Bank. And throughout his career, if we go through his history we will find that this man never rose to a substantial position to gain any substantial money. But he has flats in London, he has got bank deposits, shares and what not. I would request the hon. Minister that all those documents which are in possession with the Government today—the Government may get further documents in future—should be laid on the Table of the House so that the entire country can know about those documents. I wish and I hope that the hon. Minister will do it.

In fact, whether Mr. Ajeya Singh has violated FERA I do not know, but we shall have to go beyond FERA and find out how this money had come to the hands of Mr. Ajeya Singh. I would say that the investigation should be done from the angle of the

charge of sedition. A conspiracy is being laid and I am afraid that this amount perhaps is linked with some sort of a conspiracy. Therefore, not only FERA, but the relevant provisions of IPC should be invoked. When the directives were given to this man, he has dilly-dallying and he submitted his passport of 1987. As far as his earlier passports were concerned, he said that he had to find out where his earlier passports were. The earlier passports of Mr. Ajeya Singh will give the trace and evidence of his movement, where he was, in which country, at what time and what was he doing, specially his passports of the year 1986, when accounts were opened. So, I would like to know from the Government whether it has been able to get the earlier passports of Mr. Ajeya Singh to know about his past and also to know why has was dilly-dallying.

Mr. Ajeya Singh says that he has come to India in order to make himself available for inquiry. He has not come for the purpose of inquiry, he has now come with full directives directions and instructions from all his masters, whoever are there abroad, to operate in election area, to enter in election arena, to back his father, in whatever manner that is possible. It is because of that that he has come to India. It is coincidental that these facts have come out and coincidentally he now says that he has come for the sake of inquiry. But basically he has come to help his father.

St. Kitts otherwise is very notorious. It is so notorious that basically it is considered to be a heaven for tax evaders. It is known to be a laundry to make black money into white money. These are not the words just used by me, in international areas these words are known. So, this is the reputation of this St. Kitts bank.

This First Trust Bank Corporation have also nice ideas. They have got plans for Indians and for the citizens of other countries. Especially, Indians are mentioned in the investment plans of this First Trust Bank Corporation, and it is under this scheme of the bank that this money was invested and

utilised. There is a reputation of this bank that specially where the law of a country does not allow money to be taken out, this bank helps those persons at a commission to pay the money outside that country. They have got their own network as to how this money is to be brought from one country, where it is prohibited, to the other country and then it is paid in that country. Therefore, we have to find out as to what has happened, how this money was paid in that bank. The existence of the bank has not been denied. Subsequently I learn that it was wound up. Mr. Mclean otherwise is not just a hoax. He was also a man of reputation. His Board of Directors have high connections in government offices. Therefore, this bank had such plans of investment and of taking or pipelining money from countries which prohibit money to be taken out, and for that it charged commission. This aspect has also got to be investigated.

This Ajeya Singh has many times said that why action was not take against others, such as, Ajitabh or Win Chaddha. As far as I know, at least these Ajitabh, etc. were personally interrogated. Raids were conducted on this Win Chaddha. But so far this man has practically not been touched and has been allowed all the facilities of replying at his will, although he has not been cooperating with the agencies. He has not been giving the relevant passports which are basically required. And yet the has the audacity to quote other inquiries where much more interrogations were made.

17.00 hrs.

From another angle, it has to be seen that since this money was deposited in a bank in St. Kitts where these facilities are prevailing, what was the period during which this money had actually reached? Because it has to be investigated whether this money was originally paid in India, whether this money was paid during that relevant time. I do not like to say what the relevant time was. But I would say that the relevant time is well understood as to at what time this money was generated in this country and during which period so

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

that subsequently through this Bank the money could safely go. We are proud of this country and that is why we say "Mera Bharat Mahan" Perhaps Mr. V.P. Singh might be saying "Mera Ladka Mahan". For him he has done such a thing that in a remote corner of the world he has kept the money very very safe and he comes now at the nick of time to help his father. His father will certainly say "Mera Ladka Mahan". Sir, the only ground Mr. Ajeya Singh says with respect to the account is "Oh! that account is bogus and the ground given is that the interest has not been calculated properly? Sir, a uniform system of interest calculation is not prevailing in the international accounting. He says that this account is bogus, this account was opened on a holiday and that he has not visited St. Kitts at that time. But Sir, it has been authentically told that for operation or for opening of such an account, none may have to go to St. Kitts, but the agents can go and do the work. The first ground given is that the the interest is not calculated properly. In all humbleness, I would say that the Government should go ahead with whatever evidence that is available with them right today and those documents should be laid on the Table of the House so that the whole country knows about this matter. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

PROF NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Ministers statement about the St. Kitts; account yesterday has put a big question mark and consequently the intelligentsia of our country wants the Government to unmask and expose such people. Sir, the King of Manda Shri V.P. Singh had dreamt of becoming the Prime Minister of our country and he committed reason by maligning the defence forces and bringing bad name to the country. He spoiled the image of our country. This has become clear from the hon. Finance Minister's statement which he made yesterday. The account and assets of such a person must be made public. When this news was published in the

Kuwait Times on August 22, 1989, everyone said that perhaps this news was wrong but when the facts came to light, we came to know that 21 million U.S. dollars were deposited in the secret account number 29479 at St. Kitts. And that money was deposited not once but in six instalments. On September 16, 1986 2 million dollars, on October 10, 1986 2 million dollars, on September 13, 1986 5 million dollars, on January 18, 3 million dollars, on January 24, 1987, 5 million dollars and on March 26, 1987, 21 million dollars were deposited. This makes it clear that there is lot of difference between what they preach and what they practice. It has become clear now that he was putting on the mask of an honest and saintly person. My submission is that the Government is not conducting appropriate investigation against Shri Ajeya Singh, an N.R.I. because there is no special provision in our Constitution or law for dealing with the Non-Resident Indians. We should not hesitate even if we have to amend the Constitution or introduce a new law. I want to submit that the clarification given by Shri Ajeya Singh does not dispel the doubts. The foremost question is when did Shri Ajeya Singh get this job. How did he buy such an expensive flat in London and how did he deposit so much money, when he was earning only 5 thousand U.S. dollars per month? He was sitting idle for 9 months. According to George Mc Lean of the First Trust Corporation Bank, St. Kitts, Shri V.P. Singh was nominated the beneficiary of the account in which money was deposited in the month of September 1986 and the address given was that of Allahabad whatever has been done is it proper? Why is Shri Ajeya Singh delaying the revelation of complete information? Why has he not produced his passport which was issued before 1987. Cannot such a wise person living abroad who deposited his money there, produce his passport which was issued to him before 1987 or has it been lost. Thus a clarification should be made about what they intend to hide. The people of the country want to know the real face of the person who is pretending to be a disciplined, honest and saintly man. I would emphatically demand from the Government to look into the affairs of Shri Vish-

wanath Pratap Singh, how could he succeed in depositing the large sums abroad through his son Shri Ajeya Singh and whether any foreign powers or C.I.A. is keeping an eye on our country. We should be informed that Shri Desai has lost the defamation suit he had filed against Shri Hersh. Are we going to be trapped again in the evil designs of the foreign powers? It is, therefore, necessary to pay attention in this regard? I would demand from the Government and the hon. Minister to make investigations about this account, who deposited the amount, when it was deposited and with what purpose. Both Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Ajeya Singh are saying that if they are guilty then why the Government does not launch prosecution against them. They know that our laws are silent about the non-resident Indians. I would like the Government to make the position clear in this regard. We have to take a judicious step and present the actual picture before the people. It matters little if it is made an election issue. What is more important is to know as to which way we are going and which powers, internal or foreign, want to destabilise our economy and want to create hindrances in our development process. We will have to suffer a great loss if we don't take proper steps against such forces. I would, therefore, emphatically demand from the Government to present the correct picture before this House and the masses by carrying out an investigation into St. Kitts Account No. 29479.

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. It is a matter of great concern for the country, in that even if I take it that it is alleged that Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh, is maintaining an account and maintained an account in a foreign bank. It is a serious charge. It is serious in the sense of our country, we have got various legislations and laws, particularly in view of the FERA, no Indian can maintain any account in any foreign country. Therefore, the matter should be probed and it is the duty of the Government. I would like

to request the hon. Minister to bring out the real facts before the people.

Sir, I take cognisance from the newspaper reports and there is evidence to believe creating suspicion in the minds of the people that there is a foreign account which is being maintained by Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh in St. Kitts. The account number is also disclosed in the newspaper. Even if I take it for argument's sake, if I mention the amount, it is not a very small amount, the amount is about 21 million US dollars. All this news came in a foreign newspaper on 20th August, 1989. The newspaper is called "The Arab Times" and it is a Kuwait newspaper. The same news was carried out in the Indian newspapers on 22nd August, 1989 and they have disclosed various particulars. It is not a false allegation or to malign any particular person, who is the son of the former Finance Minister of the country who was in power and who had every access to help his son. For argument's sake, I am not making any insinuation against anybody. It is very likely that a man who was in power could have helped his son to deposit money in the foreign bank—in clear violation of the FERA—and those facts have come out in that paper and have been carried in the Indian newspapers. The number and the total amount are also given in the newspapers. Even the period within which this 21 million US dollars were deposited in the foreign bank was also disclosed in the paper. So, now it is very significant that when this news came out in the newspapers, the former Finance Minister, hon. Mr. V.P. Singh, if he may say so, denied this charge. But the managing director of the Trust did not deny it. If we follow the events chronologically, we find that the Managing Director of the Trust did not deny the existence of such accounts in the foreign bank. He did not even deny that Indian is involved. Subsequently there was a denial which came out in the *Indian Express* but the fact remains that immediately after the publication of the news or disclosure of this fact, the Managing Director did not deny it. If that is so, I think, there is sufficient evidence before us and we are justified in demanding the Minister to disclose all facts before this

[Sh. Asutosh Law]

House so that the facts are very clear before us.

After this news was published in the newspaper, there was an interview with the bank solicitor. The bank solicitor did not deny it in so many words. Of course, there was a general denial on behalf of the bank regarding the existence of such account but there was no specific denial on behalf of the solicitor of the bank. That is also a very significant fact which has to be noted. Therefore, we want clarification and specific information from the hon. Minister.

For the last 2 1/2 years, in Parliament and outside Parliament, we have been hearing a lot of cock and bull story, sometimes allegations, concocted stories made by some Opposition people and we do not know what prompted the people to attack a particular Ministry, i.e. the Defence Ministry, which is the most sensitive sector of the country. We are facing this sort of attack from the Opposition for the last 2 1/2 years. Now this matter is a serious matter which concerns the finance of this country. After all, when 21 million dollars-foreign money are deposited in the name of an Indian in a foreign bank, that is a serious offence and that amounts to serious economic offence committed by the person who is maintaining this account. Therefore, for the sake of economic stability, as also to remove all doubts from the minds of the people, we are demanding in this House that the Minister should give us a clear picture of the facts. People of India like to know whether the son of the person who is alleging against the highest office of this country, is guilty of maintaining any account, foreign accounts in a foreign country, in violation of our country's law, in violation of FERA law or not. Definitely we have got every right to know whether the man who is claiming himself an honest man, his money is being maintained in the foreign bank accounts, in the name of his son or not. That is also required to be disclosed before this House. If these facts are not disclosed and if proper probe is not made, then doubts will

remain in the minds of the people. If Shri Ajeya Singh—whose name has been mentioned, whose name appears in a foreign bank—is maintaining the said account there, it is likely that he cannot go scot-free. He cannot go scot-free if he has committed this offence in violation of this country's law.

Sir, it is rather said that Shri Ajeya Singh is a qualified Chartered Accountant and as a Chartered Accountant, he earned that money. Now, he makes some alleged disclosures which show that some amount is being deposited in the foreign bank. But whether the bank account which is being maintained under the name and style of Shri Ajeya Singh, son of Shri V.P. Singh, belongs to him or not. The total amount deposited there amounts to US \$ 21 millions. This fact has not been clarified before us. Therefore, I think, this is the proper forum to raise this issue. I would request the hon. Minister that if any offence has been committed by maintaining such a bank account in a foreign bank to the tune of US \$ 21 million, then proper disclosure should be made before this House or a statement should be made by the hon. Minister clarifying the entire position in order to remove the doubts from our minds and also from the minds of the people of this country. At the same time, if it is found that there is an iota of evidence which shows that there is reason to believe that Shri Ajeya Singh has maintained account in the foreign bank—it is obvious that a new Chartered Accountant cannot earn US \$ 21 millions—then it should be found out as to when this amount was deposited in that bank. It should also be found out that at that relevant period, what was the position of his father, who was a very resourceful Minister, who was a very resourceful man in India. If anybody tries to find out certain nexus between the resourceful father and the new Chartered Accountant, he will not make any mistakes. If this position is not cleared, then the entire country will be under confusion. It is that man's money who himself calls an honest man, who has deposited that money in the name of his son. That is why we have come before this House to raise this issue. That is why, this discussion under Rule 193 is before this

House. We have no intention to malign any one. But we want to know the real position. If that money has been deposited in violation of the FERA law, then proper steps should be taken to get back that money. This country should not be allowed to be deprived of this money. No citizen of India should be allowed to violate FERA in this fashion— whoever he may be, whoever is his father or whoever is behind him.

Sir, I would also like to lay emphasis on another point. I would like to request the hon. Minister to find out as to whether it is only Shri Ajeya Singh, whether it is only Shri V.P. Singh or if there is any power behind it, the persons who are behind the curtain, who are trying to destabilise our country, who are trying to malign our Government. This fact has to be found out. It has to be found out whether any powerful mind is behind the curtain; whether any third power is behind the curtain who has helped Mr. Ajeya Singh to earn 21 million US dollars through some source. We do not know which source. Unless we find out who is the man behind, which is the third force behind the curtain, the entire country will be at stake. It will help us to know which power has been encouraging the opposition, encouraging the so-called honest man for the last two and a half years to attack the most sensitive department of defence. Even a boy will understand this. Starting from German Submarines, Fairfax and the last is Bofors, these were the three subjects which were made most prominent issues in this House for the last two and a half years. Is there no other problem in our country? Am I to take it that defence was the only problem, Bofors was the only problem, Fairfax was the only main issue or the German Submarines was the only main issue? Nobody came forward. Opposition is not here. I think, I should not say anything about opposition. But I cannot resist myself. I just recall those days. They had spent two and a half years in this august House at the cost of the millions of our people, with this luxury. We have not said anything. No person had said about other problems of our country. Why should they repeatedly talk about defence? The natural inference one has to

draw is that there is a power behind it which is pulling the string and the people are still dancing outside the Parliament and trying to destabilise this country. Now this fact has come to light that the honourable, honest man's son maintained an account in a foreign bank with 21 million US dollars. It is not an unconnected or disenchanted fact. It is correlated. Whether it is correlated or not whether the power has played a big role, whether money has been paid for consideration, for playing such a role, these are the facts which we would like to know. I think, as one of the citizens of this democratic country, to whichever party may I belong, I have got to know the real facts.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this issue. I have been in America for a long time and I was employed there. I know the extent of saving possible for a man there. In foreign exchange one thousand dollars mean fifteen thousand rupees. But infact, its purchasing value in that country is equal to that of one thousand rupees or even less than that in India. The earning of Shri Ajeya Singh in America was about 500 dollars or slightly more. But then, how did he collect the huge sum of 21 million dollars within 2-3 years? It comes to about 34-35 crores of rupees or slightly more than that. No one can get this much of amount even in the lottery. It is possible only if someone's father is the Finance Minister or the Defence Minister.

I would like to refer only two three points and will not take much time. The matter is more serious than what it looks at its face value. From 1987, Shri V.P. Singh assumed holier than thou' attitude throughout. He tried to present himself as Mahatma Gandhi and all the rest as Nathu Ram Godse. He posed himself as Mahatma Gandhi for a Photograph and started raising voice against the NRIs. He has made a reference to this in this House also. Did he make any mention at that time to that of his son and the amount deposited by him abroad? A reasonable person

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

can never accumulate such an huge amount of wealth through just and honest means. A Chartered Accountant has no importance in America. Had he been a doctor in private practise there even then he would not have been able to accumulate so much of money. I can say it with full confidence that this money has been given to him by some foreign agency to destabilise the country. It is the duty of the Government of India to expose that agency which wants to destabilise our country. Today we know only one Ajeya Singh, God knows how many more Ajeya Singh's are there. All such persons should be brought to the book. There is no problem in that because in America one has to file his tax return. We may get all the details in this regard. American newspapers can also prove helpful in this matter since they have taken up to investigating journalism. This is not an ordinary but a very serious matter. You may recall that when this matter was reported in the press a few months back that Ajeya Singh s/o Shri V.P. Singh is also maintaining his account abroad, members of Janata Dal emphatically denied the charge and said that such things are being brought simply to divert the attention of the people from the main issues. But today it has been proved. It is surprising that the son is having the photostat copy of his father's passport. You cannot have the photostat copy of the passport, rules are very clear in this regard. His father was given a diplomatic passport. How this has been done? My wife or my son cannot take my passport. This is not possible without connivence of the passport holder. There is a difference between what he says and what he does. It is now high time that we should expose the deeds of such leaders. We are passing through a very delicate situation. Masses of this country will never forgive our Government if they are not convinced about the factual position. I would, therefore, like to request the Government to carry out an investigation in the matter and bring the facts before the people. Shri V.P. Singh has not denied this charge. It is requested that the investigations he carried out and facts should be brought to the book.

Nobody should be allowed to mislead the people.

I will not take much time, because there other Members also who have to speak in this subject. There may be other subjects also which are likely to be taken up for discussion today. May be, it is the last day or last but one day of this Lok Sabha. I would request the Government to take steps to find out the facts and I believe that the Government can do it within two or three months if they so desire. There should be no hesitation on the part of the Government and they should make efforts to see that the people are apprised of the facts in the matter. With these words I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House will recall that sometime around the month of August last several newspapers published reports relating to the maintenance of bank account in St. Kitts, a Caribbean Island by Shri Ajeya Singh, S/o Shri V.P. Singh, in which account huge sums totalling US \$ 21 million were deposited. Now, on the basis of these different press reports and also on the basis of other information that was available with the Directorate of Enforcement, since Shri Ajeya Singh himself came to India sometime on 10th or 11th September 1989, the Directorate decided to get necessary information from him regarding the material available. So, the Directorate issued to him a directive to give information on the points which were mentioned there. The directive has been mentioned by me in my main statement. But we found that while some information was provided, some information on relevant particulars was not provided. Therefore, a second directive was issued. Recently, we got the reply to the second directive also. But, then from the second directive also, we find that the information is not complete. As a matter of fact, Shri Ajeya Singh has asked for time, he has said that he needs more time to get

the information sought from him.

In the context of what has been mentioned by some of the hon. Members here, I would like at the outset to say that, firstly, there has been no discrimination, whatsoever, in dealing with Shri Ajeya Singh. Cases have been mentioned of other persons. I would like to say in those cases which are appearing in the press reports, in fact, not merely the steps but further steps were taken to obtain information. There is no question of discrimination against him. Any person who falls within the parameters of what has appeared in this case, any person who falls within the parameters where information can be obtained regarding the violation of FERA, that person will be dealt with, at least in the same manner and the things that we have asked for in this questionnaire are matters that are no exception in this case. There is no discrimination in this case; there has not been and there will not be. Everybody will be treated equally; has been treated equally, as far as procedures and law of FERA are concerned.

I would like to say, here, in this context, that we have no reason to doubt the genuineness at this point of time; there is nothing to show that the information which I have supplied to this House in my statement is not genuine. The information as it appears, appears to be genuine. However, we are continuing with the investigations and the investigations are in progress, because in view of the NRI status of Shri Ajeya Singh, certain protection under FERA is available to him. Offences which would be offences for an Indian resident in India will not be an offence for NRI. Therefore further links, further ingredients to constitute an offence under FERA, have to be determined and the evidence available also has to be further strengthened or further steps have to be taken to obtain further confirmation, if possible. Also we have no reason to deny the genuineness of these documents and this account where Shri V P Singh is shown as the beneficiary and Shri Ajeya Singh as the account holder. As a matter of fact before I conclude my reply I will be laying on the

Table of the House these documents—the safe keeping agreement which shows the signatures of Shri V P Singh as a beneficiary and Shri Ajeya Singh as the account holder. I will also lay on the Table of the House a copy of numbered account agreement containing signatures of both Shri Ajeya Singh and Shri V. P. Singh. But before I do that I would like to say that Shri Ajeya Singh being an NRI, offence has to be established against him and further information has to be obtained so that the ingredients are fulfilled; and as far as Shri V P Singh is concerned though his purported signature is there and shown as beneficiary at the given point of time, there is nothing to indicate that he was in a position to operate the account or the right to operate the account accrued at that point of time and, therefore, investigations must proceed.

17.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: What position was Shri V.P. Singh enjoying in India at that point of time. What portfolio was he having when he put his signatures on the agreement.

[*English*]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I am putting the factual position and this is the factual position. As I have said we need further information and we have asked for further information *inter alia* from Shri Ajeya Singh himself. He has asked for time to submit this information. At this stage all that can be said definitely is that 'yes' on the evidence available the point made by the hon. Members that the assets disclosed by Shri Ajeya Singh himself appear to be clearly disproportionate to his sources of income, to his known sources of income or to the sources of income as disclosed by him.

Shri Ajeya Singh has said that for a period of time he was, in fact, unemployed.

{Sh. Eduardo Faleiro}

He has said that his last salary in Dollars 55,000 or figures to that effect. Now this is a small amount considering the standard of living in the city where he is working, that is, New York. He was with a company named Tradition Berisford which contains same name of the company, namely, Compande Financiere Tradition, Lausanne, a Swiss company. Therefore, the name is same and also the amount of last salary and keeping in mind further that at that point of time he was unemployed or without means of income of his own, his assets as disclosed in terms of bank deposits, immovable property like a flat in London, in terms of shares in different companies and organisations definitely appear to be disproportionate. It is disproportionate if we look at this known sources of income or sources of income as disclosed by him.

As far as the genuineness of St. Kitts account is concerned there is no reason at this point of time to doubt it. I would like to point out that in a section of the Press two persons were quoted who were working in the First Trust Corporation, namely, Miss Anne Salvesen, who was Secretary or Executive Assistant to the Managing Director, Mr. McLean as well as Mr. Terence V Byron, who was also the nominee director and solicitor of the First Trust Corporation. These were quoted in reports from New York or United States published in a section of the Press.

The effect of what these two persons were said to have stated was that they were not aware of any such account, that there was no such account or things to that effect, basically denying or challenging the genuineness of the account. Now we have the statements of these two persons in writing. Anne Salvesen, for instance, has said among other things:

"The First Trust Corporation Limited was actively engaged in business communications and dealings with several Indian citizens, some resident

in India, some elsewhere.

The First Trust Corporation Limited produced and circulated promotional literature regarding a 'Special Investment Programme in Co-operation With Indian Nationals', which provided for Indian nationals to make investments in St. Kitts through The First Trust Corporation Limited which investments were made and held by non-resident Indians."

She has further said in this manner:

"I am aware that during the second half of 1986, Mr. McLean personally accepted a large deposit from a foreign depositor for the First Trust Corporation Limited.

I have been misquoted in certain newspaper stories written by Mr. A. Balu and Mr. Lynn Hudson. I have never told anyone that an account numbered 29479 did not exist in The First Trust Corporation Limited. While I have been quoted as stating: 'I know that such an account did not exist', I actually told Mr. Hudson: 'I do not know whether such an account existed'.

She has further said:

"Under the operating procedures of The First Trust Corporation Limited, it was, to my knowledge, possible for a numbered account to be opened and operated by an agent in the absence of the principal or beneficiary."

So, this goes against the points made to show that the account was not genuine. The very persons who were quoted in support of challenging this account have now come out with that statement. This is the statement of Anne Salvensen.

Then, we have the statement also of Mr. Terence V. Byron who has also been quoted in a similar manner in the earlier reports that Salvensen refers to now. I quote from the

written statement of Mr. Byron. He has said:

"I have personal knowledge that The First Trust Corporation Limited produced and circulated a promotional document regarding a 'Special Investment Program In Co-operation with Indian Nationals', which provided for Indian citizens resident in India to make investments in St. Kitts through The First Trust Corporation Limited which investments were to be made and held by nominees who were non-resident Indians.

I have personal knowledge that Mr. McLean, on behalf of The First Trust Corporation Limited had active business communication and dealings with several Indian citizens, some resident in India, some elsewhere."

He further says:

" I have been misquoted in certain newspaper stories written by Mr. A Balu and Mr. Lynn Hudson. I have never told anyone that an account numbered 29479 did not exist in The First Trust Corporation Limited, as I have no way of knowing what accounts, if any, existed at the company.

Under the operating procedures of The First Trust Corporation Limited, it was possible for a numbered account to be opened and operated by an agent in the absence of the principal or beneficiary of the account.

Subsequent to the time at which I was informed of the allegations related to the instant matter by representatives of the press, I have seen correspondence which on its face discloses a statement by Mr. McLean of his involvement in a numbered account with the two gentlemen named in your above-referenced letter to me, to wit: V.P. Singh and Ajeya Singh."

So, these are the very people who were

quoted as challenging the genuineness of the account. These are the people who have given statements under their signatures. There are signed statements given by them.

As required by the Members, I am laying on the Table the statements of Anne Salvesen...

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, the Minister just now said that will lay certain documents on the Table of this House. I would like to have a simple clarification. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have in their possession the originals of those documents or merely the photostats of those documents.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: No, these are the copies. The originals are there as far as the statements are concerned.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Are the original documents with you?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Of the statements.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Of whatever documents you are laying on the Table of the House?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Not all. Some of the documents....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Then, Mr. Deputy Speaker, photostat or photostats which are in the possession of the Government should not be tabled.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It is not photostat or photostates. I am very sorry. Let me tell you that I am laying on the Table the following documents. Firstly, statements made by Ms Anne Salevesen and Terence V. Byron of which the originals are with us. These are copies. I am also laying on the Table the 'Safe-keeping agreement long form' signed by Mr. Ajeya Singh and Mr. V.P. Singh. They are copies.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Are the originals with you?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The originals by their very nature cannot be with us. They have got to be with the Bank. That is point number one.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARI): Sir, in response to what the hon. Member has said, I would like to say that any document laid on the Table of the House by the Government should be respected because Government does it on its responsibility. There is no question of authenticity. It cannot be questioned. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I am asking if the Government are the originals of the documents before the copies are laid on the Table of the House. Please clarify this....(Interruptions)...Obviously, you have the original documents, in some cases, in other you have only photostat copies. (Interruptions)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: He is entitled to ask this question and it is my duty to answer his query. Firstly, I am laying on the Table, as I have said, the statement* made by Anne Saleven. I have just erased the name of the officer of the enforcement to whom it is addressed because that is never done. It is a copy but the original with us. I am also laying on the Table the statement* made by Terence V. Byron. Similarly, the name has been erased but the original is with us. I am also laying on the Table the 'Safe-keeping agreement long form**' which is a photostat copy of which the original cannot be, by its very nature, with us. It is with the Bank but it is certified by the Bank and the certificate of the Bank is there. Apart from the Safe-keeping agreement long form, I am also laying on the Table, the number of the accounts and agreement* similarly certified by the First Trust Corporation, of which, by their very nature, the originals cannot be in our possession. I am also laying on the Table the

deposit forms* of each of these amounts mentioned by me, i.e., two million dollars, two million dollars, five million dollars, three million dollars, five million dollars and four million dollars, of which the original deposit forms will be with the parties concerned but the records will be with the Bank and it is the copy of the record duly certified and entered at the time when the deposits were made. Hon. Members will, of course, inspect all these documents which I have laid on the Table. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINE MISHRA (Salem-pur): Sir, the people of this country wants to know the figures of the deposits made by Shri Ajeya Singh and his father Shri V.P. Singh in the Account operated in a foreign Bank.

[English]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, what I have given is a factual information and I do not think that at this stage I should go further into the matter. Investigations, for the reasons mentioned by me at the very outset, are in progress.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Sir, this is a very important matter. Now it has been proved that Mr. V.P. Singh and his son have foreign accounts and millions of dollars. My hon. friend wanted to know the exact figure. It works out, perhaps according to the facts given by the Minister, around Rs. 32 crores in Indian currency. (Interruptions)

So, whatever has been stated now on the floor of the House is a repudiation of the statements made by Mr. V.P. Singh on the Floor of the House and also outside. Mr. V.P. Singh's son himself has disclosed in one of the interviews to the 'Illustrated Weekly' that he was working as a coolie at a petrol pump station. How can a coolie purchase a house in a polish locality in London? From 1977 to 1983, Shri V. P. Singh's son said that he was financially down and out, but during the

*Maintenance of a Bank
A/c in St. Kitts*

same period he made huge deposits in foreign banks, purchased a house without disclosing source of his income.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: On a point of order. Can we have a discussion after the Minister has replied?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is asking a clarification.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Without disclosing his source of income, he purchased debentures in a blue chip company, Bombay Reliance, which Shri V.P. Singh had refuted in this House.

Similarly, Shri V.P. Singh himself has disclosed his property in Delhi, but in a very lever manner he did not disclose dates when the properties were acquired in Delhi and the exact source of his income. I had alleged that the total property in his name—I am not talking of the benami property held by him in Delhi—would have been worth Rs. 20 crores. All these matters are very very important and I would like to know from the Minister what action he is going to take.

It is not enough to disclose all this information on the floor of the House. It is a commendable thing that the Minister has gone into all the details in a very short period of time. You have exposed one of the most unscrupulous persons in the country who has been masquerading as an idealist. I demand that an immediate enquiry must be ordered into all this.

In fact, the charge was levelled by Shri Shahabuddin from the opposition side, when Shri V.P. Singh was the Finance Minister. He misused his position and got a job for his son in the City Bank of America. A boy who was working as a mere coolie on a petrol pump, how did he manage to get the present job that he is holding in the City Bank of America. From a mere coolie at a petrol pump, he became an executive in one of the top world banks.

These are matters which need deep investigation and the country is entitled to know the facts...*(Interruptions)* Shri V.P. Singh is a ** He collaborated with Haji Mastan...

SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: I protest; this word should not be used.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That would not go on record.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: The Government should order a high-powered enquiry and immediate action must be taken against his son, because they are collaborators with foreign forces. During Shri V.P. Singh's tenure as Finance Minister, he had collected this money from public sector companies and private sector companies in London. He was bribed; he collected this bribe and all this money was deposited in the bank. Therefore, legal action must be taken and an enquiry must be held. Let the country know the real face of Shri V.P. Singh's son. No attempt should be made to shield this man. We would like to know what action you are contemplating to take....*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would not allow like this. You tell what you want.

PROF. K.K. TEWARI: Definite action should be spelt out on the floor of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He wanted to have a clarification. You say whatever you want to say. Then only we can proceed.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have noted down the points, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Hundred and Eighty-fifth, Hundred and Eighty-sixth and Hundred and Eighty-seventh Reports

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (JULLUNDER): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

[Sh. R.S. Sparrow]

- (1) Hundred and Eighty-fifth Report on action taken on 98th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Five Star Hotel at Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex.
- (2) Hundred and Eighty-sixth Report on action taken on 84th Report (8th Lok Sabha) on Review on Compensation Claims.
- (3) Hundred and Eighty-seventh Report on Infructuous and avoidable extra expenditure in the acquisition of certain special purpose naval vessels.

18.00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Communal Situation in the Country- Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now resume discussion on the communal situation in the country.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let us know how long you are going to continue? As I said, this is an auspicious night. We are having *Id-e-Milad-un-Nabi*. There are so many other things. We have to go out. We have to share with them. After all, there should be certain considerations for us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to decide. I do not know.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, there are lots of Members

who would like to speak. This is a very important topic, as Mr. Banatwalla knows.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: I also want to speak.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Mr. Qureshi also wants to speak. I would submit that at the moment, we can extend the House by an hour and wind up the debate after an hour. I would beg for extension till 7 o'clock. So, it is for the House to decide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the sense of the House that the time of the House be extended by one hour, i.e. upto 7 o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on communal situation in the country. I thank you for this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Members of the House have stated that this subject has come up for discussions several time in the House and serious concern was expressed for it on the very first day of the session. We all equally express our serious concern for it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with all humility at my command I would like to submit that the area which I represent in Madhya Pradesh was once the bastion of the party or organisation presently known as BJP. The person who is speaking before you has been struggling for the last 45 years under the banner of tri-colour against the persons claiming themselves to be the members of RSS or Jansangh or Janata Party and finally BJP. Even for a moment, neither did I feel ashamed to fighting those person, nor did I ever feel that I was in the wrong. My fight against them is still going on, no matter whether they are

known as RSS, or BJP or by any other names such as Vishwa Hindu Parishad. But we are really thankful to the voters who have elected us as their representatives in the Parliament in whose geographical location we find the composite culture of our mother India. As soon as we go out of the premises of the Parliament House, we see a mosque on its right and a Gurudwara on its left. As we move a little ahead, we find a great church followed by a temple. Chanting of Aarati, Gurubani and hymns takes place side by side in these religious places. This presents a picture of the composite culture of our country. This depicts our secular character. The country is proud of it and the entire world follows us. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, sir, what is the basic tenet of the different religions of this country? I would like to draw the attention of the entire country. Let us consider the basic tenets of these religions and derive them. What does the Hindu philosophy teach us? It speaks for tolerance. We should take tolerance from Hinduism. What should we take from Islam? We should take loyalty from Islam. We should take sacrifice from Sikhism. We should learn self-control from Christianity. Mahavir's non-violence and forgiveness and Lord Buddha's compassion are our great legacy. Hindustan is made up of a composite culture which comprises of the tenets of Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Christianity. If any one of them is taken out, India stands disintegrated. Hinduism without tolerance stands to lose its identity. Similarly Islam without loyalty and Sikhism without sacrifice would reduce to nothing. When we discuss the communal situation in the Parliament, our responsibility increases, particularly for those who work for it under the banner of tri-colour flag. Two hon. Members viz. Shri Abbasi and Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi delivered very impressive speeches yesterday and these two speeches should be included in the textbook of at least primary classes or middle classes so that students could know the foundation on which India is standing. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and other Ministers present in the House who are interested to listen to me that had they not done a good job, we would not

have witnessed this thing today. The Government has done a good thing but I am sorry to say that some of the parties are trying to find out some via-media to escape from it. It has been made compulsory for all the political parties which wanted to register as such with the Election Commission to declare their faith in secularism in their constitutions. As soon as this pre-condition was laid, BJP felt that they would lose their ground. Then they found out an alternative. Shri Advani has been saying that issues of Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid would not be included in their manifesto but what could they do if the people themselves made it an election issue. It is a most shameful act. Photographs are published and circulated all over the country in which their leaders are shown doing 'Shila Poojan'. I would like to narrate an incident of my constituency. I would like to invite the attention of hon. Members of the House, I hope that the hon. Members would appreciate my point. As we Hindus belonging to Congress party believe in secularism, similarly our Muslims brethren do believe in secularism. When Shila poojan was started, four Muslims went to the state and expressed their desire to welcome the 'Shilas' which were meant for laying the foundation stone of a holy temple. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my head hung in shame when I saw that those Muslim brothers were not allowed to do so. They were told that they had no right to worship 'shilas'. This incident took place only 5 days ago in my area. There are about 1967 villages in my constituency. Processions have not been taken in more than 25 village till now but they were pushed aside at several places. They raise provocative slogans.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that he should take note of the contents of the slogans being raised. Communal slogans should not be allowed to be raised—whether it is in the name of Islam or Hinduism. Whose brain is working behind the slogans? The Government will have to see to it. The slogan was:-

"Ek-do, Babri Masjid Ko Feink do."

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]

Yesterday Pandit Chaturvediji was also drawing our attention to this. I would like to ask those persons who are raising such provocation slogans as why they are not leaving the issue of Babri Masjid to Allahabad High Court? Before dismantling the mosque and crossing swords against the Muslims, I would like to ask them one question. Is it possible to exclude Rahim, Raskhan and Rasleen from our culture? Will anything worthwhile be left in our culture if Tulsidas or Guru Nanak is excluded? That is why I am saying that the communal slogans raised by either side will weaken the foundation of the country. In such circumstances our responsibility increases as we are the followers of Gandhiji and have been the flag bearers of tri-colour for the last 103 years. They know that they would never come in power in the country and we know that the public would never dethrone the Congress Government. They committed this mistake once and now they have realised it.

I would like to say that how much sense of tolerance our fore-fathers had. About 1937 years ago when the first Christian came to India in the year 52 A.D. and touched the sea-coast of Madras, neither he nor our forefathers knew the languages of each other, even then they provide shelter to him and welcomed him. In this way a new way of worshiping was witnessed by them. Not only this, land was provided for construction of church, arrangements were made for his marriage so that his lineage could continue and his religion could also prosper. Islam came in India about 1300 years ago and our forefathers welcomed it also. They were allowed to construct mosque so that they could worship in the way they like. At that time only 1200 persons came here while the population of India was more than one crore. They could have easily eliminated them if they so desired. But a new way of worshiping came to India and it was welcomed.

We are the off-springs of our forefathers. Were they wrong who welcomed them? Perhaps we have grown wiser, that is why

we talk of eliminating them. My submission is that—

Na hamare nikale koi nikalega
Na hamare bulaye koi aaya hai.

Whatever has happened her has been with the mercy of a third power and third power can be called Nature or God or some heavenly force which guides us.

I conclude after pleading the case of my constituency. My constituency was once considered to be the bastion of RSS. But today, even 25 persons are not ready to join their procession. Hardly 25 to 35 people participate in the their procession. What is happening there? In Madhya Pradesh, the mob tried to set fire at 3 or 4 places. I dare say that the riot that took place in Ratlam was not a communal one. The procession had passed on 29th whereas the riot took place on 30th. It was just a property dispute between two parties.

Shri Shahaouddin has narrated the incident that took place in Khargaon. I spoke to the Chief Minister on phone at 3 A.M. today. I told him that allegations are being made against us. He said that I was misinformed. He also assured me that if there was any such thing action would be taken and nobody will be forgiven. The third incident took place in Mhow. A BJP legislator was leading the procession. It was we, who first took out a peace-march. When people belonging to all religions and parties, came out and converged at the market these people lost their nerves. Efforts were made to incite a riot in Mandasaur also but nothing happened there. It is my conviction that had the elections not been declared so early, they would not have indulged themselves in such acts. They go to any extent and make every effort to win the Hindu votes like taking oath in the name of Ganga water, cow and arranging marriages for boys and girls. One thing that I can say is that no other community is more secular than the Hindus in this country. The question here is not of majority or minority. My elder brother, Shri Soz, who is a great poet and has been elected from

Jammu and Kashmir, is sitting here. I would like to tell him that Muslim brethren in Kashmir constitute 98 per cent of the population whereas the Hindus are only 2 per cent of the population. Whose responsibility is it to protest the lives of the Hindus in the State. In Madhya Pradesh, the Muslims constitute for 18 per cent of the population and the Hindus 82 per cent, whose responsibility are the Muslims there? It is the responsibility of the Hindus that nobody dares to harm the Muslims there. When we go to Nagaland, we find that the Christians are in majority in the State. Similarly, in Punjab the Sikhs are the majority group.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our theory is very clear. Gandhi's thesis and that of the Congress Party's is very clear. It is always the majority which is held responsible for protecting the minority and not the vice-versa. If we are in majority, we have to protect the minorities. We will have to come forward in every respect. The country cannot progress if there is tension in the name of language—urdu versus Hindi—or in the name of religion. I would like to thank Shri Buta Singh for his tireless homework and exercise during the past six months due to which the tension in the country has reduced. I offer my salutations and express a word of thanks to Shri Rajiv Gandhi who carried out this work very meticulously. Rajivji understands the woes of the minorities. It is for the first time in the history of the country that a Prime Minister of his standing has emerged who has no caste of his own and considers all castes as his own, for whom all religions are his own religion and who considers every suffering of the people as his worship. It is very difficult to raise a voice against such a personality. This is the reason that why bricks with the name of 'Ram engraved on them are lying in every village.

I have no objection if magnificent temples are built, but if a mosque, a Gurudwara or any other place of worship is demolished to provide space for a temple, I feel it will never be called a temple but only building Temple is the symbol of people's faith, devotion and dedication to God. When a deity is installed

in the temple, the sacredness of the place is ensured. The deity shall never bless the people if the land is sprinkled by blood. I would like to call upon the Government to continue its relentless efforts to face this situation with same firmness, perception and boldness. If the Vishwa Hindu Parishad has given any such thing in writing it becomes the responsibility of the Government to look into the matter. The Government should hold a dialogue with all firmness. If they threaten that the Government will lose the votes, let it be so. The Government should not bother for such things. If vote is lost nothing much is lost, but if integrity is lost, our heads will hang in shame. If the Government becomes instrumental in lowering the prestige of the country and if the prestige of the tri-colour is lowered, we can never raise our heads in the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak. My heart was heavy and I tried to give vent to my feelings. I know that you have dealt with this issue very honestly and am fully confident that at the time of giving their mandate the people will decide against the communal forces. The mandate will always be in favour of the secular forces. It will be in favour of Gandhiji, the tri-colour, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and all those people who want to boost the prestige and dignity of this country. It will never go in favour of those who want to play with the prestige of the country, be they from this party or that party; be they Hindus or Muslims or of any other religion. The country will always support those who work for country's development and advancement. Once again I thank you for giving me time to speak.

MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): Sir, today we are discussing a very serious matter. If we look at it from historical perspective everything will become clear to us. For this, it is very essential to understand the political scenario prevailing in the country now. India was divided on the basis of religion and it was the handiwork of the Britishers. Documents pertaining to division of the country are still available in the British archives. These documents reveal that the Britishers,

[Mohd. Ayub Khan]

hatched a conspiracy and trapped the Hindu fundamentalists and Muslim leaders. The country was divided and it sparked off a fire which cooled down with Mahatma Gandhi's blood. This is a fact and we have to understand, that, creation of two separate States, India and Pakistan, has not helped in wiping out communalism from India. The germs of Hindus and Muslim fundamentalism are still there. In Pakistan, the Government was formed on the basis of religion. Fight between the forces of good and evil is not a new phenomenon. It used to be there even before 1947. It was because of the efforts of great personalities, like Pandit Nehru, Maulana Azad, Pantji, Sher-a-Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan that we got a Constitution which guarantors equal rights to every individual. Think for a moment that had there been no Indian National Congress in the country there would have been a communal Government in India also like Pakistan. There would have been a Mahasabha or some other body holding the reigns of administration. I would like to urge those colleagues who get worked up or sentimental on this issue to accept certain facts. Some of them even treat the Muslims as second class or third class citizens. We should accept the historical fact that it is because of Indian National Congress and sagacious and far sighted leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and people whose heart was full of milk of human kindness that India did not become a country of the Hindus, the Muslims or the Sikhs but of mankind in the true sense. Today, we must accept this fact. We will have to accept that since 1947 it is the Congress Party which has strengthened the country. Today, India occupies a prime place in the world, be it in the economic field or in the field of socialism. But we should not ignore the fact that there are internal enemies which are working to weaken the country. With them, the secular forces also became stronger. It is unfortunate that some foreign countries are giving aid to them. We are proud that we made a lot of progress in the fields of science, agriculture, industry, technology and

many other areas. Neither the communal forces nor our enemies want us to progress. They do not like it. These forces make a lot of farce. When the elections are round the corner their sole aim is to disintegrate secularism, socialism and democracy in the country and conspire to enslave the country. It is a deep-rooted conspiracy which is not new but is being hatched since 1947. That is why we shall have to look at it in this perspective. A conspiracy is being hatched against us, whether it is in the form of terrorism in Kashmir or Punjab or the secessionist move in Jammu or riots taking place in the name of Buddhism in Ladakh or other disturbances being created for one or the other reasons having a communal basis. All these things may look apparently different, but their target is one and that is to weaken the unity of India and degeneration of human values. They have their single objective and common guiding masters and we should beware of these forces.

I would like to say that Sardar Buta Singhji is doing his duties well. I want to congratulate him but I want to suggest the course of action to be adopted by us. Now secular forces have to unite in all the corners of this country right from Kashmir to Kan-yakumari. Their bonafides have to be approved. All those people who have faith in secularism, socialism and democracy should bring down all the political barriers and make their concerted efforts in the rural areas of this country to come in close contact with the farmers and labourers of India and apprise them of their views. A lot of hue and cry is being created on the issue of Ramjanam Bhoomi. It is immaterial that they are the members of Janasangha or the BJP. Earlier their activities were confined only to the urban areas. Later on when they thought that their activities are confined to cities only and they do not have any following in the villages, they adopted some other ways to be popular with them. They started a movement in the name of Ram Janam Bhoomi but there are so many things to the credit of Congress that these people will not be able to make their impact on the public. Whatever work has been done by Shri Rajiv Gandhi during the

last 4 years for the backward and the down-trodden and to introduce Panchayati Raj system which had been hitherto ignored, for the villagers and for the provision of employment for the unemployed, for the devolution of power to the municipal committees, for the welfare of farmers and development of agriculture, and several other things and programmes undertaken by the Congress and their achievements in this regard, since 1947 to this date, on that basis, we can hold our heads high and go to the people to expose these people in the opposition and tell the people how they wanted to disrupt the unity of this country and they had no programme. They talk like this, sometimes in the name of cow and on other occasions, in the name of religion but it is clear that the people of this country have not stood by them. Only a few people from these parties are elected and it clearly proves it that Hindus and Muslims of India believe in secularism and they had never accepted communalism. Instead they have rejected it outright. Therefore, we are not dismayed about our future. If we go to the people and talk to them to win their favour, we are fully confident that we will be able to defeat them with our constructive programmes.

In the end, I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister to 2-3 points. While on one hand, unfortunately some people of communal mentality have been inducted in the administration and in the police and such people should be identified and wherever there are such people immediate action should be taken to keep these people under check.

Secondly, nowadays such slogans are being raised which are quite unreasonable and invite the hatred of other communities. Such slogans should be banned and the people engaged in such slogan mongering should be dealt with very strictly and action should be taken against them.

Thirdly, I would like to point out that it is not these people of communal mentality who are apparently engaged in all such activities but there are also some other persons at

their back. All these things have been widely discussed in this House as to how these people plan their activities, what sort of plans they prepare and how they receive foreign assistance for their activities. The Home Minister should expose all these people and their activities before the public and all those who are associated with them, should also be punished.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been hearing all this discussion on communal situation very attentively. Whenever I am not present in the House, I go through the speeches of all those members who have expressed their views in the House. From time to time there has been a discussion on this issue. If the followers of Hindu religion have deviated from their old ideals and are now swept by communal feelings it means that their objective is quite clear. If we go deep into the philosophy of Hindu religion we will find that whatever be the sect of this religion—be it Vedant, Sankhya, Jain or Buddhist philosophy, though externally they look quite different but the very foundation of Hindu religion and culture is based on love, mercy, fraternity, goodwill and universal brotherhood. Have we forgotten the basis doctrine of Hindu religion i.e. "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah". Hence the followers of this religion should act in a manner in which wickedness jealousy and malice have no place. You may see it that after independence Hindus comprise numerically 80-90% of the total population of the country but they never followed the path of narrow mindedness. Ram Rajya Parishad, Hindu Mahasabha and Bhartiya Jan Sangh also came into existence after independence. What fate they have met and where they have gone? Now Ram Rajya Parishad and Hindu Mahasabha are nowhere in existence. As regards Jan Sangh, it had merged into Bhartiya Janata Party but it could get only two of its members elected to this House. If the political parties could have benefited in the name of Hinduism or by provoking their religious sentiments, the things would have taken altogether a different shape in this country. We would like to

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congratulate the million of people of India that they have a deep understanding of Indian culture. Today, if you go to the villages, you can easily see that even today a large number of Hindus participate in the Taja processions. Similarly, the number of Muslims participating in the group of Holi singers on the occasion of Holi is greater. However some political parties tend to vitiate the atmosphere to serve their own ends. In 1967, these parties tried to tide over the political crisis by taking undue advantage of the religious sentiments of the people and later succeeded to form a coalition Government. During the last general elections, when they saw that the people are prepared to vote for the policies of Smt. Indira Gandhi, they again started talking in the communal tone. Vishwa Hindu Parishad has no tinge of the old ideals and values which had held India in a high position of the world preceptor. It is not a good thing. Once B.J.P. had based its ideology on Gandhism. You people who claim to be true followers of Gandhiji, You must know that Gandhiji had made his constant and concrete efforts to do away with the untouchability and other deformities of Hindu society. At the time of last general elections, Jan Sangh and the BJP had also intended to follow the path of Gandhian philosophy but today they are going just the reverse of it. Today even the best among the Hindus have got their minds vitiated in the name of religion. Instead they should have worked to eradicate untouchability and for the upliftment of Girijans, Harijans and Balmikies. Now some political parties want to misuse some elected members for their selfish ends in the name of Hinduism. I would like to point out about the BJP. Subramaniam Swami who was once very close to Atal Bihari Vajpai and his party, has levelled serious allegations against Atal Bihari Vajpai and it is very well known a fact to the whole country and to this House. Therefore, I want to tell them that it is not good to take undue political advantage by misleading the people and by creating apprehensions among them. Hon'ble Home Minister, it is unfortunate that in this country some forces want to wipe out

the very basic ideals of secularism and non-alignment on which this country stands and has made big strides. These forces want to incite the religious sentiments of the people. They are giving them the slogans based on casteism. What is this Devi Lalji? No body will believe you because on one hand you say that your party men will not participate in the Ram Shila Pujan but on the other hand you are prepared to share power with such elements. This shows your double standards. All of us and the entire country knows it that a very serious situation has arisen in this country. Casteism and communal elements have entered into an unholy alliance. Moreover even those persons who believed in secularism and democracy are trying to join hands with them. Shahabuddinji, we may recall that when Shri V.P. Singh visited West Bengal, he claimed that the members of the CPI were his national allies but on the other hand when he visits Delhi University to speak from the platform of BJP and the Vidyarthi Parishad, he talks quite differently. Hence we should beware of such people who have betrayed the people of this country. If we do not take care of the human and democratic values at this time of crisis, the country will be shattered into pieces. I am happy to take note of the way my earlier speakers have expressed their views. However, I would like to emphasise that we should try to infuse communal harmony and goodwill, but what is happening is quite contrary to it. I have already stated that casteism and communal elements are joining hands and regionalism is also raising its head. Shallow ideals like linguistic fanaticism should be checked. I am happy to see that a resolution to that effect has been adopted by the Rajya Sabha. I would like a similar resolution to be passed even by the Lok Sabha so that those who are joining hands with such forces for their political ends, are exposed in the public and their real faces come before the common men. However what is required to be done as at present in this country is to take measures for the upliftment of minorities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the implementation of the 15 point programme of Indira Gandhi and we should strive to infuse a

sense of national integrity throughout the country right from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and unite the country into one organic whole and those who create obstructions, should be kept at bay. I would like to say that our Government and our Election Commission will have to remain cautious at the time of coming general elections and in respect of the election manifestoes of all the parties. I would like that all those political parties the manifestos of which reflect parochialism and exploit linguistic, religious or regional sentiments of the people, should be banned. A strict attitude should be adopted in respect to those political parties which intent to destroy the peace of this country. We need to remain vigilant against such elements. What is the R.S.S., the Shiv Sena and other such political parties upto? What is their line of thinking on the national issues? What is their stand on Anandpur Sahib resolution? Why don't these people come together on the national issues? They do so only at the time of elections when they try to go in for adjustment on the question of seats. Now that the elections are approaching they are making seat adjustments with each other. I am aware as to what Shri Shahabuddin and his associates are up to. What is the intention of those people who indulge in religion based politics? I would like to ask those who have been expressing their concern for the moral values, how can they raise their heads high when they have been fully exposed. Now they can no longer deceive the people of this country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even if this House meets again or not, I can say it with full certainty that under the existing circumstances, even this time, we are going to have an equally powerful mandate from the people as we had received earlier. At the same time, I would like to warn the Members of the opposition parties which have been making tall claims of their Hindu religion, that they have been fanning the flame of communal sentiments of the people in the name of Ram Shila Pujan but they should know that they will not benefit by playing a communal game. However they may claim to uphold and protect Hinduism and provoke people in the name of Shila Pujan, they will be defeated and wiped out in the coming elections. The

people of this country are supreme and they know everything. Our country has a noble heritage. I would not like to go into the details of all these things, but in view of the existing situations in the country, I can definitely assert that this will happen. Rest assured that none of the parties which are parochial in outlook and which are based on some caste, religion, region and regional languages, are not going to be elected to this House. The Indian masses are very intelligent and have a very deep understanding. They are aware as to wherein lies the interest of the country and what comprises its welfare and how can it prosper. The entire country is aware that during the last five years of the Rajiv Government, an atmosphere of peace had been established in the country and a record foodgrain production of 170 million tonnes had been achieved. Even in the industrial sector, we have exceeded the target and achieved unprecedented success in the technological field. Our launching of missiles has enabled us to be counted among the top nations of the world. Not only this, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has undertaken an unprecedented step of devolving power at the grassroot level, thus directly connecting Delhi with the villages of the country. Through the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna in the rural areas and its counterpart in the urban areas, the Gandhian ideals will be revived. Several schemes have been formulated for the welfare of the farmers. While our Government is working for the progress and development of the country, some parties are conspiring to destroy its unity and integrity. Shri Shahabuddin, you have been going on a right path. However, I would like to ask you to tell all your associates that their present ways and thinking will not work in the changed circumstances and they shall have to change their attitude. The need of the hour is that in order to protect democracy in this country, we should not speak in terms of caste, religion, language or region but we should speak about the progress of our country and as to how to maintain its unity and integrity. We should speak of upholding and protecting these eternal principles and values for which our country is considered to be the leader of the world. It is necessary to make efforts in

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that very direction. This has been the aim of this country for ever. This is what Lord Krishna has also emphatically stressed in the following words in the Bhagwat Gita and it is the quintessence of Hindu religion.

“Sarva dharman parityajya mamekan
sharanam breja

Aham twam Sarvopapebhyo mokshy-
ishyami ma shucha”

It means that if the interests of the country are to be protected, the people of this country should learn to live with a sense of dedication. Mahatma Gandhi had also taught us the something and the same was taught to us by Pt. Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi and this is the teaching of the Gita, the Vedas, the Puranas and it is the essence of Hinduism. Tulsidas also said, “Nirmal man so moi bhava”. Therefore, the people who speak in the name of religion are hypocrites and want to create a turmoil in the country. The need of the hour is that only that party which adheres to the eternal values like truth, non-violence and sympathy which are common to all religions, will survive and this path is being followed by the Congress. Our hon. leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has dedicated himself to those fundamental and permanent values of life

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishan-
ganj): Let us not talk about the party but let us talk of the Government.

SHRI R.P. PANIKA: It is on account of these reasons that disputes are taking place in the country. 99 per cent of the people of our country believe in the sentiment which I have been referring to just now. I firmly believe that these parties with narrow considerations will come to an end and we will return with a heavy mandate and work for the reconstruction of the country. We will keep the country united and integrated and ensure that its prestige is enhanced.

[English]

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY

(Puri): Sir, a number of times, here in this House, we had discussed this problem; we had debated the problem of communalism. But the problem has now taken a new dimension. It has taken a new dimension because of the elections. It is because to influence the Hindu votes now the Hindu slogans are being raised. Communalism is openly preached, Nehru's model of secularism is being openly challenged. It was not the case earlier.

So far as the Congress Party is concerned, secularism is not a political expediency for us but it is a creed. It is not a police but it is a creed. That has come out of the reality of the situation, which is not something emotional. It is not something that has fallen from the Heaven. But it is out of reality, out of our experiences and we have accepted and adopted it and we have pinned our dress to the cult of secularism.

Secularism probably died in the year 1977. The year 1977, I would say, was a black year. It was a black year not because the Congress Government was dislodged but because in that year, the communal forces were glorified and they were given respectable places. I do not want to name them; you know that particular Party. Overnight they became secular and some of their political leaders who are shouting very much accepted that they were secular. Jayaprakash Ji was very very careful about it. He knew these forces would never be secular. That is why, before the oath was taken, he led them to Rajghat and in the name of Gandhiji, they took the oath. Jayaprakashji was very conscious of the situation. So, they should find out one man, Sikander Bhakt or somebody. He was the label of secularism! Am I wrong? But so far as the Congress is concerned, as I have told you, it is a creed for us and for that creed of secularism, not only Gandhiji sacrificed his life, not only Indira Gandhiji sacrificed her life but also the present Home Minister because the member of his family were sacrificed Do you know how many member of his family were sacrificed because he stood solidly with the forces of secularism? We should not forget that. So far as our ethos is concerned,

the great Poet Rabindranath Tagore had given a definition to our secular culture. I would like to quote two lines of his famous Poem, *Bharat Thirtha*:

"Hethai Arya hetha anarya hethai
Drabir Chin—Shak Hun dal Pathan
Moghul Ek dehe holo leen..."

He said that everybody been merged with India. Those who have read the Indian Mythology or History of India know that for thousands of years, the problem was there. The Aryans, non-Aryans and Dravidians had all been mingling with India. So, this shows our secular character. In Mahabharatha, Yudhishthira was put the question: "You separate these *Varna Sankaras* (Non-Aryans)." He said: "No, it is the *Maha Milan*". (Great assimilation). What I would like to say is that everybody has become Hindus. The Dravidians, the Mongolians and all have become Hindus. So, naturally it is a process of assimilation and through the process of assimilation this nation has been built up. That is what has been reflected in Poem of Rabindranath Tagore. I would like to quote another line from his Poem:

"Paschim aaji Khuliache dwar
Setha hote sobe aane upahar

Dibe aar nibe—milable milibe
Jaabe na phire—

Ei Bharater mahamanober
Saagar tire."

Now, the Westerners are coming to India. They are bringing gifts. They give and take gifts. They live here. After some time, they will be assimilated and that will be the process of assimilation. This is the idea of secularism. This is the essence of our secular ethos and secularism itself. That has been defined by Rabindranath Tagore apart from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi. I remember those days, after Independence, in the City of Patna, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister and Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, both were critically fighting against the Hindus who

were attacking the Muslims. I remember that. I remember as to what was the ethos of the INA Movement led by Subash Chandra Bose. We would never be communal. That is the commitment of the Indian Freedom Movement. It was for secularism. The commitment of the Congress is for secularism. But we have to protect those commitments. We have done one thing. We have glorified those forces. Now the time has come when all the secular forces in the country must have the unity of outlook. I don't say that they should be assimilated into one political party. But there should be the unity of outlook, unity of approach and faith so that we can fight against the forces of communalism.

I would like to say another thing. A peculiar strain is coming now. I would like to quote one thing. I would quote from one of the reports of the Frontier Post, published from Peshawar which says:

"Unfortunately, the Muslims are also going fundamentalist, thus flouting the Constitution which is their only shield against the cruelty of a Hindu majority..."

Some of the details are mentioned here. I find the names of some of our friends here. I don't want to mention the names. This publication is from Pakistan. But my submission is that fundamentalism is not an answer to communalism. I would also like to say that parochism is not an answer to secularism. We must remember this fact. I would like to pose a question: Why—our secular forces are not being united? Those friends who are shouting against the communal forces now, were they not the people who supported and glorified those communal forces in the year 1978, 79 and 1980?

19.00 hrs.

And till yesterday they were glorifying. That is the reason why they are isolated. But having gained political respectability in 1977, they were isolated. I would invite—how this communal problem in India has an international dimension—the attention of this House

[Sh. Brajamohan Mohanty]

to the resolution in Pakistan Senate. What has been the Resolution? The Resolution says:

"The resolution went on to state the principles on which lasting peace and friendship with India can be built. These include acceptance of all countries of the region, irrespective of their military strength or size, "as equal participants, respect for the rights of minorities as the Muslim ummah cannot be insensitive to what happens to Indian Muslims."

I ask, why does Pakistan bother about our minorities? What business do they have? India never bothered about Hindus who are in Sindhu Pradesh. We are not playing Sindhu card. India does not bother about the minorities who are in Bangladesh. But I would like, from the minorities headquarters, that there should be protest lodged against Pakistan. I was very much happy when I listened to the speech of Mr. Sait. He said: "this is our country. We have been born here. Nobody can throw us away from this land of ours." (*Interruptions*)

I need two or three minutes. That should come from the headquarters of the minorities. Who are they? And about Assam Muslims, I would make some observation... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): If You yield to me, I would clarify the position. It is a very valid point made by my hon. friend. I would like to tell the House that when there was independence, the President of the Muslim League here in India embraced the then Prime Minister of Pakistan Shri Liaqat Ali Khan and said: "Today we depart as foreigners." He said to him: "To you, your country and, to us, our country." He further said: "We are now foreigners and I must tell you, Mr. Prime Minister of Pakistan, that in no matter you shall never interfere henceforward." That is on record. That is the his-

tory. That is how the whole thing starts. Then he further said: "Whatever may happen to us here in India, that is our look out. You should not interfere and that also must not colour your treatment of minorities in Pakistan. We know how to live in our own country, how to get our own rights." From the first day, that has been the policy as far as we are concerned and not a single instance of deviation from that policy can ever be pointed out by anybody. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN: What did the Muslims say before partition?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: If you want to know the history of pre-independence days, I am prepared to tell you that also. I have explained as to what our attitude was. It may be summed up in his words, "To you, your country, and to us our country". If you want to know the history of pre-independence days, then I am prepared to tell you as to how all that happened? I would like you to read the Book "Partition-Legend and Realities" written by Shri H.M. Seerwai. It has been written in the Book and

I have read that Book and found what had happened, how did it happen and why. We should learn a lesson from that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN: I would like to say that the Muslims of India have always cooperated but the Muslim League not. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not allowing anything to go on record except Shri Mohanty's speech.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No further dialogue. Shri Mohanty, please continue your speech. I do not want any dialogue.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not heard anyone to speak now except Shri Mohanty...*(Interruptions)*—Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: I heard Shri Banatwalla telling the assertion made by the President of the Muslim League. I have seen that as I am a very critical follower of the developments during that period. But the problem as you know is that, never even President Zia Ul Haq, when he was the administrator of Pakistan, uttered a word about the minorities in India. But this is a few trend. The senate resolution is a new trend. So we want that there should be new protests and clarifications from the minority side. I do not doubt their sincerity or their patriotism. But when this type of a thing comes, the most appropriate fitting reply should go from the minority headquarters.

The other day I was congratulating Shahabuddinji. He made a speech in Bombay and he said that he is first Indian and then Muslim. The next day I congratulated him, if you remember. That is the stand; we are first Indians and then Hindus. We never quarrel with you, so far as Congress is concerned. You know after Smt. Indira Gandhi's assassination there was a riot here. Sardar Buta Singh knows how many Sikh friends I had given shelter to, taking the risk of my life. Because our politics starts with secularism and not with any communal influence. That is why my submission is that so far as congress is concerned, so far as secular cult is concerned, I appeal to the minority friends all over the country that they should solidly stand behind the secular approach and they should have the unity of dialogue and approach so that we can successfully fight against the forces of communalism. We have committed mistakes in the past. It is a matter of self-analysis. Who were the persons who had given respectability to communal organisations? Where are they? Now

the very same people are shouting against this. It is they who had given it respectability. With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Upto what time should we continue this debate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): Sir, there are a number of speakers. We would like to extend the sitting of the House till 8 p.m.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Why cannot we do it on Monday? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: What is the hurry? This is a very important issue. There are many Members who want to speak. What is the hurry? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House has to decide.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Monday. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: No. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: This is the consensus of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will extend the sitting of the House by one hour, if you all accept; afterwards if you feel like, we will see.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: We can discuss it on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will see that after one hour.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Monday.
(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: When the whole House asks for Monday, then why cannot we do that? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Consensus has to come from all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Yes. Everybody is saying. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Sir, the Minister is replying today itself. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: What is the hurry? Why cannot we discuss it on Monday? It is a very important issue and many Members wish to speak. *(Interruptions)*

Sir, the fact is that today evening Milad-Un-Nabi celebration is being held. Everyone of us is anxious to participate in it. A world conference, is taking place today. All of us have been invited. Please have consideration for this. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will extend the sitting of the House by one hour. Meanwhile, Mr. Minister, you consult the Members. You discuss with the Minister whether he is going to reply and tell me. So, we are extending by one hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: You tell us the time of reply, and we will come at the time of reply. We are having so many things. We are being held up by one hour like this. We cannot even go and have our prayers. What is this? Frankly tell us that he will reply at one O'Clock. Then, we will come at one O'Clock. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. NAMGYAL I have requested

the hon. Chair to extend the time of the House by one hour. Let us decide. Let the hon. Minister reply. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to know whether the Minister is going to reply today itself.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Yes.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: At one O'Clock in the night?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That I do not know.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: It is useless to extend it by one hour. There is consensus. After all, the House is supreme. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You decide it after one hour.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: We have decided that we shall have it on Monday. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Digvijaya Singh.

SHRIDIGVIJAYASINGH (Raigarh): Sir, once again this country has been affected seriously by this dreaded disease like a cancer. Bharat which got united after thousands of years once again stands on the threshold of fragmentation and susceptible to foreign domination. In 1947 this country had already paid a price of the communal divide that took place because of acute communalism in this country practised by Muslim League at that time and now once again the same kind of communalism is raising its head. This country has already lost two of its great leaders—Mahatma Gandhi and Indiraji—because of extreme communalism in this country and we have to stand up now and face this communalism unitedly and as one.

To understand communalism in this country we have to go back a few hundred years. For thousands of years Hindus and Muslims have fought together on the same side but ever since the Britishers came into this country this kind of communal divide was practised and adopted as a fine art. I would like to quote from Sir John Malcolm. In 1813 Sir John Malcolm told a parliamentary committee in England:

"In the present extended state of our empire, our security for preserving a power so extra-ordinary in nature as that we have established rests upon the general division of the great communities under the Government and their sub-divisions into various castes and tribes...While they continue divided in this manner no insurrection is likely to shake the stability of our power."

Then in 1859 Lord Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay wrote in a minute 'Divide Et Impera was the old Roman motto and it should be ours. This colonial imperialism practised as a fine art is responsible for the rise of communalism in this country. Colonial imperialism might have come to an end but this country is threatened by the economic imperialism now. There is no doubt that the extremists in Punjab are being openly supported by the economic imperialism. The forces of economic imperialism have always supported the fascist regime and dictators in our neighbourhood. There is sufficient evidence to prove that communal elements in our country are receiving funds from these sources. Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee when he was the Foreign Minister openly sided with Israel. He openly supported the American imperialism and these are the forces which are responsible for the communalism rise in this country. At no cost we can compromise with these forces. We have to stand up as one and only then we will be able to face this evil. In our urge to take short-cuts to political solution and political expediency we tend to compromise with these forces. I would like to remind the hon. Minister that the shortest cut is the longest route to the destination. I would urge upon the Minister that compromising

with communal elements gives respectability and you also isolate the secular forces in this country. The present Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue is nothing but a vehicle being used by communal forces in this country with the next elections in their foresight. They have done so in the post-Independence India for cow slaughter and for a number of other issues like Ganga Jal Yatra, Ekamata Rath Yatra and now this Ramjanmabhoomi issue. It is unfortunate that it was the calculated design of a power hungry politician in this country who is now in the Janata Dal, who is responsible for the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue today. The canard that is being spread about this Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue is that Babri Masjid was built by Babar after demolishing the Hindu temple. I would like to place on record that Babar in his will to Humayun had categorically said that Humayun should protect all places of religious worship of Hindus, Jains and Buddhists and he went to the extent of advocating a ban on cow slaughter. This was the mind of Babar and no one can even imagine that a person of that mind would ever demolish a place of worship.

The role of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, BJP, RSS and Jamiat-e-Islami in the Babri Masjid Action Committee are faces of the same coin. Their role and their action has to be condemned in the strongest terms. The BJP has been promising that they would not make the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute an election issue. But on the sly the RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad workers are actively campaigning on this issue. The RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad workers are going from village to village and collecting Ram Shilas. Mr. L.K. Advani, on the one hand, says, "This would never be an election issue. We are not interested in this issue." But he is the first person in Delhi who openly goes and offers a *puja* for the Ram Shilas. RSS workers are going from village to village inciting violence, raising provocative slogans against Muslims, giving speeches with no meaning but only purpose, playing on the irrational impulses and fears of the gullible illiterates and semi-illiterates sowing seeds of fundamentalism and hatred in the minds

[Sh. Digvijay Singh]

of young people. Their target is simply riding to power using fundamentalism in religious sentiments as the vehicle to attain that power.

On the one hand, the BJP has given a commitment before the Election Commission that they are a secular party. They have enshrined in their constitution that they are a secular party. But at the same time they invite Balasaheb Deoras, the RSS chief, for the national convention in Bombay. He takes part in that convention.

Shri L.K. Advani is offering his *pujas* for the Ram Shilas. At no point of time, BJP, Jansangh, RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad have been not together. They are one and have always remained one. I urge upon the hon. Home Minister to take up this case with the Election Commission and have the BJP deregistered as a secular party because they have lost all credentials of being a secular party. It is indeed sad that Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who at times advocates secularism, goes to address Sampardayak Virodhi Andolan fasts. At the same time, he is openly having talks of seat adjustments with BJP, RSS and Shiv Sena. If they want to prove their credentials in the Janata Dal, they should immediately stop sharing power in Haryana. They should force the BJP to get out of the coalition Government which they have formed in Haryana. Then only their credentials of being a secular party would be proved.

The blind ambition of the Janta Dal leaders of coming into power is making them compromise with communists, fascists, smugglers and anti-nationals. On the other hand, I congratulate the Communist parties and other leftist parties who have openly come out against communal forces. I do not subscribe to their economic theories and we cannot erase the dubious role of the Communist party in the freedom movement of this country, but it goes without saying that by their actions and utterances, they have proved beyond doubt their credentials as a secular party in this country. I urge upon the

Communists and leftist parties to sink their petty differences. The biggest issues facing this country are not these petty issues, it is communalism in this country which is almost dividing this country into different parts. I urge upon them to sink these differences and support our young, dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who is very strongly and in a determined way putting a fight against these communal elements. No issue today is more important than the unity and integrity of this country.

I was very much relieved when hon. Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh Ji said that there was no agreement with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Sir, through you, I would like to convey my sentiments to the hon. Home Minister that this is an organization which can never be trusted. This is an organization which gives its workers training how to spread rumours, how to incite violence, how to incite violence. Do not every be taken in by any kind of commitment, whether verbal or written. There should be no ambiguity on this point. As we stand today, the Government of India should be categorical on this point that at no cost, Babri Masjid would be allowed to be demolished until and unless the court gives an order on this issue. We should make it very clear that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad would now be allowed to lay the foundation stone on any Government land. The Government of India have to act, the hon. Home Minister has to act; no kind of movement or people can fight the fascist forces and the communal forces, without the State taking an active role. It cannot remain neutral. You cannot leave this issue to the wisdom of the District Magistrate of Ayodhya or Faizabad. You have to take it upon yourself because the infiltration of such communal elements in our administration is deep-rooted. You do not know up to what level it can go.

I would request the hon. Minister to ban all these para-military organizations of communal parties, whether it is Bajrang Dal, Bajrang Vahini or the Adam Sena. There should be a complete ban on all communal forces. I strongly urge that you must put a

ban on the Jamait-Islami and the RSS. You have to fight these a communal forces strongly, otherwise the integrity and the unity of this country would be in danger.

To prove our credibility and to prove our credentials as a secular party, we have to take strong action against all those culprits responsible for the Hashimpura and the Mallayana killings. We have to take action against all those people who were responsible for the November 1984 riots. Only then our credentials will be proved.

We must put a stop to all Government officials, whether in the Central Government or the State Governments, or officials of the public sector undertakings to take any part in these communal activities. I have instances where the Government officials have openly taken part in the Ram Shila processions. In my State a overseer of the Irrigation Department was the President of the Bajrang Vahini of Madhya Pradesh. I congratulate our Chief Minister who has thrown him out of the service. We cannot allow these people to carry on like this. Today, the minorities of this country are looking at you; are looking at the actions of our Home Minister and our Prime Minister. You can't let them down. Your credibility with the minorities, your credentials with the minorities are at stake. Let us not take this issue very lightly. We have to firmly put down and firmly inculcate the confidence among the minorities.

I would like to conclude with Pandit Nehru's first letter to all the Chief Ministers of this country. He said.

"We have a Muslim minority who are so large in number that they cannot, even if they want to, go anywhere else. We must give them security and rights of citizen in a democratic State. If we fail to do so, we shall have a festering sore which will eventually poison the whole body politic and probably destroy it "

You see how prophetic were his words. Today, we must remember and stand up in

his birth centenary year for his ideals and principles and instil confidence among the minorities by taking strong action against the communalists.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, much has been said in the House about communalism, I would not like to waste the time of the House by repeating the same. I would like to start with the speech of Shri Maulana Azad and quote from his speech delivered as a Presidential address in Ramgarh Congress Session:

[*English*]

"Save the Hindus from Muslims, says one group. Save Islam from Hinduism, says another. When order of the day is to protect Hindus and protect Muslims, who cares about protecting the Nation?"

The Press and platforms are busy fanning bigotry and obscurantism, while duped and ignorant public is shedding blood on the streets..."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whenever I recall those words of Maulana Azad, the picture of India suffering from communal frenzy becomes clear to me. I would like to say that these communal disputes are not merely a religious problem or an issue like that. These communal disputes are actually a challenge for all progressive and leftist forces which would like to see India a non-communal and a progressive national.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even today we find starvation and unemployment the two serious problems still existing in our country. Thousands of people are still living below the poverty line. Lakhs of children do not get even a drop of milk. Lakhs of people living in the country are facing the problem of unemployment. Labourers and farmers are still the victims of injustice and exploitation. I regret to say that nobody comes to their

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rescue and nobody raises his voice against the atrocities being committed on them. As a matter of fact it is our economic or socio-economic problem. Unless we solve this problem, we cannot do away with this evil of communalism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask from the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs as to what happened to the announcement he made a few days ago for which a circular was issued instructing the collectors and S.P.'s of each district to put an end to the communal riots otherwise they will have to face strict action against them if communal riots take place in their areas. Recently there have been riots. Nobody can control the break out of the riots. But, if there are riots it becomes the duty of the District Administration to control them and if the District Administration fails, the Government of India is required take strict action against the defaulting officers. I would like the Government of India to state the reasons to the people of the country for which there have been incidents of arson loot and killings in the country despite the deployment of Police force and imposing of curfew in the disturbed areas.

19.36 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government should examine the reasons for which our police and other forces have failed in controlling the situation. The Government of India should take strict action against the officers responsible for negligence on their part. I would like to raise this matter in the House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Shri Salahuddin Owaisi said yesterday in this House that the blood of the muslims shed during these forty years is more than that was shed in Iran-Iraq war. It was really unfortunate and misleading and it was opposed by all the sections of the House and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs also gave clarification in this regard. I feel that perhaps Shri Owaisi had forgotten and he seems to have included the blood of the

muslims which was shed during the period of Rajakars, to provide protection to them. When he was speaking I wanted to tell him that muslims in India are not going to be misled by his few emotional epithets. It is very unfortunate that you are representing those very people in the House. It is not correct if you want to put blame for communalism only one community, one religion which is in majority in India. First we have to look to ourselves and then have to be careful about those muslim leaders who want to attain the heights of great leaders within no time. I would like to warn those leaders that the muslims in India are not prepared to accept their leadership and we will oppose them in every way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Salahuddin was speaking. I wanted to read out for him some of the couplets by Makhdoom Mohinuddin, a poet of his own city.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can proceed.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Makdoom, a great poet said:-

"Chand ke taron ke matam ki sada
Raat ke mathe per Ajuda sitaron ka
hujum
Sirf khurshide darkshan ke niklane tak
he
Raat ke paas Andhere ke siva kuch bhi
nahin"

Shri Salahuddin Owaisi and his friends want to see this darkness prevailing in this House. I may tell him that the light Rajiv Gandhi's Government want to bring in this country can not be stopped by anyone. I would like to submit the following for his consideration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I refer to one more point. Yesterday, hon Minister of Home Affairs made an announcement and the Government of India also declared its policy regarding the construction of a Mandir by demolishing the Babri Masjid. One more point was brought forward about the construction of the Temple. I am not a kazi or a

Mulla but on the basis of my knowledge about religion I may say that it is the basic principle of Islamic religion that a masjid constructed by demolishing the structures at the place of worship or by occupying land illegally is not a place fit for offering prayers. Prayers offered at such a place cannot be taken as just and pious. This is a gospel of Islamic religion. Therefore, if it is a dispute of the Masjid and it is proved in the court that the masjid was constructed by demolishing a temple there then I as a muslim may say that masjid should immediately be demolished. But it will have to be proved that the mosque has been constructed after demolishing a temple. For this purpose I think there cannot be a more responsible forum than the High Court. In this respect I want the hon. Home Minister to clarify a point. The Government decided on November 8 or 9 that the Mosque will not be demolished, May I know what the Government intends to do if the Vishwa Hindu Parishad lays the foundation of a building at that place on the 8th and 9th of November on the basis of their old architectural plan? The Vishwa Hindu Parishad should either bring about changes in the old plan which should be approved by the Government. Changes are necessary only if the construction of the temple disturbs the present structure of Babri Masjid. On the other hand if they intend modifying the existing structure of Babri Masjid to suit the temple plans, they should not be allowed to do so until the High Court gives its verdict in this matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after so much has been said on this subject by different people, I want to pay tribute to the veteran leader hon. Shri Kamlapati Tripathi. Whenever in future any reference is made to him, I think his name will be found written in golden letters in the history of India. I take this opportunity to pay my tributes to him. Along with this, I praise those people who have kept India's secular status in mind while discussing this issue. It would be ungratefulness on my part if I do not pay tributes to the hon. Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh. I thank him for the hard work done by him in the last six months to solve this problem. I request

him to take action on the decision taken in the All India Conference on the 9th that the Status quo of temples, mosques and gurdwaras as on 15th August, 1947 be maintained.

My second point relates to the Urdu language. It would be misleading to say that Urdu is the language of one community or the language of Muslims alone. Well-Known scholars of Hindi, journalists, poets, and other figures have come forward in support of urdu. I also praise the move to accord status of second official language to Urdu in U.P. In this connection, I would like to thank Shri Kamleshwar, Shri Raghuvir Sahay, Shri Inder Malhotra and Shri Rajendra Mathur. These people said that Urdu is the language of the Ganga-Yamuna belt. There is no justification in saying that it is a language of Indian Muslims. In an English article written by Shri Chandan Mitra it has been said that Muslims by themselves are not capable of even protecting the language what its say of achieving the status of official language for urdu. If Hindus continue to have a parochial attitude towards Urdu, its consequences would be very bad.

At this point, I want to quote an editorial written in the 'Navbharat Times' by Shri Rajendra Mathur:-

"Urdu is actually the product of the confluence of two great cultures. It is a language of the masses. Without Urdu, it is not possible to speak and write in 'khari boli which is modern form of Hindi. It is a conspiracy to link Urdu to a particular class. Writers like Premchand, Firaq Gorakhpuri, Krishna Chandra Bedi and others are counted among promoters of Urdu even though they were Hindus."

There is no justification in linking Urdu to any particular community because this is the language that gave the slogan of 'Inquilaab Zindabad' to the world and this is the language of Bhagat Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaque Ullah. I hope people who are

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using Urdu to gain political ends will come to their senses.

Many people are aware of the Ram Janambhoomi—Babri Masjid controversy, but they are perhaps not aware of the two letters that were part of the second volume of Sardar Patel's correspondence. One letter is written by late Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, the former Chief Minister of U.P. and second is written by the late Shri Sardar Patel, I suggest that both these letters be translated into Urdu and other languages and distributed to the people so that it is known to them that the Chief Minister of U.P. and the Union Home Minister were determined not to let this become a political issue. They wanted a justifiable solution to this problem which I think is the only way to make people realise.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. In the end, I would like to warn all the leftist forces and progressive forces in India to join hands and be prepared to make sacrifices in their fight against communalism. They will have to come forward and make sacrifices if progressive society is to survive in this country. Once again, I would like to quote the Urdu poet Maqdoom:

"Humdamon aage barho, sooe manzil chalo,

Manzilen pyar ki, manzilen daar ki.

Kooen dildaar ki manzilen.

dosj par apni-apni saleeven uthaye chalo "

MR SPEAKER: After listening to your couplet, I too recall a couplet which goes something like this:

"Yeh rishta hai deewaron dar,
tera bhi hai mera bhi hai.

Mat girao is gharko, yeh ghar tera bhi hai,

mea bhi hai.

kyon aapas mein larhe hum,

ek-ek sange meel par,

isme nuksane safar tera bhi hai, mera

bhi hai.

kha gae kal jinko phasadon ki saleeb,
unme ek noore nazar tera bhi hai, mera bhi hai."

So this is the whole story.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Sir, you are an unknown genius.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): You are a genius known as well as unknown.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Udhampur): I too want to recite a couplet.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Shri Ayub, you are also welcome to express your feelings. The only thing I want to say is that we have discussed this matter on each and every occasion. I am ashamed to say that it has had no effect on society in general. How sad it is to see a world that consists of people who, by their inhuman deeds, divide communities in the name of religion. They themselves belong to parties which are communal and then they accuse others of encouraging communalism. What don't they realise that their acting are detrimental to the interest of the nation. Why don't they go in for self introspection? India belongs to us and it is our duty to keep it alive. This is our foremost duty. Who will we blame tomorrow? Why don't they take inspiration from Bhagat Singh, Ashfaq Ullah, Madan Lal Dhingra, Udham Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev and Chander Shekhar Azad who sacrificed their lives so that the country could attain independence.

Will we let our independence and the heritage given by them slip out of our hands? What has become of our thought process? Why are we fighting among ourselves? May good sense prevail over them so that they may realise their duty towards the nation. Only when we preserve our heritage, raise it to even higher levels can we say that we have fulfilled our duty.

S. Buta Singhji you must be knowing the

Punjabi proverb "Surma Pana to Saukha Hai, Lekin Tamkana Bada Aukha Hai", similarly to safeguard freedom and independence is more difficult a job than to achieve it. You shall have to work hard to maintain it. We must heed to the voice of the hour to look upto the God and mankind, and also love humanity at large. Life is sacred and valuable and is meant to serve the humanity. All of us must live in harmony. In this country of Mahatma Gandhi, it is matter of regret that we have forgotten these ideals. S. Buta Singhi, both of us have seen the people turning wild for small things and today we have again reverted to those very situations after a period of 40 years. Though man is considered to be the best creation of God who is blessed with intellect but where are we drifting today All these things are a matter of concern and I believe you will make earnest efforts in this regard. God is one and is present everywhere including our hearts. It will be foolish on our part if at other persuasion, we make efforts to protect somebody. Because God alone protects us and for that we must be grateful to him. If we lose that wisdom, nothing will be left behind

[English]

Let us think about it.

[Translation]

We must think twice before taking any decision. Today I would like to appeal on behalf of the entire House with the idea that it will make an impact on all and will also infuse the feeling of brotherhood and patriotism. We must strive to preserve brotherhood and communal harmony, if we want to safeguard freedom and independence of our country.

With these words I would like to thank all the Members. First of all, I request Shri Mohd. Ayub Khan to recite a couplet and then I will ask S. Buta Singhi to give his reply.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: I would like

to address the following lines to my countrymen:-

"Phir Tere Haseenon ko Zarurat Hai Hina Ki,
Baki Hai Abhi Rang Mere Khoone Jigar Mein"

MR. SPEAKER:

"Kya Khoole Rang Badla Hai Zamane Ka,
Apne Apno Par Var Karte Hain,
Pahale Marte the Yar Yaron Par,
Ab Yaron Se Yar Marte Hain."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

[English]

"Communalism is a blot on our nation. It lets loose uncontrollable passions turning pangs into flames. It must be routed out. And this needs not only administrative steps but a concerted effort by all those who have the true interest of our country at heart. India is not just a stretch of land. India stands for tolerance, for compassion, for fellow feeling. India believes in diversity in unity."

[Translation]

These are the words of that great soul and patriot, I mean Smt. Indira Gandhi, who shed even the last drop of her blood for the country. These are the words she had spoken on 1st March, 1984 in this House. Today we need to reiterate these words. If we look at the present situation in that background then only we can realise how far we have drifted away from the avowed ideals of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Mahatma Gandhi. Today again these very forces which were active in 1947 and had created disturbances, are deliberately raising their head, because of the deteriorating political and social conditions in the country. Again secularism in the country is under threat. When Janata Party came to power in 1977 all the fundamental

[S. Buta Singh]

ideals of our country were put to challenge and new concepts were evolved. Even Non-Alignment was sought to be replaced by Genuine Non-Alignment. In 1977, the concept of non-alignment of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru for world peace was sought to be replaced by genuine non-alignment. All this was planned by those very people who are opposed to our avowed foreign policy. The powers who have been tightening the fitters of slavery in the name of racial discrimination on all the countries of this world, were also invited by them to interfere in this country and only at their instance, non-alignment was given a new name of genuine non-alignment

Only yesterday, B.J.P. at its Bombay session decided to replace secularism by positive secularism. Now secularism is sought to be replaced by positive secularism. This is dangerous, because, as you yourself mentioned earlier, democracy based on secularism is the basic essential for the preservation of freedom in this country. They claim that the concept of secularism we have been following hitherto is based on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and was evolved after a long debate for and seven months over three years in the Constituent Assembly by these people who dedicated their whole life for the country. Only guarantee to safeguard the freedom of this country lies in the continuance of secularism based democracy in this country. But today they are trying to give it a different tungi of positive secularism. In fact the word 'positive' is very dangerous.

20.00 hrs.

Meaning of this word is difficult to find in dictionary. It can be found only in the vocabulary of Shiv Sena leader. Bal Thackeray, who does not agree with out concept of secularism. He is not only against the muslims, but hates all the minority communities including sikhs and christians. He is also against the Harijans. Only one and a half year or years back, a lot of hue and cry was raised in Maharashtra over the publication of

a book of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. He also calls his concept of secularism as positive-secularism, which was initially evolved by B.J.P. and was also got incorporated in the national policy. However, I would like to read out an article in two or three paragraphs about Bal Thackeray which clearly explains the reasons why all of us should be cautions against the communal forces, which are out to disturb political climate of this country.

[English]

Bhagatji reminds me of a rumour which has been going around here in this House and in the Central Hall. So, I have to say something categorically.

Sir, a rumour is circulating among the Members of Lok Sabha that the dissolution of Lok Sabha is going to take place today. I have to state categorically that this is not a fact. This question has never even been considered at any level.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have also started believing a hear say.

S. BUTA SINGH: I thought, I must contradict it without delay.

MR. SPEAKER: Rumour mongering is the handiwork of commoners.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please also arrange for the same announcement in the Central Hall, as we have now received this information in the House.

S. BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my only submission was to look at the type of conditions prevailing in our country. What sort of spirit they are trying to infuse in this country particularly at this time when we are going to hold elections to the Lok Sabha. The country is determined to see its future bright. World Bank report, IMF report and there resolution adopted at the United Nations, all their highlight the achievements of this coun-

try it has had under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, during the tenure of the present Lok Sabha. If anywhere in the world, democracy has been successful, it is here in India under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Now the whole world is looking upto India for guidance. For the last one or two year, some force were continuously trying to weaken this country which was emerging as powerful nation, and to defame Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his Government. Unfortunately, that process has started. I have said about it on a number of occasions in this House and in the Madras convention of the Congress also, because as the Minister of Home Affairs, it is my bounden duty to warn my countrymen about the disruptive forces, which are trying to weaken and destabilise our country and suggest how to fight them. It is a big question. There may be many other underlying reasons, on which I will come later on. But I would like to submit one thing that we have to work according to the prevailing situations and see what sort of atmosphere is being created for the last one or two years. We should see as to how the efforts were made to misuse the post of the President which is the highest institution of our democracy and how the President house was used as a forum and how those international powers, anti-national forces and members of opposition parties who wanted to destabilise the country, were behaving. All possible efforts were made to leave all sorts of charges against your respectable person. You are the chairman of this biggest democratic institution of the world. These attempts were made not only to disgrace Shri Balram Jaxhar but also to tarnish the image of Indian democracy, the image of Lok Sabha, the image of the Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and to destabilise the country, but these people have failed in their attempts. We are sorry to say that communal sentiments are a delicate issue in our country and when these sentiments are moved or hurt, they can take the country on the verge of destruction. People of our irrespective of their religion are essentially religious and sensitive and whenever their religious sentiments are hurt, they get excited and are ready to make the greatest sacrifice. The history of our country bears

the testimony of it that even minor issues have given rise to a grim situation on several occasions. It has also caused big riots which led to a large scale bloodshed. I think it has been masterminded by someone who knows that when the religious sentiments of the people of this country which is also the underlining cohesive force of communal harmony and from where our ancestors and freedom fighters had derived their strength, are hurt, this country can be easily weakened and unity of this country can be easily threatened. You know that whenever such situations are created, Government is the first target of it. There is no doubt that it is the first and the foremost duty of the Government to make their all out efforts to maintain law and order in the country through constitutional means. But a very difficult situation arises when these sentiments happens to clash with the provisions of law. Even today, such is the situation prevailing in our country at the moment when we are going to take a new step and our country is passing through the hard days of its ordeal. After some, we are going to elect people's representatives for the new Lok Sabha. But these disruptive forces want to create such situation in the country by which minds of the people may be diverted from the progress and achievements of this country and they may be kept busy with the communal and religious issues by inciting their sentiments so that the people of this country may be misled and resultantly they may vote for such powers which have been working against the unity and integrity of the country.

Keeping this in view, when I look to the present political situation of my country, I find Shiv Sena in the fore front. By extending its support to Shiv Sena, BJP has given a new dimension to the Indian politics and all other political parties intend to follow them blindly. Janata Dal, National Front and all other political parties, who claim to be progressive, intend to follow suit. All of them have lost their dynamism. Latest statement has come from the communist parties of our country, who call themselves the leftists. It is clear from their statement that they have also reached at the conclusion that the situ-

[S. Buta Singh]

ation has gone out of their control. Shri Namboodripad, General Secretary, Communist Party of India, Shri Rajeshwar Rao, General Secretary, Communist Party of India, Shri Chitta Basu, General Secretary, Forward Block, Shri Pradip Chowdhary, General Secretary Revolutionary Socialist Party, have clearly observed in their statement of 1st October, 1989—

[English]

"The BJP has revealed its true colours at its recently concluded National Council meeting in Bombay. On all issues relating to the question of the security of the minorities in our country, the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute, the Minorities Commission and Article 370 of the Constitution, it has revealed its blatant communal position. It has once again raised its opposition to Urdu being declared the second official language in U.P. and other parts of the country where it is widely spoken."

Without going into the details of the Resolution I want to highlight what they have cautioned the country about:

"The coming elections, instead of being utilised as an opportunity for strengthening secularism, democracy and communal amity and safeguarding the unity of the country, are being turned into a battleground for communal massacres."

[Translation]

Today when we analyse the prevailing social and political situation of the country we find that we are standing at a cross road. The BJP may swear a thousand times that it is not playing the communal card and is not propping up the theory of Hindi Rashtra which is the focal point of their electioneering but it can not be believed and I would like to quote a few lines about the structure and character

of that party so that the people of this country may come to know through this House of the grim situation that is going to be created in this country.

[English]

I will quote an article in *The Telegraph* dt. 14th August 1989:

"You have to admire Mr. Bal Thackeray for at least one thing: saying what he means without much subterfuge. If, for instance, he considers Indian Muslims to be green serpents".

[Translation]

This is their feeling towards the minorities.

[English]

"Then he says it, without a hint of the embarrassment which might cause other politicians to fumble or gulp as they sought to bring what they felt in their hearts to their lips. Mr. Bal Thackeray—as indeed his friends in the RSS-BJP—have no such inhibitions. The Shiv-Sena Supremo has been a candid as ever over his party's latest exercise in subterfuge in order to comply with the latest provisions of the Election Commission. As is well-known by now, the Election Commission has asked all parties to register afresh with a copy of their constitution; the commission now demand that in order to contest elections a political party must display 'true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India'.

About Bal Thackeray it was said:

"Being an admirer of Hitler, he is not particularly committed to democracy. Socialism is another ideology he hates, and with a passion, he considers communists to be anti-Indian. But his biggest problem—as that of parties like the Akali Dals—is with secularism."

[*Translation*]

Shri Bal Thackeray uses the word positive secularism and he is the man who will lead the group of Janata Dal, BJP and other parties. Some of my friends criticise me for saying these things about Shri Bal Thackeray. But this is not a new policy of Bal Thackeray. Those who live in Maharashtra and Bombay know it very well that he started all these things some 20 to 22 years back in the year 1965-66 as a Mafia gang. Earlier, they were not in existence and they were not known. In the beginning, they started collecting money from the industrialists all over the country by terrorising them and started looting all the non-Maharashtrians publically. From this type of terrorism, a new organisation emerged which started taking interests in the matters of temples and acquired respectability in the name of Shivaji and Bajrang Dal. Now it has assumed such a demension that this poison which had originated only in the Bombay city of Maharashtra, has gone deep into the rural areas of Maharashtra. Members of BJP think that they will be able to win elections by defeating the secular forces with the help of these people. Many speakers who spoke before me such as Shri Qureshi and other hon. Members, have expressed their faith in the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and ideology of the Congress Party. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Shri Govind Ballabh Pant, Mualana Azad, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and all our great leaders and a number of martyrs who laid down their lives for this country have taught the people of this country that we should not give up the path of secularism under any circumstances.

[*Translation*]

We have been working on the lines of our slogan 'Hindi hain hum, watan hai Hindustan hamara'. Thus, by giving the slogan of 'positive secularism' in place of 'secularism' BJP is trying to mislead the people. These days, a question has been assuming utmost importance. In the last three months about 20 communal incidents have taken place in which 7-8 states were involved. Unfortu-

nately all these incidents occurred only in these adjoining states of Uttar Pradesh which are under Congress rule. Sir, I smell a rat in it. It seems to be a well-planned scheme under which only Congress ruled states have been involved. Why has not even a single incident taken place in Haryana which is contiguous to Uttar Pradesh and the people of both these States have close relations? Should I take it that Shri Devi Lal does not believe in secularism and he holds power on the basis of casteism. Communalism and Casteism both are equally poisonous snakes for me. Why did not similar incidents take place there...?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): BJP has go alliance with the ruling party there.

S. BUTA SINGH: The Deputy Chief Minister in the Government is from BJP. That is why such incidents did not take place in Haryana, Andhra Pradesh or other States in the country. All types of disturbances have been taking place in Assam over triflings. But such conspiracies are being hatched only to malign the Congress Party, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his Government and to prove that we are not fighting communalism. An extremely delicate and sentimental issue is being exploited in this manner. Many of the hon. Members referred to the issue of Ram Janambhoomi and Babri Masjid. We have been making constant efforts for the last two years to reach a mutually acceptable solution through negotiations. Today, a freedom fighter and patriot, Shri Akshay Brahamchari met me. He showed me a map. I have seen for the first time that there is a temple named 'Ram Janam Sthan'. No doubt Ram Janambhoomi is a disputed place about which it is said that the present mosque there was originally a temple. Sir, this problem could not be solved inspite of the best efforts. I tried my level best to patch up the differences on both sides. I called them personally to hold discussions so that a mutually acceptable decision could be taken. But it could not

[S. Buta Singh]

prove fruitful. There was no alternative but to follow constitutional provision which suggests that the matters which cannot be solved through negotiations should taken to the judiciary. Both the parties should plead their cases and thus the verdict of the court should be accepted. Sir, I regret to say that when the decision was taken to this effect, the supporters of Babri Masjid agreed that the matter should be taken to the court if it could not be solved the other way and verdict of the court should be binding on both the groups. But unfortunately, the leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad said that they do not trust court. They said that they were ready to take the matter to the court and then they submitted that in case the verdict was in their favour, they would accept it otherwise not. Sir, such proposition is very detrimental to the interests of the country. I don't consider any community to be in majority or in minority...All the citizens of this country are equal. All belongs to one religion and all are equal. There is only one Constitution, one flag, one citizenship and one nationality of the country. Thus, we, the followers of these principles do not engage ourselves in the controversies of majority or minority, as both these aspects are equally degrading for human beings. If a person considers himself to be in majority, he thinks himself superior in the matter of this rights and if a person thinks that he is in minority, he feels somewhat depressed and considers himself inferior to others in the country. That is why we should not entertain such feelings in our minds. But we should accept the provisions of reservation provided to some of the minor tribes or communities in the constitution for the sake of their economic social and cultural development. So far as nationality is concerned, neither anyone is major nor minor. Only for the sake of our development—educational development, economic development etc. provision of reservation has been made for the weaker sections in the constitution, and that is reasonable in itself. So far as the question of nationality is concerned, every Indian is an Indian and nothing else. In view of this, I asked them what they intended to

convey to the citizens of India through the proposition that they would accept the verdict only it was in their favour. We have a democratic set up in our country and in democracy all the decisions are taken by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Whatever, decision is taken here, that is considered to be the decision of the House. It is never considered to be the decision of a majority or minority. It might be the case in the courts. But a decision taken here in the House under the Constitution is never considered to be decision of a particular group. If this trend is adopted by the majority in judiciary, how can the minorities have faith in our courts. You can well imagine that if the people of the country lose faith in our judiciary, how can there be law and order in the country and what would be the political situation in our country. Everything depends on faith. Law and order and political stability depend on faith. If the people lose faith, we cannot provide stable and permanent administration whatever may be our number here in the House. Therefore, I don't want to speak more on this topic, for Shri Chidambaram has already spoken at length on the various aspects of this issue yesterday. As regards, the issue of ram Janambhoomi, the House is well aware that a special bench of the High Court has been constituted and that bench is looking into this matter. But I cannot tell you anything at present about the time that bench is likely to take in deciding this issue. However, till bench decides this issue, the status quo would be maintained in Ayodhya. I would like to assure the people of the country on behalf of the Government of Indian and the Government of Uttar Pradesh that law and order would be maintained and peace would be restored toto. Many doubts expressed by the hon. Members have already been clarified by Shri Chidambaram yesterday and I would not like to repeat those points today. So far as the matter of processions etc. is concerned, some arrangements were made and a decision was taken that Shilas would be brought with the consent of the district administration and kept there. But I would like to clarify that it has nothing to do with that disputed area. Sir, you have your blessings today in the House. This House has always

had the benefit of your guidance. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha moved a motion there yesterday through which she appealed to the countrymen to maintain communal harmony and emotional integration at all costs.

We should extend all cooperation to the officials entrusted with the task of maintaining communal harmony and emotional integration in the country. We all should make combined efforts to solve every problem and till the court gives its verdict, we should not take any such step which might create negative effect on the people or on a particular section in the country. All these things have been mentioned in the Motion. I may read out the same if you like—

[English]

"This House representing the wishes and aspirations of the people of India notes with grave concern the increase in the incidents of communal violence and the disruption of communal harmony and peace due to the machinations of forces of fundamentalism and communalism.

2. This House, while welcoming the initiative taken for early resolution of the Babri Masjid-Ram Janam Bhoomi dispute through judicial process, notes with dismay that the continuing controversy on this issue has vitiated the communal atmosphere and contributed to the heightening of communal tension in certain parts of the country. It also takes note with concern of recent developments and certain provocative actions and speeches made by certain organisations which have contributed to the widening of the communal divide.
3. This House, therefore, appeals to all sections of the people not to associate with or lend support to any agitation, ceremony or Shila Poojan procession. It also ap-

peals to individuals and the organisations which put forward their respective views on the above dispute, to show patience and tolerance and to maintain communal harmony and peace, pending its resolution in the judicial forum. It calls upon Vishwa Hindu Parishad/Bajrang Dal, Adam Sena and the All India Babri Masjid Action Committee to give up the path of confrontation leading to violence and postpone all their programmes including ceremonies connected with Ram Janam Bhoomi/Babri Masjid issue till such time the Court verdict is available. This House further expresses the hope that all sections of the people would continue to affirm their faith in the rule of law, preserve and promote amity and harmony, and uphold the secular character and traditions of India."

[Translation]

Sir, the only thing I want to say that the Ram Janambhoomi issue or any other issue for that matter is raised to mix religion and politics and ultimately weaken the democratic structure of the country. This august House has resolved with thumping majority that politics and religion in this country should be kept apart. Unfortunately some of the people of Opposition of this country are going into this election under the leadership of a leader of a dangerous organisation which has been condemned by the Bombay High Court. That organisation is responsible for spreading the dreaded communalism. An M.L.A. elected on the ticket of that organisation was unseated on that ground by the court. So I want to give a warning that parties like the B.J.P., National Front or any other will be held responsible if they contest the Lok Sabha elections under an alliance with the Shiv Sena. They will have to guarantee that there would be communal harmony in this country in future. I regret to say that this

[S. Buta Singh]

is a calculated conspiracy to destabilize the nation and I urge all hon. Members of the Congress (I) and other parties present here to fight against this at the national level.

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Sir, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. Why is Mr. Bal Thackeray still at large? What is that binds the hands of the Government? Is there is now in the Indian Penal Code to take action against him? Why is the Government not taking action taking against such serpents, communal serpents? That is the question being asked from every nook and corner of this country. With all admiration and support to the hon. Home Minister, we expect stern action against the communal elements.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Home Minister for having placed this Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have got a few suggestions. Kindly listen to me. We are adopting this Resolution unanimously. But kindly listen to me.

If you do not find favour with these suggestions, you can reject them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given these suggestions before. Things are not done in this way.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I have just brought all these suggestions to the notice of the hon. Minister. You kindly listen to me.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are insisting. If

everyone starts reading like this, how will I keep order?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Only those who work hard will read like this.

[English]

The House can reject it. But let me place it. It happened in the other House also. If you do not find favour with these suggestions, you reject them. But these are in the right direction. (*Interruptions*) The source is that we must draw inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi because he has made many sacrifices for Hindu-Muslim unity and communal harmony. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH: You recite a couplet and then please take your seat.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: How can I recollect a couplet at this juncture? (*Interruptions*)

In the Preamble, I want to you to insert these words. You can change these words. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given your suggestion before.

20.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Twenty-third Report

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): I beg to present the Twenty-

third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

20.31 1/2 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Report etc of Press Council of India from January 88 to March 89 etc.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India for the period from January, 1988 to March, 1989 along with Audited Accounts for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Audited Accounts of the Press Council of India for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8366/89]

20.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT TO MODIFY DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION REGARDING GRANT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES TO SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANTS ETC. IN DEFENCE ESTABLISHMENTS

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to modify the date of implementation from 22.9.1982 as given by the Arbitration Board to 1.1.1988 in respect of Award dated 12.8.1985 in C. Reference No.s 9 and 10 of 1983 laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 13.10.1989 regarding grant of higher pay scales to the Senior Scientific Assistants, Draftsmen, Store-keeping Staff and Civilian Motor Drivers in Defence, Establishments, in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the high financial implications involved in acceptance of the Award were considered to affect the national economy".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the proposal of the Government to modify the date of implementation from 22.9.1982 as given by the Arbitration Board to 1.1.1988 in respect of Award dated 12.8.1985 in C. Reference Nos. 9 and 10 of 1983 laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 13.10.1989 regarding grant to higher pay scales to the Senior Scientific Assistances, Draftsmen, Store-keeping Staff and Civilian Motor Drivers in Defence Establishments, in terms of para 21 of the Scheme for Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration, as the high financial implications involved in acceptance of the Award were considered to affect the national economy."

The resolution was adopted

20.34 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Mr. Speaker, sir, I take this opportunity not formally but from the core of my heart to appreciate and thank the Mem-

[Sh. H.K.L. Bhagat]

bers of this House for the contribution that they made during this session and other sessions of the Parliament during these almost five years of the Eighth Lok Sabha. I am expressing my appreciation not only for those who have remained in the House as also for those who left the House earlier for now they must have judged for themselves whether they should have left the House at all. They must have experienced and judged by themselves whether they did the correct thing or not.

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: Should I recite a couplet?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I recall a couplet which I may recite if permitted by you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please recite the couplet.

S. BUTA SINGH: Their condition is like this:-

"Is aashiki mein izzat sadat bhi gayee,
phirte hain hum khwar, koi poochhta nahin."

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are remembering them even now, with affection. A lot happened in this House. All of us created some headaches for the hon. Speaker. Although at times, some exchanges did take place between the two sides, yet I am of the view, and perhaps I am alone in putting forward this view, that the standard of debates in the Eighth Lok Sabha was good. A Parliament is not judged by the amount of commotion created in the House but it is judged by what it does for the nation and now productive it is in the final analysis. From that viewpoint and as far as taking up the discussion of subject of public importance, this Lok Sabha has achieved remarkable goal. This Lok Sabha has given new

directions to new issues. A number of progressive legislations were passed all of which I cannot list at the moment. I have been a member of the Lok Sabha since the Fifth Lok Sabha except for a brief spell during Janata rule. I feel that the Eighth Lok Sabha is in no inferior to earlier Lok Sabhas in terms of performance. This Lok Sabha has been in the throes of much controversy. I have seen the earlier Lok Sabhas also. Certainly this Lok Sabha witnessed more pandemonium this time but if we consider the five years in totality, the position is not so bad. It is true that people become practical when elections draw nearer, particularly those in the Opposition. The Opposition may have gone but I think that this Lok Sabha has been better to many of the earlier Lok Sabhas, as far as discipline is concerned. In no way was its standard lower than that of earlier Lok Sabhas. That is my view, although newspapers and magazines have been reporting that the standard of Parliament has fallen. We follow traditions and I do not agree that the standard of the Lok Sabha has fallen, as reported in newspapers and magazines. I thank our Press. My hon. colleagues in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shrimati Sheila Dixit and Shri Namgyal know how several Members expressed a desire to participate in the debates, how difficult it was to control them. But all the hon. Members co-operated and made some very good contributions. There are notable contributions on the part of the Opposition too. I thank everyone with all my heart.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not just completing a formality. I am speaking from the core of my heart. I thank you for guiding us through the last five years, a period which witnessed several moments of difficulties for you.

I cannot forget the role played by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and its Secretary-General, Shri Subhash Kashyap in helping us. We praise them for their efforts. I cannot forget the Marshal of the House. The Marshal did not need to use his powers but I have been on the panel of Chairman for some time, and without the Marshal, rules cannot be enforced. He explains the rules and pro-

cedure in writing. The Watch and Ward Staff and the Press have also worked very hard.

I also thank the staff of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs, Secretary Shri Dhondhiyal and his colleagues. I praise my hon. colleagues also. The hon. Deputy-Speaker is a young person and his work in the previous session as well as this one has been praiseworthy. When he became Deputy-Speaker, many people were sceptical as to how he would manage the House since he had no experience of the House proceedings, even as an M.L.A. But he became Deputy-Speaker and fulfilled his responsibilities very well.

Another thing I want to say is that my colleagues in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs enjoy a unique position. Even a minor lapse on their part can prove costly for the Department. It is due to their co-operation that there have been few instances of such nature. All these people have done a good job for which I am very thankful to them.

In the end, a word about myself. The two portfolios entrusted to me, Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting, sometimes get a bit too difficult a handle. It is with the co-operation of the hon. Speaker, hon. Ministers and all hon. Members that I was able to execute the tasks assigned to me. I thank all of them for their help.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has arrived. The country has seen all-round development under his leadership. But most of all his leadership has made the Lok Sabha a guiding light for the country.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also rise to express my thanks to you, to the hon. Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Prime Minister, all the hon. Members of this House and every member of the staff of your Secretariat not merely as a formality but from the very core of my heart.

Mr. Speaker, sir, this House is the protector and dignified institution of democracy. I am happy to say that although the faith of

the people might have shaken a bit in respect of a number of democratic institutions but as regards the faith of our countrymen in Indian Parliament, it has been complete and absolute. That is why these people come here in the form of delegations whenever they have any grievances or they want to draw attention of the Government to some point of injustice being meted out to them. At times they approach the Members of the Parliament so that their points may be raised in the House. Our country will go on progressing as long as the dignity and supremacy of this democratic institution of Parliament of this country is maintained. There is no doubt that we are the people who believe in dialogue and discussions. And that is why we have not resigned from this House because certain critical situations may arise or some chaotic conditions may be created in the country. This House is not merely a law making body but also a forum to resolve our most serious disputes and controversies. We will have to maintain the spirit with which we had adopted a resolution in this House in the case of a disputed issue. That is the work of this august House. It is a fact that the masses have confidence in the Parliament and we shall have to maintain its dignity as well. We rendered all possible cooperation in this regard. We may have made mistakes which might have created some displeasure but this is a part of the game. For example, even today some displeasure was created but it is good that an atmosphere of goodwill was maintained in the House. A number of things have been accomplished by this House. It is a different matter that the electorate will finally judge whether they approve of us or not but it is certain that the future of this country is very bright and God willing it will continue to remain bright. This is indicated by the fact that our democracy is vibrating with life and secularism is also thriving and the people can clearly feel it.

With these words, I would like to thank the Hon. Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers. There were times when we criticised the functioning of the Ministers. All these things are a part and parcel of the democratic

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

system. We have had differences with the Hon. Members as well but it was all done to make our country and a democracy stronger and take it forward.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister and the leader of this House is present here and I do not know as to what you will say after I make my submission. I am not familiar with all these conventions. I have been elected for the first time and this is my first turn. Therefore, I am not aware as to what formalities are observed on this day. It is my first experience and I am not familiar with the conventions to be followed on this occasion.

I have made every effort to learn what it was in my capacity to learn. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had been very kind in encouraging us to get elected to the Parliament and hundreds of Members like myself could not have done so without his assistance. It is a fact and I have no hesitation in saying it. We have given a lot of trouble to our leader, to your honour and many others who made us familiar with all these things because we were ignorant. In our constituency we had a very high opinion of ourselves but when we came here, we realised that we were non-entities. We realised that we have been thrown into the sea and we shall have to learn to survive. That is why I would like to thank you. There are many hon. Members who have been elected to the Parliament for the first time. I find some hon. Members who have been elected to this House for a number of times. Some of them claim to have had 6 turns while some others say that they have had 7 turns and there are also a few others who claim to have been here since the first Lok Sabha. It seems as if one is indeed born 84 lakh times and it makes us believe and have faith in the concept of rebirth. Instead of putting it in words, I would like to put it in a suggestive form. Our leader should pay attention to it and understand as to why we believe in rebirth... (Interruptions)....Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that my words have reached the right place.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want then I can also make a recommendation.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Therefore, I would like to apologise for our childish attitude, our ignorance of the technicalities of law, our inability to foresee the situation at the time of legislation and for our general immaturity as Members of Parliament. At the same time I would also like to congratulate our leader that we have been able to rise to this level under his leadership. I would also like to pay my compliments to you.

I have penned down 8 lines. I would like to read them out here. When I felt that something was going to happen. I wrote down these lines. Whenever some thing is going to happen the poet foresees it. However, I regret to say that some of our hon. Members whom we liked very much, are no longer the members of this House as they have resigned. They were telling me outside that perhaps by that midnight we will also become ex-members but by that time Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Shri Bhagat sent a message and with the statement of Shri Buta Singh everything changed and it did not happen. On the whole whatever happened was right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I pay my compliments to you all. I pay my thanks to the staff of your Secretariat. It is said that all these things are not mere a formality and it can be done by the Party High Command and our leader but I think that it is a convention and it is essential to follow them in a democracy. Once again I pay my thanks to every one.

I have written 8 lines. I would like to read them out. I am fortunate that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has arrived. I feel very happy. So, I would like to recite these lines which mean that we worked with a sense of dedication and worship and our conscience was clean:

"Prajatantra ke prabal punya ne hamko yahan bithaya

Panch baras tak hamne apna pujadharam nibhaya

Jo Kutch janata ne saunpa tha, vah hai

uski thati,

Uska usko de hisab, kursi hai ati-jati
Gandhi-Nehru ke waris hum, hum khud

ki shakti tatolain

Ghar-ghar, angan-angan jakar, Bharat
ki jai bolain

Janata par hai hamein bharosa, janata
ki jai hogi

Neta hai Rajiv hamara, yah jai nishchay
hogi."

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now we had a challenging discussion on communalism. We have been remembering Gandhiji and now we have Gandhiji among us again after 40 years under whose leadership we will fully meet the situation and come out victorious. The entire country is with him. I would like to express my views in the following words:

"Chal rahe hein Rajiv Gandhi,
Gandhi ki rah par,

Chalo ham bhi chalen, desh ka nirman
karen,

Rashtriya ekata ke liye,

Dharma-Nirapekshata ke liye,

Sab dharmon ki ekata ke liye,

Garibi door karane, berojagari mitane,

Har hathon ko kam, muhan main Al-

lah-Ishwar ka nam,

Ham ek rahenge, Babri-masjid ya

Ram Mandir ke,

Nam par ham nahin ladenge.

Hamane dekha hai Bharat ko tutate

Hamane dekha hai bhai bhai ko bi-

chhurate,

Hamane dekha hai Draupadi ka Chir

haran,

Hamane dekha hai Sabbir ka tara-

phan,

Hamane dekha hai Isha ka Suli par

charna,

Hamane dekha hai Sukarat ka jahar

peena,

Hamane dekha hai Gandhi ka goli se

marna.

Satya-ahinsa ke liye,

dilon ko jorane ke liye,

Auraaj Chalish Varshon baad,

Phir dekha rahen hain,

Gandhi ko usi rah per chalte,

Chalo ham bhi chalen,
desh ka nirman karen."

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Speaker, sir, perhaps, it may be my last speech. Who knows how many of us will return next time. (*Interruptions*). On this auspicious occasion....

AN. HON. MEMBER: You will have a re-birth... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I would like to express my gratitude to you for making all out efforts to do justice to about 70 per cent of the farmers in the country. I am also grateful to you for providing opportunities to their representatives to speak in the House and express their views. I am equally grateful to the hon. Deputy Speaker who is sitting here and who provided opportunities to us to represent the cause of the downtrodden and backward people. Recently, he got married. In spite of that we could see him in the House for quite a long time. I know that we were not happy to keep such a young man away from his home for such a long time but we were helpless.

I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Members of opposition. Shri Madhav Reddi, Dandavate ji, Shri Indrajit Gupta and other who are not present here at the moment as also to Prof. Soz and to Shri Banatwalla who has also been with me in Bombay. Shri Banatwalla rightly said, that on a good number of occasions, we had heated exchanges. But these exchanges were meant to extract something good out of them—and this is why we are speaking today. I also express my gratitude to all the hon. Ministers. As a matter of fact, I used to have maximum word duels with them both inside the House and outside. But these were never meant to offend anybody. I was to present my views before them with a view to getting something from them for the people. If I knowingly or unknowingly offended them at any stage, I apologise to them and also express my gratitude to them.

I am also grateful to the hon. Prime

[Sh. Uttam Rathod]

Minister, the leader of the House for providing able leadership to the House. Whenever we committed a mistake, he pointed it out to us. But today I would like to submit that when we came here after having been elected with a thumping majority, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said at the very first sitting of the first Session that this time the opposition is numerically weak and we were at liberty to express our views because we do not raise our own matters here but we raise here the matters of public interest. That is why people like me could take part in the discussions here. We are grateful to the man who gave us that, privilege.

The Watch and Ward Staff perform this duties day and night braving cold and rain. The reporting branch remains busy with their reporting work even upto 4 A.M. in the night. I thank wholeheartedly Kashyap Saheb and every member of his staff.

As has been said by Shri Banatwalla, our country is great. In spite of all these, we are forgetting the past. Perhaps, learned kbal had visualised it much earlier. That is why he has said...

"Iranso Misra Roman, Sab mit gaye jahan se,

Phir bhi abhi hai baki Hindustan hamara

Sare jahan se achsha, Hindustan hamara."

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak only because due to indisposition I could not participate in the debate in this Session. I view things from the historical angle. Ashoka, the Great was the first emperor who had unified India. His 'drama Chakra' is our national emblem. The lion pillara put up by him at Sarnath constitute the symbol of our Government. He maintained the tradition of this country. He followed the teachings of Gautam Buddha, Vedas and Puranas and kept up Indian traditions. Sacrifice of animals and birds on 'Punarvasu Nakshtra' was

stopped. I tried to probe into the background of such a step. When Indiraji inaugurated the committee on Environment, I sought to know the reasons. I enquired from the universities. Buddhist monks and other scholars, but was not able to get any breakthrough in my search. I had a little knowledge, but it was limited. I read the Ancient Indian History written by Shri Radha Kumud Mukherjee and after going through his book on Ashoka I came to know that from the times of Manu, the great Indian emperors prohibited sacrifice of any kind on their birthdays. Time has changed and with the ideologies have also undergone changes. Only the traditions which were in practice during the times of his predecessors continued to be followed. Ashoka maintained those traditions and also allowed the massage of Lord Buddha to continue at a time when a republic attacked a smaller republic. Vaishali in Bihar is the first ever republic in India. People pondered over the measures to be taken under such a situation and went to Lord Buddha for advice. Buddha recognised the spirit of the country and the universe as well. He recognised the spirit existing in every being. He sought to know from the villagers which are subjected to an attack if they had a Sabha. The villagers gave an affirmative reply stating that the elders are being given respect in the Sabha. Buddha further desired to know if all the decisions were being taken with mutual consultations. The villagers replied in the affirmative. Then Buddha blessed them with the assurance that kings of the world, however great they may be cannot defeat them. The same thing happened. Large kingdoms of the world oblivion, but this incident of Buddha's life continued to be there even today. Similarly, the tradition of our Lok Sabha still continues to be maintained though names are different, the spirit is one and the same.

"Eakam Sadvipra Bahudhavadanti".

Whatever may be the nomenclature, it proposed under the able patronage of Mahatma Gandhi. Pandit Nehru lent dynamism to this tradition by his relentless efforts and Indiraji sacrificed her blood for its further progress. Now Rajivji is leading the tradition

ahead. This is the view expressed in Hindi books and Sanskrit scriptures. Shelley has rightly said in English.

[English]

"The one remains, the many change
and pass,
Heaven's light for ever shines,
Earth's shadows fly,
Life like a domed multi-coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of eternity."

P.B. Shelley (1792-1822)

[Translation]

This is what Shelley has said. This poem contains all things in it. The soul of India is one and tradition is one whether you go to the *Samadhi* of *pir* or anywhere else. Whether we believe in the Buddha or pray in temples, churches or mosques, we are all one and the organisation which has been following this tradition is the Indian National Congress and the leader of this organisation is Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We hope that this tradition will continue in future and the world will get a new direction thereby. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am obliged to you for having granted me an opportunity to sit on this esteemed chair by including me in the panel of Chairmen in Lok Sabha. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister that with his help I could do some work after being appointed as the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances. I was elected to the Fifth Lok Sabha as a Member along with Shri Bhagatji and when he was not here I was in Shimla. Today, I am with him. I had opportunity to work with the late Shrimati Gandhi and now I enjoy the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, despite my being a junior Member, you have granted me opportunity to speak. The Parliament is the temple, mosque, gurudwara and church of our democracy. After Shrimati Gandhi's death, a number of people were worried as

to what the Eighth Lok Sabha would do under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi since all the Members were young and junior; how would they be able to maintain the stability of the country. Under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi the demand in Punjab for Kahlistan did soften and the disturbances in Arunachal, Mizoram, Tripura also came to an end. The biggest achievement of the eighth Lok Sabha under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi is that we have been able to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. We did get the political independence but we could not get economic independence. In the Eighth Lok Sabha a number of revolutionary steps like the Nagar Palika Bill, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Panchayati raj Bill, reduction of voting age to 18 years, benefits to the S.C./S.T., new Education Policy, upliftment of women, etc. were taken. This is a very big achievement for our country and our Parliament. This is our economic freedom movement. I do not want to talk about the Opposition Parties but we being new Members would like to learn something from them. Our party formulated the 20-point programme for the economic upliftment but the Opposition during the past five years continued with one programme viz. 'Rajiv hatao! Shri Rajiv Gandhi did not quit but they themselves have resigned from the membership of the House. When we came to the House, we did not know anything. You have helped us a lot. I have always got your good wishes. Our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs have helped us a great deal in discharging our duties. The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and the staff members also extended their full cooperation. We extremely grateful to them. I do not have special interest in '*shero shairi*' but I would like to recite a couplet:

"Roushni chand se hoti hai sitaron se
nahin
Muhabbat ek se hoti hai hazaron se
nahin"

Our masses love only the Congress. I am of the firm view that there is no alternative to the Congress Party in this House. The

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

Congress will come to power and protect our traditions.

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir: I have heard a lot of our Members speaking. I was thinking, perhaps we could have another session; but somehow or the other, the Members have made up their mind. Can I thank you, and thank all the Members for all that has been achieved during these past five years.

When I think back, five years ago when we first called for elections, what nation was going through then, what we went through at that time after Indira ji's assassination, and then when I look at the nation today and I see what has happened, what has changed, what differences there are between that time and today, I feel extremely proud. I feel proud not because the Government or we here have done something, but I feel proud of what our people have done. We here have perhaps been able to give some directions, some indication. But the real burden has been borne by our people in the development and the progress that has taken place during this period. No matter which area we look at, whether it is the unity and integrity of the country, whether it is the security of the country, whether it is the economic development, whether it is the uplift of the poor, whether it is on certain basic principles of secularism, of socialism, of upholding our democracy, I feel proud about what the nation has achieved during these five years.

If we look at our standing internationally, if we look at the contribution India has made to global development, again India has done proud during these years. And for this, I would like to thank the people of India, and I would like to thank the people of India through their representatives who are sitting here today, and also those whose representatives have decided not to be here today—having abdicated their responsibility and to run away from the charge given them, by

their constituents.

Also, when I sit on this seat, I cannot but be reminded every time I sit here, of those who sat here before me: of Panditji, of Shastriji, of Indiraji; and when I see that we have done well during these years, we have done well because of what they did before we have gathered here for the last five years. We have further built on what they built, we were guided by the directions, the light that they showed us, and it is only because of them that we have been able to achieve what we have achieved. But it is not only them the earlier Prime Ministers that I must thank. We must really go back to Gandhiji and the principles that Gandhiji had given us. That has guided us during these five years.

What makes me even more proud of our achievements is that during these years, we have been able to carry those very principles of Gandhiji beyond our boundaries; and we have been able to get people across the world, even in those countries who were mocking at these principles a few years ago, to start talking about these, to believe in these principles as the only real course open for civilization and humanity today.

If I am asked about the one achievement that this Parliament has had, I would say that even more than removing poverty, even more than passing Bills which will give powers in the hands of our people to remove corruption and power-brokers and various sources of exploitation that takes place, even more than many Bills that we have passed here to bring about social justice to the weaker sections, the Bill that we have passed to strengthen women, to uphold the dignity of women, the Bills that we have passed to bring about major changes in our electoral processes, strengthen our democracy, there are so many things that Parliament has done. I would say the first big achievement of this Parliament is in bringing the ethos of Indian civilisation across the globe and having it accepted by a very large number of people even in countries that did not believe in what we stood for. Our struggle is not just a struggle for removing poverty and exploita-

tion within India; our struggle is to remove poverty and exploitation across the globe. And during these years we have brought about a change in global thinking. For the first time, there is a break-up of the power-blocs. There is a new international democracy that is coming out of the old system. I do not want to take credit for this. The credit must go to Gandhiji who raised his voice, to Panditji who showed us the way, to Shastriji and Indiraji who sat in this seat and guided us in that direction. We have only followed in their footsteps and we have been able to walk a little further because they had guided us so far

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I will be completing a decade of my tenure as the Speaker of this House very shortly. I could never think, nor did this very thought come to my mind that I would ever become the Speaker of Lok Sabha. I do not know how it came to the mind of Shrimati Gandhi 10 years ago, January 14, 1980, when she took the oath that she asked me "Bal Ramji, have you studied law?" I replied that Madam I had absolutely, no knowledge of this field. Then she had said that it did not matter. You had to be the Speaker. Since then I have won your confidence. I do not have the words to thank you. I am very grateful to you. I have got the cooperation of the leader of the House who is present here. I had got full cooperation from the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and I have no hesitation in saying that no person has tried to create any kind of hurdle in my work at any time. I was given full freedom to do what I liked within my jurisdiction. It was with the support of all of you that I have been able to discharge the functions of the Speaker. I am proud of this. There have been some differences, some pandemonium too but I agree with what Shri Bhagatji was saying that he is proud that the Eighth Lok Sabha which has been able to maintain the highest standards and principles in its functioning and is the foremost in knowledge, wisdom and intellect. It may be that sometimes we might have been carried by sentiments and sometimes passions might have

risen high and we had spoken in a raised voice. There might have been mutual exchanges of hot words. But I tried time and again to calm down the members sometime by compassion and sometimes by making appeals in the House and outside. In the Annual Conference of Speakers also I tried my best to exhort the participants to follow the principles which we have enunciated for our selves because all of us should nurture this democracy which we have given to ourselves in this country. It is a very important point and all of you have helped me in this matter.

Some members here might have felt aggrieved but one thing I can say with certainty that whenever I sit in the Chair of the Speaker in the House, I always keep in mind, that I am only the Speaker though I have been and am a member of Congress party. But whenever I sit in the Chair of the Speaker, I discharge my duties without any favour. Nobody has ever interfered in my independent functioning. In delivering my rulings I have always made efforts to ponder over the issue dispassionately and also sought advice from all the wise men and consulted various books concerning the issue. It may be that due to some misunderstanding or for some other reasons some Members might have taken the impression that they have been discriminated against but these kind of things have never come to my mind and heart. I have discharged my duties under the rules and keeping myself above party politics. I have always tried to do my work with the strength bestowed on me by God and the confidence reposed by you. Some of you have referred to recent angry moments in the House but why did it all happen. I know this. Some people with vested interest wanted to create chaos even by misusing the strength they got. But I am not worried about it. I am a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. I have faith in democracy. I believe that forgiveness is great. Forget what they did. Our conscience is clean. We must have self-introspection and in that process if we find ourselves guilty only then we should consider ourselves guilty. Don't see things with other's eyes. View your

inner self with your own eyes. I have tried to think and understand things in this manner.

I am very much grateful to all of you. I wish you all the success. May God give you all the strength to lead the country to prosperity and progress. I am very much confident of coming events. We have a bright future before us. I have visited abroad. I have represented this country in all the big countries and I am very proud of it. The people of other countries look to us and feel rejuvenated. They have all the appreciation for our functioning. Recently, when I visited abroad, they told us that 80 crore Indian population have done a wonder in the world by sustaining democracy for all these years and that we had made tremendous progress in these years. It was an example before the world that we have been able to achieve a nine per cent growth rate. No other country has been able to achieve this rate during this decade. You have mitigated hunger, you have sufficient stocks of foodgrains. You are moving on the path of progress. You have a new zeal, a new direction. I know it. I recollect a couplet:-

"Wade Mukhalif se na ghabra a ookab
Ye to chalti hein tujhe ooucha othane
ke liye
Tu shaahin hai, kam hai parvaj tera
Tere liye Asman aur bhi hein."

So we have other aims before us which we have to achieve. We have to move towards them. The testing time is before us. People know what they have to do in this test. People know that India is united and we have to keep it united. For this, economic progress is imperative and the people understand this. People also know that democracy has to survive and communal forces have to be checked effectively and brotherhood is to be maintained. They know that communalism and democracy cannot exist side by side, violence and democracy cannot continue together. Communalism and Democracy go against each other. Therefore, we have to see that democracy survives and for this we have to defeat all the forces that go against this system.

My colleague, the Deputy Speaker, like me was also new to this House and you elevated him immediately to the position of Deputy Speaker. He got married also. You have set record after record. You did not allow him to sit in the House even for a day as an ordinary Member nor did you allow me to sit here like that. We are grateful to all of you for this.

Our Secretary-General, his colleagues, Marshal and members of my staff, officers and employees of Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Watch and Ward staff responsible for our security, all have helped me greatly in discharging my duties. I am unable to express in words my appreciation for untiring efforts put in by them in helping me to function as the Speaker. They will have to go deep into my heart to know how grateful I am to them. The work we have done during the last five years is on record. That will speak of the tremendous work we have done. I do not want to take much of your time on this count. I give the entire details to the Secretary-General, who will get them properly recorded. All of you can see them there. We have done a lot.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: You circulate it to the Press.

MR. SPEAKER: We wish we could circulate it but the record is voluminous.

I would like to say one thing more. You have given many new schemes. You have taken an historical step. You have given a new turn to the democracy. You have brought it down to the grass-root level. I would like to congratulate all of you for all what you have done.

Forge ahead. India is moving towards prosperity and progress, I am confident that no power can stop our progress. We will meet again after December. You have said about rebirth. I wish you repeated rebirths. Best of luck to all of you.

Yesterday, you had spoken about farmers. I thank you very much for this because

only such a step can bridge the gap between haves and havenots. It will generate confidence in every citizen of India, whether urbanite or ruralite that he belongs to that India where every citizen has equal rights, equal opportunity for progress and acquiring education, we have a bright future.

[*English*]

I declare, the House stands adjourned *sine-die*.

21.25 hrs.

I am really grateful to all of you. Jai Hind.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.