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Friday, January 18, 1985/
Pausa 28, 1906 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

First Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. I contains Nos. 1—11)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

Price : Rs. 4.00

**Original English proceedings included in English Version and
Original Hindi proceedings included in Hindi Version will be
treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof.]**

PREFACE

This is the first volume of the Lok Sabha Debates for the Eighth Lok Sabha. Upto the end of Seventh Lok Sabha, two versions of Lok Sabha Debates were brought out, *viz.*, (i) Original Version containing the proceedings of the House in the languages in which they took place except that in the case of speeches made in regional languages, their English/Hindi translation was included and the Urdu speeches were put in Devnagri script and their Persian script was also given within brackets, and (ii) Hindi Version containing the Hindi proceedings, Urdu proceedings in Devnagri script and Hindi translation of English proceedings and also of speeches made in regional languages.

2. With effect from the First Session of Eighth Lok Sabha, in pursuance of a decision of the General Purposes Committee of Lok Sabha, two versions of Lok Sabha Debates are being brought out, *viz.*, (i) English Version containing Lok Sabha proceedings in English and English translation of the proceedings which take place in Hindi or any regional language, and (ii) Hindi Version in its present form except that Urdu speeches are being put in Devnagri script and their Persian script is also being given within brackets.

3. In addition, Original Version of the Lok Sabha proceedings is being prepared and kept in Parliament Library suitably bound for purposes of record and reference only.

4. In both the English and the Hindi Versions, an appropriate indication is being given to specify where a particular part of the proceedings is original in English/Hindi or a translation.

5. It is hoped the two independent Hindi and English versions will be found useful by Members and others interested.

NEW DELHI;
January, 1985

SUBHASH C. KASHYAP,
Secretary-General.

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

1

LOK SABHA

—

Friday, January 18, 1985/Pausa 28, 1906
(Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Biju Patnaik (Kendrapara)

Shri A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhary
(Malda)

Shri Eduardo Faleiro (Mormugao)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Saminuddin, a sitting Member, twenty-four former Members, two former Ministers and former Secretary, Lok Sabha, namely, Shri Bishwanath Roy, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Sarvashri Narendra Singh Bisht, Lachaman Singh, Bholu Paswan Shastri, Swami Brahmanand, Sarvashri Gauri Shankar Kakkar, R.V. Swaminathan, Narendra Kumar Sanghi, Mritunjay Prasad, Somnath Lahiri, Dr. (Mrs.) T.S. Saundaram Ramchandran, Sarvashri Badshah Gupta, M.N. Kaul, U.M. Trivedi, Y.B. Chavan, M.N. Govindan Nair, Prabhat Kar, Basanta Kumar Das, Rattan Lal Malviya, Asoka Mehta, Prem Chand Verma, Pratap Singh Negi, Sardar Ranjit Singh, Sarvashri Dharamvir, Piare Lal Kureel Talib and Madan Lal Shukla.

2

Shri Saminuddin was elected to this House in the recent General Elections from Godda constituency of Bihar. Earlier he had been a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980—84 and also a member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha during 1957—67.

He was an agriculturist by profession and actively participated in the freedom movement.

A well-known educationist and social worker, he took keen interest in the organisation of schools. He was associated with several welfare organisations.

An able parliamentarian, he actively participated in the proceedings of the House and was a member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

Shri Saminuddin passed away on 5 January, 1985, at Bhagalpur in Bihar at the age of 74 years.

Shri Bishwanath Roy was a Member of First to Fifth Lok Sabha during 1952—77 from Uttar Pradesh. He served as the Deputy Minister of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation in the Central Government during 1970-71.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment in 1932 and again during 1940—46.

An agriculturist, he was associated with the Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Commission during 1966-67 and District Board, Deoria besides several other organisations.

An eminent social worker, he rendered assistance to those who suffered during the freedom struggle and their families.

He was also author of several books in Hindi.

Shri Bishwanath Roy passed away on 27 August, 1984, at Varanasi at the age of 78 years.

Dr. B.V. Keskar was a Member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament and First and Second Lok Sabha during 1947–64 from Uttar Pradesh. A veteran freedom fighter, Dr. Keskar actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment during the Quit India Movement.

Dr. Keskar held various important portfolios in the Union Cabinet both before and after Independence. He had the distinction of having the longest innings of 10 years as Minister of Information and Broadcasting. He championed the cause of Indian classical music and it was due to his untiring efforts that the classical music was given due recognition in the Radio programmes.

Dr. Keskar was associated with the National Book Trust of India and some other organisations.

A widely travelled person, he was a Member of Indian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly in 1950 and also served as the official observer to the 37th Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1948.

Dr. Keskar passed away on 28 August, 1984, at Nagpur at the age of 81 years.

Shri Narendra Singh Bhist was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971–77 representing Almora Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He had been a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1952–71 and was a sitting Member thereof at the time of his death. He had also been a Minister in the State Government and held various portfolios.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House. He served as Chairman and Member of various important Legislative Committees of the State Assembly and also on the Panel of Chairmen.

He was deputed to British Parliament by the Uttar Pradesh Legislature to study parliamentary procedure and practice.

An agriculturist and Advocate by profession, Shri Bhist took special interest in the economic and educational development of backward hilly areas in Uttar Pradesh and was associated with several District and State level organisations.

A widely travelled person, Shri Bhist attended the Peace Conference at Helsinki in 1967.

Shri Narendra Singh Bhist passed away at New Delhi on 3 September, 1984, at the age of 69 years.

Shri Lachman Singh was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957–62 representing Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A well-known social and political worker, he was associated with several local cooperative and other welfare institutions besides being Member of the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council.

Shri Lachman Singh passed away on 5 September, 1984, at Port Blair at the age of 78 years.

Shri Bhola Paswan Shastri, former Union Minister and former Member of Rajya Sabha passed away on 10 September, 1984, at New Delhi at the age of 70 years.

Shri Shastri was a Member of Rajya Sabha during 1972–82 and also served as the Leader of the Opposition in that House for some time. He was Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development from February 1973 to October, 1974.

Before his election to Rajya Sabha, Shri Shastri was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly for several years. He became the Chief Minister of Bihar thrice between 1968 and 1971. Prior to that he served as the Parliamentary Secretary and Minister in the Government of Bihar during 1946 to 1963.

He distinguished himself as a parliamentarian and an able administrator. He was soft spoken and his simplicity earned him affection and esteem from all sections of the House.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the national movement and suffered imprisonment several times.

A well-known social and political worker, he took keen interest in the upliftment of the weaker sections of society. He was editor of a weekly and a daily newspaper.

Swami Brahmanand was a Member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1967—77 representing Hamirpur constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

He was a veteran freedom fighter and actively participated in movements for popular governments in various Princely States and suffered imprisonment for several years.

An agriculturist and social worker, he took special interest in the removal of evil customs amongst the weaker sections of society. Also, he worked for expansion of education, Prohibition and cow protection. He was associated with several social and educational institutions. He was also a writer.

A firm believer in Satyagraha and non-violence, he undertook a fast and secured relief for the famine-hit people of Hissar in 1938.

Swami Brahmanand passed away on 13 September, 1984 at Rath in Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Gauri Shanker Kakkar was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962—67 from Fatehpur constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

A lawyer by profession, he took keen interest in social work, development of cooperative societies and banking. Besides being Commissioner of the Fatehpur Municipal Board for more than 7 years, he was associated with several district organisations.

Shri Gauri Shanker Kakkar passed away on 2 October, 1984 at Fatehpur at the age of 69 years.

Shri R.V. Swaminathan was Member of Seventh Lok Sabha representing Sivaganga constituency of Tamil Nadu. He had also been a Member of the Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha during 1971—79. Prior to his election to Lok Sabha, he was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1946-57 and again during 1962-67. He was a Minister in the Central Government during 1980-83.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House particularly those relating to the welfare of the backward classes. As a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly he succeeded in his efforts to get the Criminal Tribes Act abolished and thereby relieved the affected community from the clutches of that Act.

A widely travelled person, Shri Swaminathan was a Member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences in New Zealand (1965) and Canada (1966). He was also a Delegate to the International Agricultural Conference held in Sweden in 1950 and in U.S.A in 1975.

Shri R.V. Swaminathan passed away on 4 October, 1984 at Madras at the age of 74 years.

Shri Narendra Kumar Sanghi was a Member of the Second, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1960—62 and 1967—77 from Rajasthan.

A well-known businessman, industrialist and social worker, he was associated with several commercial, educational and Government organisations in various capacities.

A keen parliamentarian, he took active part in the proceedings of the House.

Shri Sanghi passed away on 19 October, 1984 at the age of 61 years.

Shri Mrityunjay Prasad was a Member of the Fourth and Sixth Lok Sabha during 1967—70 and 1977—79 from Bihar.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the freedom struggle from an early age resulting in the discontinuation of studies. He was an inmate of the Satyagrahashram, Sabarmati during 1926—29 where he worked as a Hindi teacher and translated Gandhiji's writings into English and Gujarati.

A well-known academician, social and political worker, he was the founder member of the College of Commerce, Patna besides being associated with several other social organisations. He was the author of several technical articles on Life Insurance published in professional journals.

An able parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House. He was also a Member of several Parliamentary Committees.

Shri Mrityunjay Prasad passed away on 19 October, 1984 at Patna at the age of 78 years.

Shri Somnath Lahiri was a Member of the Constituent Assembly during 1946-47. Later he became a Member of the Legislative Assembly and a West Bengal Minister in the State Government.

Prior to his election to the Constituent Assembly, he was a Councillor in Calcutta Corporation during 1944—47.

A well-known trade unionist and journalist, he was the Chief Editor of Bengali daily *Swadhunata* during 1946—48 and author of several publications.

Shri Lahiri passed away on 19 October, 1984 at Calcutta at the age of 75 years.

Dr. (Mrs.) T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962—67 representing Dindigul constituency of the then Madras State. Prior to that, she was a Member of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952—62. She had also been Deputy Minister of Education in the Union Government during 1962-67.

A firm believer in Gandhian ideology, she was the founder, Director of Gandhigram Institution. A well known social worker and reformer, she dedicated herself to the cause of health, family planning and education of the rural masses. She was associated with several welfare Organisations.

Dr. (Mrs.) T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran passed away on 21 October, 1984 at Madurai at the age of 79 years.

Shri Badshah Gupta was a Member of First and Third Lok Sabha during 1952—57 and 1962—67 representing Mainpuri constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislative Assembly during 1946—52.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment for several years.

A prominent advocate and social worker, Shri Gupta was associated with several official and non-official organisations. He worked for the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society.

Shri Badshah Gupta passed away on 12 November, 1984 at Ramnagar in Uttar Pradesh at the age of 84 years.

Shri M.N. Kaul, who was Secretary to Constituent Assembly (Legislative), Provisional Parliament and Lok Sabha for seventeen long years during 1947—64, passed away on 20 November, 1984 at New Delhi at the age of 83 years. Holder of a Master's degree from Cambridge and Bar-at-Law from Middle Temple, before joining the Central Legislative Assembly as Deputy Secretary in 1937, he practised for nearly a decade at the Allahabad High Court and also edited the prestigious 'Allahabad Law Journal' during 1931—37. He was also made fellow of the Royal Economic Society.

A well recognised authority on Parliamentary procedure and practice and Constitutional Law, Shri Kaul played a monumental role in the framing of the provisions of the Constitution concerning Parliament and subsequently in moulding and shaping the rules of procedure and conventions in Lok Sabha which have stood the test of time. He laid brick by brick the foundation of an efficient and independent Lok Sabha Secretariat.

In recognition to his long and distinguished service to Parliament, Shri Kaul on his retirement from the office of Secretary in 1964 was made an Honorary Officer of the House for life. He was appointed as Public Trustee in 1964 and later nominated a Member of Rajya Sabha in 1966 and again in 1970. He was closely associated with the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies. His interest in Parliamentary procedure never waned. His latest book "Parliamentary Institutions and Procedures" was published in 1979.

A widely travelled person, he accompanied a number of parliamentary delegations abroad and was a familiar figure in international parliamentary circles.

The monumental treatise on Practice and Procedure of Parliament coauthored by him will be a lasting memorial to him.

Shri U.M. Trivedi was a member of First and Third Lok Sabha during 1952—57 and 1962—67 representing

Chittoor and Mandasaur constituencies of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

A prominent advocate, social and political worker, Shri Trivedi, besides being President of the Neemuch Bar Association, was associated with several other educational, social and legal organisations. He was Evacuation Officer and Camp Commandant, in the State of Manipur.

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

Shri Trivedi passed away at Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh on 24 November, 1984.

Shri Y.B. Chavan, a Member of Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lok Sabha during 1964—84, passed away on 25 November, 1984, at New Delhi at the age of 71 years. Prior to his election to Lok Sabha, he was a Member of Rajya Sabha in 1963 and a Member of the Bombay and later Maharashtra State Legislative Assemblies during 1946—62. He joined the Government of Bombay as a Parliamentary Secretary in 1946 and became the Chief Minister of Maharashtra during 1960—62. He was Minister of Defence in the Union Council of Ministers during 1962—66 and later held other important portfolios including Home Affairs, Finance and External Affairs during 1966—77. He functioned as the Deputy Prime Minister during July 1979—January, 1980.

A noted parliamentarian, Shri Chavan was Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha during November 1977, April 1978 and again in July 1979. The debates of Lok Sabha bear witness to the valuable contributions made by Shri Chavan both during his tenure as a Minister and as a Member of the Opposition in upholding democratic values of the Parliamentary system of Government. All sections of the House respected and heard him in silence.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the freedom struggle

and suffered imprisonment for several years.

An eminent political and social worker, Shri Chavan was the President of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis besides being associated with a number of voluntary social, educational and other organisations. He was the Chairman of the Eighth Finance Commission and also the Chancellor of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth.

A distinguished administrator, Shri Chavan represented the country abroad on several occasions. He led the Indian delegation to the United Nations and attended several other national and international conferences. He was author of many publications and a number of articles in English and Marathi.

Shri M N Govindan Nair was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977—79 representing Trivandrum Constituency of Kerala. Also, he was a Member of the Rajya Sabha for over ten years during 1956 to 1967. He was a Member of the Kerala State Legislative Assembly during 1952—54 and 1967—77 and served in the Kerala Government as a Minister holding various important portfolios for about 10 years during 1967—77.

As a Leader of his party and a keen parliamentarian, Shri Nair made significant contributions to the proceedings of the Lok Sabha. He also served on the Estimates Committee.

A prominent political and social worker, he worked for the upliftment of the down trodden and was associated with several social organisations.

Shri M.N. Govindan Nair passed away on 27 November, 1984 at Trivandrum at the age of 74 years.

Shri Prabhat Kar was a member of Second and Third Lok Sabha during 1957—67 representing Hooghly constituency of West Bengal. A veteran freedom fighter, he joined the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and 1932.

A well-known trade unionist and social worker, Shri Prabhat Kar was associated with several organisations pertaining to the welfare of workers and youth. He was a member of the Executive Committee of All Punjab—Bengal Famine Committee in 1943.

A keen parliamentarian, Shri Prabhat Kar made valuable contributions to the debates relating to the welfare of the working classes. He also served the Public Accounts Committee during 1957-59.

Shri Prabhat Kar passed away suddenly on 27 November, 1984, while on his way to Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh, at the age of 71 years.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das was a member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament, First and Third Lok Sabha during 1947—57 and 1962—67 from West Bengal. He was also a member of the West Bengal Legislative Council during 1958 -62.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Das actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment several times.

A prominent social worker, he was associated with several social and educational organisations besides being leader of the Indian Agricultural Delegation to USSR in 1956.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das passed away at Calcutta on 2 December, 1984 at the age of 86 years.

Shri Rattanlal Malaviya was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1948—52 from the State of Madhya Pradesh. He was later elected to Rajya Sabha in 1954 and again in 1960.

He was Deputy Minister of Labour and Employment in the Union Council of Ministers from 1962 to 1966. Prior to

this, he functioned as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment.

A veteran freedom fighter, he joined the freedom movement when he was still a student. A well-known social worker and trade unionist, he championed the cause of the working classes both inside and outside Parliament. He was associated with several social and Governmental organisations and served on the editorial staff of several journals.

A widely travelled person, he represented the Coal Mines Workers of India at the Fourth International Coal Mining Committee of the ILO held at Geneva, in 1951, and also went abroad to study coal mines and other labour conditions,

Shri Rattanlal Maḷaviya passed away on 8 December, 1984 at Jabalpur at the age of 77.

Shri Asoka Mehta was a Member of the First, Second and Fourth Lok Sabha during 1954-62 and 1967-70 representing Maharashtra and Bihar. As a Union Minister during 1966-68 he held charge of several economic Ministries including Planning.

An eminent economist, he held distinguished positions before joining the Union Cabinet. He was Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in 1963 and Chairman of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee in 1957 besides being associated with several other official and non-official organisations in various capacities.

A prominent social and political worker and a trade unionist, he founded the 'Hindi Mazdoor Sabha' in 1949 and was its first General Secretary.

A veteran freedom fighter, he actively participated in the Freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment for several years.

An able parliamentarian, he made positive contributions to the Debates both as a Member and a Minister.

A widely travelled person, Shri Mehta represented the country at the United Nations General Assembly in 1963. He was author of several publications.

Shri Aseka Mehta passed away on 10 December, 1984 at the age of 73 years at New Delhi.

Shri Prem Chand Verma was a Member of Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Hamirpur constituency of Himachal Pradesh.

A prominent journalist, he was founder and Chief Editor of several weekly and monthly magazines. He was also associated with various press fora, notably the Second Press Commission, Press Council and the Palekar Tribunal. At the time of his death he was the President of the All India Small and Medium Newspaper Editors, Association.

A veteran freedom fighter, social and political worker, he served on several social organisations in different capacities.

Shri Prem Chand Verma passed away in tragic circumstances on 12th December, 1984, at New Delhi at the age of 65 years.

Shri Pratap Singh Negi was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 from Garhwal constituency of Uttar Pradesh. An agriculturist by profession, he was deeply interested in the social welfare, cooperation and upliftment of the down-trodden. He took special interest in the spread of education and eradication of social evils.

Shri Pratap Singh Negi passed away on 18th December, 1984, at Kotdwara, Garhwal, at the age of 87 years.

Sardar Ranjit Singh was a Member of the Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament and First and Third Lok Sabha during 1949-57 and 1962-67 representing Sangrur constituency of Punjab.

A prominent social worker and educationist, he took keen interest in the development of education. Besides being the Vice President of the New Delhi Municipal Committee for three years, he functioned as Honorary Magistrate in New Delhi for several years.

Sardar Ranjit Singh Passed away on 20th December, 1984, at New Delhi at the age of 87 years.

Shri Dharamvir, who was a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha and a Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation, passed away on 22nd December, 1984, at the age of 48 years. Earlier he was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and also Minister in the State Cabinet for several years.

An advocate by profession, he took keen interest in the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections of society. Besides being associated with Zila Parishad, he was also a Member of the City Corporation at Allahabad. He was a candidate to this Lok Sabha from Chail constituency of Uttar Pradesh but passed away before the date of polling.

Shri Piare Lal Kureel Talib was a Member of Central Legislative Assembly and First Lok Sabha during 1942-46 and 1952-57. He was a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha since 1974 and earlier during 1960-66. He was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council in 1967. A well known social worker, he worked relentlessly for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and weaker sections of society and was associated with several social organisations.

A prominent journalist, he was Editor-in-Chief of several journals besides being Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Films Production Limited.

Shri Talib passed away on 27th December, 1984, at New Delhi at the age of 68 years.

Shri Madan Lal Shukla was a Member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 from Janjgir constituency of Madhya Pradesh.

A well known social worker and trade unionist, he was associated with several trade unions besides being a member of Bilaspur Municipal Committee for about twenty years. He worked for the upliftment of Tribals.

A prominent journalist, he was the Editor of the weekly 'Chhatisgarh Gaurava.'

Shri Madan Lal Shukla passed away on 29th December, 1984, at Bilaspur at the age of 56 years.

Friends, as all of you are aware, on the Monday morning of 3rd December 1984, the worst environmental disaster in the history took place due to leakage of poisonous Methul Isocyanate gas at the Union Carbide Pesticide Factory in Bhopal. The magnitude of the tragedy was such that within a week's time more than two thousand lives of innocent infants, men and women were lost and it left several thousand homeless. Providing immediate shelter, food, clothing and specialised medical aid, adequate financial relief, etc., to the bereaved and affected families and their rehabilitation were tasks of enormous magnitude. Also, it was essential that necessary action was taken against persons responsible for the leakage of toxic gas and to prevent such catastrophes in future.

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

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

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

—————

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Special Steps to Assist Trade and Industry in States

*1. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken special steps to assist trade and industry in all the States by increasing credit limits and re-scheduling loan payments ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the extent to which West Bengal would get assistance in comparison to other States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Reserve Bank has been advising the banks to ensure that the credit assistance extended by them to their constituents is timely and adequate to meet genuine requirements of their productive activities, in accordance with national priorities. In October, 1984 in their circular to banks on the Busy Season Credit Policy, Reserve Bank has asked the banks to provide adequate credit support to sectors where there is a revival of industrial growth. Such support is expected to be extended by the banks in relation to the production performance of each borrowing unit. This does not imply any general enhancement of the credit limits.

Rescheduling of loans is undertaken by the banks to provide relief when the borrowers are affected by natural calamities or by other specific factors affecting production.

Since the credit requirement and terms of repayments are determined by the

banks with reference to the requirements of individual borrowers it is not possible to attempt any State-wise estimate in this regard.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister but I am not fully convinced.

I think one of the most important factors of the present crisis in trade and industry is due to the financial stringency and lack of credit facilities. Moreover, the limit is applicable to a great extent to the small scale industries and not to medium and large scale industries and trade. In view, of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government have made any provision keeping in view the Tandon Committee and Marathe committee recommendations for revising the credit limit and financial assistance for the development of industry and trade.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The basic tenet of the credit policy pursued by the Reserve Bank of India is to restrain credit expansion in aggregate terms. It is the duty of the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India to contain the inflationary pressures in the economy. So we cannot afford to deploy funds so far as hoarding and smuggling is concerned. But we are meeting the genuine requirements of the trade and industry.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : I wanted to know whether you are implementing the Marathe Committee's recommendation or not.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Marathe Committee's report has been accepted by Reserve Bank with certain modifications and we are implementing it. That is why I said that we are meeting the genuine requirements of trade and industry.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : The trade industry in West Bengal is affected for want of financial assistance and credit facilities from Central Government. In

view of this, what is the Government decision to provide more financial assistance and more credit facilities for the development of the sick industrial units and the proposed Haldia Petro-Chemical Complex and the Salt Lake industrial units in Calcutta.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The flow of credit to any particular State depends upon the infra-structure facilities built in that particular area. It depends upon the economic activity particularly how the industries are coming up in that particular area, how the economic activities are progressing in that particular area. It depends upon the industrial relationship as well as the management and entrepreneurship that is available in the particular area. So far as small industries are concerned, in every area whether it is West Bengal or any other State, as I stated earlier, it depends upon the promotion of the small scale industries in a particular State.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In order to provide financial assistance and credit to the sick industries in West Bengal, the Government of West Bengal sent a proposal for according approval for setting up a new bank in the State of West Bengal. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken in this regard, regarding opening of a new Bank or according approval of a bank in the State of West Bengal. This proposal came from the State 2 years back. What action has been taken in this regard ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : This is under the consideration of the Reserve Bank. But at this stage there is no decision.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that sometimes regional imbalance is caused because of the financial assistance that is given by the Centre to the State Governments. I would, therefore, like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the

Government propose to give financial assistance to the State Governments on the basis of population ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, it is not population that is being counted while deploying assistance. It is based on economic activity.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, the Finance Commission has already recommended that West Bengal Government was entitled to have Rs. 325 crores for its development work but due to the rejection from the Union Government the West Bengal Government was not given this sum. I would like to know why the amount which has been recommended by the Finance Commission was not given to West Bengal. Secondly, is it not a fact that since West Bengal government happens to be a non-Congress (I) government this money has not been released to it; thirdly, will the new government immediately release Rs. 325 crores to West Bengal government ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, this question relates to special steps to assist trade and industry, that is, the assistance being given from financial institutions. It has nothing to do with the question that has been raised and the hon. Member may give a separate notice for the same.

Commissioning of National Aluminium Company Limited, Orissa

*2, **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress made by the NALCO, Orissa for commissioning the Alumina-Aluminium project has been delayed; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) the progress made so far since the starting of the Alumina-Aluminium complex, component-wise ;

(c) steps taken by his Ministry to speed up the work and complete them in stipulated period; and

(d) funds provided so far and to be provided for the complex ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Original Project schedule was reappraised last year on account of initial time lost for translating basic engineering data of Aluminium Pechiney of France, technical consultants, into detailed specifications to meet indigenous requirements and for global bidding. No delay is anticipated as per the revised schedule.

(b) The progress segmentwise as on 31.12.1984 is indicated below :

Project Segment	%Construction Progress
1. Mines	79.2
2. Alumina	40.2
3. Aluminium Smelter	41.7
4. Captive Power Plant	35.8

(c) The progress of the project is being continuously monitored by the Ministry. Wherever problem areas are thrown up, necessary assistance is rendered.

(d) The Company contracted a Euro-Dollar loan of US\$ 680 million in 1981, and a French Credit of 1750 Million French Francs were made available. The Company has also been granted equity of Rs. 294.34 crores so far. Recently, the Company has signed an agreement for another Euro-Dollar Loan of US \$ 300 Million on 21.12.1984.

The total cumulative expenditure on the Project upto December, 1984 is Rs. 905 76 crores.

The revised cost estimates of the Project, giving the requirement of funds for the completion of the Project, are under consideration.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : I would like to know from the hon. Minister what was the initial date of completion of this project and also the revised date of commissioning the project. What has the Ministry done to see that further delay does not occur on account of the four components, namely, money, machinery, management and monitoring at the project level ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The original date known as the zero date was January 1981 but as we made change in the whole structure by incorporating indigenous sector a larger portion of work that is why the effective zero date has been changed to February, 1982. In terms of this zero date we do not see any need for delaying the revised target date, namely, mines November 1985 ; alumina September 1986, aluminium December 1986 and for captive power plant it will be September 1986. Therefore, we are hopeful that we will start on time and all precautions are being taken to see that all the four factors which my hon. friend mentioned are taken care of.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, I had asked the details about the four components. It is alright. My second supplementary is that they have given the four components but apart from that there are other components, namely, port facilities, railway line, employment and rehabilitation of displaced persons. What have they done in respect of these four aspects ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The port facility at Visakhapatnam Port is also being created simultaneously. We hope that the port facility will be available by December, 1985. As far as rehabilitation is concerned, we have given an assurance

that one person per family of those who are displaced from land will be given employment in this project. Sir, that assurance stands; and we are going on employing people because the project has not yet been completed, it is just in the process. Therefore, we are sticking to these guidelines of rehabilitation as well as giving employment to the people both from the area as well as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the date when the railway line connecting the project to the main Howrah-Vizag line will be completed ?

May I know whether the power plant will be completed before the alumina plant or is it the case that alumina will be produced before the power plant is completed ?

Thirdly, what has been the actual over-run from the original estimate till the final estimate as of now ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Regarding original over-run.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : Please answer the first one.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I am answering it. I will take your last question first if you do not mind.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : I am not so clever.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I grant your cleverness.

As far as the railway facility and port facility are concerned, there, the earlier over-run, as I explained, was of ten months. Now we don't expect any further over-run on the dates which are already given.

As far as the captive power plant is concerned, the captive power plant will be

constructed by September, 1986. The first unit of the captive power plant will be ready by September, 1985. That is to say, both will be ready before we start producing aluminium. Therefore, there is no fear on that ground.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : I asked about the alumina plant.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : For alumina also, this will be simultaneous. So, both for alumina and aluminium, there will be captive power plant ready before that date.

As far as railway line is concerned, attempts are being made to see that the port facility is ready by December, 1985. The Koraput-Machapalli railway line is likely to be completed by June, 1985. This will serve the needs of the plant.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : If it is completed, how will you transport alumina to the site ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I don't believe in hypothetical considerations.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : It is not hypothetical. Mr. Minister, I asked you about over-run of expenditure and not over-run of time.

MR. SPEAKER : What he said is on record. You can pursue it.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : What was the original estimate and what is the final estimate now ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Regarding over-run of expenditure the position is this. Revised cost has increased from 1242.4 crores at first quarter 1980 price-level, just because of price escalation. Today's revised cost is of the order of Rs. 2218 crore at 1984 prices.

SHRI BIJAYANANDA PATNAIK : In 4 years it has come to double the amount.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in those areas the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people had to be given due representation in the services but this has not been done? May I know from the Government about rehabilitation programme of those tribal people who have been displaced whether the little money that was given to the tribal people to build houses has not been properly utilised? May I know whether the houses were inspected by the higher authorities as to what cost of houses have been given to them? So far as the employment of persons whose lands have been acquired is concerned, I would like to know whether it is a fact that sufficient number of persons has been employed in all these four projects. I would also like the hon. Minister to state whether any monitoring has been done to this effect.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as the question of housing is concerned, earlier it was thought that if we can give cash to enable them construct houses that might help. But now, it has been discovered that the cash grant is not sufficient and sometimes they do not build their houses. Now, we ourselves are going to provide houses to those people who will be employed in these projects.

AN HON. MEMBER : Are those people displaced?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, they are displaced persons. And as we employ them obviously, you don't expect us to give them houses before we employ them. Therefore, this direction has been given and we will, as I said, stick to the guidelines given in this connection.

SHRI D. B. PATIL : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the displaced persons will be rehabilitated. That is a good thing. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any training programme for the sons and daughters of the agriculturists whose lands have been acquired has been included to train them so that they are given job in these projects.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Yes, that is also being taken into consideration for

giving proper training to them. This facility is being looked into.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : In reply to question No. 2, the cost estimates were said to be a total of Rupees one thousand and odd crores. Now you have said that the revised cost is of the order of Rupees two thousand crores. What are the reasons for this rise in cost estimates?

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Sir, the variation of Rs. 975.68 crores between the sanctioned cost estimates at 1980 prices and the revised cost estimates can be broadly analysed like this. Escalation of cost on account of inflation factor—as the original estimates were based on the first quarter of 1980 prices—amounts to Rs. 770.95 crores including Rs. 6.14 price preference given to the public sector undertakings. That means, out of 975.68 crores which is the addition, the amount of Rs. 770.95 crores is just because of the present price.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : There is no question of embezzlement. The man knowing economics will understand this.

[English]

Sir, this is only notional. Let us understand this. I think the man knowing economics will understand this. SCOPE changes made to meet the process requirements and site condition. The total on account of SCOPE changes amounts to Rs. 145.66 crores. As I told you about SCOPE change, we decided indigenization instead of having turn-key project. When you put a thing, the indigenous cost is higher. But then we have to bear the cost because we want to encourage indigenous production. That is why we have to bear it. Quantity variation representing additio-

mal quantity over the above original estimate based on detailed engineering and process requirement amounts to Rs. 55.6 crores. These are the details.

Overdrafts drawn by States

*3. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of overdrafts drawn by the States ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The problem of overdrafts has been discussed with the State Governments and they have been advised to re-order their budgetary priorities in such a manner as to avoid recourse to overdrafts.

Statement

State Government	Overdrafts of States as on 11-1-1985 (Rs. in crores)
Andhra Pradesh	213.38
Assam	25.91
Gujarat	74.90
Haryana	47.07
Karnataka	223.30
Kerala	211.76
Madhya Pradesh	10.49
Maharashtra	14.26
Nagaland	8.88
Orissa	44.98
Punjab	92.31
Rajasthan	9.15
Tamil Nadu	22.04
Uttar Pradesh	297.36
West Bengal	219.45
Total	1515.24

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Mr Speaker, Sir, in the last Lok Sabha election, overdraft issue was the main issue raised against the West Bengal Government by the Congress Party there. They said the overdraft reflected the fiscal mismanagement of the Left Front Government there. Now, that we have got this answer, I would like to thank somebody, who has given this information. Thanks to Almighty that the West Bengal State did not surpass the State of the Prime Minister, as also the Finance Minister, that is Uttar Pradesh. In your reply, you have advised the States to reorder their budgetary priorities in such a manner as to avoid recourse to overdraft. But what would be the position in the case of those States, which have done their best to economise expenditure and maximise the resource mobilization? May I know from the hon. Minister what would be the Centre's decision in the case of such States?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The hon. Member has referred to West Bengal as also to the issue in the context of elections. In fact, many times, for West Bengal the overdraft has been converted into loan, and the situation last time was that when the issue of overdraft cropped up, my predecessor had discussions with the West Bengal Government, but in spite of assurances there was no improvement and in January 1984, Rs 187 crores stood as overdraft. An offer was made that the State should make efforts to reduce it to half and the Central Government would provide loan for the balance amount. But even this request to the West Bengal Government was not heeded by them and the situation continued to worsen.

For those States, who economise expenditure and raise resources, there is a set pattern to deal with them. But so far as West Bengal is concerned, in the 6th Plan period, State budgetary resources and contribution from State enterprises was expected to be 2202 crores, but the actual performance is 404 crores only. So, there is a lapse of 1797 crores. Can

any Central Government support any such financial management by a State Government?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will you give a statement in respect of all States?

MR. SPEAKER : You have got an option to put another question if you like. What is holding you back? Do not interrupt like this.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : What is the position in respect of overdrafts for all the other States as also loans?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Already that is given in the answer.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Our young Prime Minister is happy enough and we hope this issue as it is a delicate and genuine problem, will be solved. We should not forget that ours is a federal set-up. The Centre is also borrowing money from the Reserve Bank. It is an admitted fact that it took Rs. 4,013 crores from April to June 1984. But the Centre will not have to repay it or pay any interest for it. They will only have to print some currency notes. On the other hand, the States will have to pay 13 per cent interest. As it is a federal set-up, there is need for an overall compact review on it.

(Interruptions)

The need for such compact review was never more keenly felt than it is today. So, I like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is ready to give a fresh thought to solve the overdrafts problem of both the Centre and the States in a compact manner and whether he is ready to have a summit on this issue with the different States and if so, when.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am ready not only to have a fresh look but a very keen and deep

look and I will certainly give an opportunity to discuss it with the Chief Ministers of various States.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that West Bengal is the only State among the States in the country at the moment, which concentrates more on the non-plan expenditure and avoid plan expenditure and thereby every year some part of the plan allocations go back to Delhi to be refunded, without being utilised for the benefit of the people. As such the growth of the State has gone down and it has become bankrupt.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't interrupt.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : The overdrafts are converted into loans and that is being spent through non-plan expenditure for political purposes. I therefore request the Minister to take appropriate steps not to provide any sanction for non-plan expenditure without proper investigation before the planned growth is achieved by the Plan Expenditure by the Government of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing you a supplementary, but not before the other supplementaries. It takes time. Why do you shout like that? Are you so much hurt? It is not the proper manner to interrupt him. This is his point of view. You make out yours. It does not matter.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I very much agree with the essence of what the hon. member has behind his question. There is certainly need for discipline in States and particularly those States which are in huge overdraft.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Some publicity should be given to this particular aspect so that the people of West Bengal who voted for us should understand the question. We should redefine these Plan and Non-Plan expenditures. The overdraft of West Bengal was Rs. 219 crores. The Eighth Finance Commission recommended Rs. 320 crores for West Bengal, which in my view is very judicial. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Finance Ministry is going to give Rs. 320 crores to West Bengal so that they can pay back the overdraft to the exchequer. Are you going to do that?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : That is not our intention.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Why?...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I have given the answer. But the benefit that is to flow from the Report of the Finance Commission, will certainly flow to the West Bengal Government also.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : It is very easy...

MR. SPEAKER : But I don't think there is time. The Question Hour is over. Let us see next time.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Equipping of Pak Air Force with U.S. manufactured E-2C Howkeye Early Warning and Control Planes

*4. **SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has equipped its airforce with U.S. manufactured E-2C Howkeye early warning and control planes ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard and also in view of the fact that Pakistan has already equipped itself with F-16s which can hit any part of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :

(a) and (b). Government has seen reports appearing in a section of the press in this regard.

(c) Government carefully monitors all developments having a bearing on the security of the country and takes effective steps to ensure full defence preparedness at all times.

[*Translation*]

**Disparities in Pension and other
Facilities Available to Various
Categories of Ex-Serviceman**

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

(a) the steps being taken by Government to remove the wide ranging disparities in pension and other facilities available to various categories of ex-servicemen ;

(b) whether his Ministry has since received the recommendations of the Committee constituted in this regard ;

(c) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee ; and

(d) if not, the time by which these are likely to be received ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) The pensionary entitlement of all Government servants, both civilian and Defence, is determined as per rules applicable at the time of retirement. There is no disparity in the application of pension formula to the various categories of ex-servicemen. However, there is bound to be disparity

in the amount of pension actually drawn by persons retiring at different points of time although they retire from the Military service with the same rank. This is because of the fact that pension amount is related to the reckonable emoluments, the number of years of qualifying service put in by the Government servant and the prevailing conditions of service at the time of retirement.

Government are aware of the hardship experienced by the pensioners and have taken various steps from time to time to provide relief within the available resources. The important steps taken with respect to the pension of ex-servicemen are listed in the attached statement.

Regarding other facilities available to various categories of ex-servicemen, there are no wide ranging disparities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d). The main recommendations of the High Level Committee are the following :—

(i) The legislation of enactments by both the Centre and the States to give statutory backing to some of the welfare measures.

(ii) The constitution of a Parliamentary Committee consisting of members from both Houses to oversee the implementation of various schemes and facilities for ex-servicemen.

(iii) The incorporation of ex-servicemen's welfare and programmes connected therewith, in the Seventh Five Year Plan with a recommended outlay of Rs. 350 crores to be shared by the Centre and the States.

(iv) The establishment of State Financial Corporations and the Central Industrial Development Corporation for ex-servicemen from within the recommended outlay.

- (v) A census of ex-servicemen be conducted with the 1991 Census.

Statement

Steps taken by Government to reduce hardship to Defence Pensioners :

1. **Temporary/ad-hoc increase :** Temporary increase ranging from Rs. 10/- to 12.50 per month is admissible on pension sanctioned prior to 1.6.1953 as per old Pension Code. This increase is effective from 1.4.1953.

Ad-hoc increase ranging from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 35/- per month is admissible on pension sanctioned upto 33.11.1968. This increase is effective from 1.6.1969.

2. **Stepping up of pension :** Where minimum pension (including ad-hoc/temporary increase) fell short of Rs. 40/- per month, it was stepped up to Rs. 40/- per month (including ad-hoc temporary increase) w.e.f. 1st March 1970.

3. **Ad-hoc Relief :** With effect from 1.1.1973, ad-hoc relief ranging from Rs. 15/- to Rs. 35/- per month is admissible to those pensioners who retired prior to 1.1.1973.

4. **Periodic Relief :** Periodic relief at the rate of 2½% of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 2.50 and maximum of Rs. 12.50 per month for every 8 point increase in the 12 monthly average of price index, is granted to all the pensioners irrespective of their dates of retirement.

The periodic relief admissible from 1.8.84 is as under :

- (a) Those who retired prior to 30.9.77 are entitled to periodic relief at the rate of 110% of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 110/- per month and a maximum of Rs. 550/- per month.
- (b) Those who retired on or after 30.9.77 and are in receipt of

revised rates of pension arising out of the merger of a portion of DA (upto the average price index of 272) with pay for retirement benefits are at present entitled to the graded relief at 90% of the pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 90/- and maximum of Rs. 450/- per month.

- (c) Those who retired on or after 31.1.1982 and are in receipt of revised rates of pension arising out of the merger of a portion of additional dearness allowance (upto the average price index of 320) with pay for retirement benefits are at present entitled to the graded relief at 75% of pension subject to a minimum of Rs. 75/- and a maximum of Rs. 375/- per month.

5. **Minimum pension :** With effect from 1.4.83 the minimum service/family pension (including reliefs) has been fixed at Rs. 160/- and Rs. 150/- per month respectively.

6. **Ad-hoc ex-gratia payment :** Ad-hoc ex-gratia payments ranging from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 75/- have been granted with effect from 1.9.84 to certain categories of pre 1.1.1973 pensioners to mitigate their financial hardship.

[English]

Reconstitution of Planning Commission and Revision of 7th Plan

*6. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to reconstitute the Planning Commission ;

(b) if so, the main changes that are likely to be made ;

(c) whether in view of the reconstitution of the Planning Commission, Government are considering to revise the proposed Seventh Five Year Plan which was to be started during the current year ;

(d) if so, the latest changes made in the Seventh Five Year Plan to make it job-oriented; and

(e) the other steps likely to be taken to implement the proposals during the current financial year or in the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the relevant Notification reconstituting the Planning Commission is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 20/85.]

(c) to (e). As the Hon'ble Member may be aware, the Approach to the Seventh Plan was approved on 13th and 14th July, 1984, by the National Development Council and tabled in the Lok Sabha on 30th July, 1984. The Planning Commission is now engaged in the preparatory exercise for framing the Seventh Plan.

It is, therefore, too early to speak of revision of the Seventh Plan, or of any changes in it, or of its implementation.

Recruitment of Women Clerks in Public Sector Banks

*7. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of women among bank employees in the public sector ;

(b) whether Government consider this percentage as adequate ;

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to improve this percentage ; and

(d) whether women will get preferential treatment in regard to recruitment of clerks in the public sector banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). As per information readily available, the percentage of women to the total number of employees in the 28 public sector banks was, as at the end of December, 1981, 9.1%.

2. Recruitment to clerical/officer cadres of the public sector banks is made through open competitive examinations. There is no provision in the scheme of recruitment for preferential treatment for women. However, according to the information furnished by the Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs), the intake of women is progressively increasing. In fact, at centres namely Bombay and Pune, the number of women clerks selected during the last 2-3 years on the basis of competitive examinations has been more than the number of men. In the States of Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, and in the Union Territory of Goa, the number of women selected to the clerical cadres of the nationalised banks, ranges from 41 to 59 per cent.

Steps for the Welfare and Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen

*8. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the specific steps taken by Government for the welfare and rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen during the current financial year 1984-85;

(b) whether State Governments/Public Undertakings have also cooperated in the implementation of these steps;

(c) if so, the names of the States/Public Undertakings which have implemented these measures; and

(d) the names of States/Public Undertakings which have not yet implemented these measures, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to persuade them for their implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d). A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Efforts for the rehabilitation of ex-Servicemen is a continuing endeavour, As part of its effort Government seeks to ensure proper implementation of the existing policy; and also to restructure policy from time to time in the light of felt requirements.

2. Some of the recent activities in this regard are indicated in the following paragraphs.

Implementation or reservation policy

3. Three meetings were held during the current year to review the performance of Central Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings regarding implementation of reservation policy, and Departments such as Railways and Post and Telegraph, which recruit employees in large numbers, were advised to pay special attention to the recruitment of ex-servicemen.

Identification of posts within the Defence Ministry

4. An exercise was also undertaken to specifically identify posts within or under the Defence Ministry which could be specified for recruitment from the ranks of ex-servicemen.

New avenues for employment of ex-servicemen

5. Ecological task forces as an avenue for the productive employment of ex-servicemen gained further momentum with the augmentation of the force in Rajasthan by 204 personnel.

6. The Governments of Orissa and Assam have also reacted favourably to the proposal for raising special peace

keeping forces in which large number of ex-servicemen could be appointed.

7. The implementation of this scheme has been reviewed and in two of the six districts in which it is being implemented an evaluation of the scheme by independent agencies is in progress. An effort is also being made to ensure that the financial requirements of the beneficiaries are integrated into the district credit plans.

Resettlement of ex-servicemen in Rajasthan Canal

8. The Rajasthan Government have agreed to resettle ex-servicemen on 50,000 Bighas of land under the Rajasthan Canal Project Stage II. The Central Government have taken up the question of increasing the total area of land earmarked for this purpose as well as the land allotted to individual families of ex-servicemen.

High Level Committee

9. The High Level Committee was appointed on the 10th March, 1984 with a tenure of one year and commenced its meetings on the 15th March, 1984. The Committee concluded its work within a matter of about 7½ months and submitted its report on the 27th October, 1984.

Placements in Jobs

10. These concerted efforts have resulted in the placement of as many as 18,898 ex-servicemen in employment during the half year January-June 1984. (As reports from some areas had not been received the actual figure is likely to be higher). When compared with the full year achievements of the previous years (1981 : 16,639; 1982 : 17,439 and 1983 : 29,629), the year 1984 would appear to show considerable improvement.

Cooperation of State Governments/PSUs

11. The implementation of welfare measures is largely dependent on the State

Governments. The State Government's approach to this subject is determined *inter-alia* by local conditions, rules, regulations and the proportion of the population of ex-servicemen. The State PSUs normally follow the State Government policies.

12. Annexure 'A' which relates to the policy of reservations in vogue in State Governments and Annexure 'B' which relates to the payment of ex-gratia financial assistance to widows of pre 1-1 1964 pensioners are illustrative of the response of the State Governments in respect of two major issues of policy.

ANNEXRE 'A'

Reservation Percentages as Prevailing in State Governments/UT Administrations in Favour of Ex-Servicemen in Appointments to Govt. Vacancies

State/Union Territories	Percentage of Vacancies				Remarks
	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	—	—	2	2	
2. Assam	—	—	2	2	
3. Bihar	—	—	—	—	
4. Gujarat	—	—	10	20	
5. Haryana	5	5	17	17	
6. Himachal Pradesh	15	15	15	15	
7. Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	5	10	
8. Karnataka	10	10	10	10	
9. Kerala	—	—	—	—	
10. Madhya Pradesh	50	50*	9	14	
11. Maharashtra	—	—	15	15	
12. Manipur	—	—	3	5	2% of posts of Assistant Commandants
13. Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	
14. Nagaland	—	—	—	—	
15. Punjab	15	15	15	15	
16. Orissa	—	—	7	—	

	1	2	3	4	5	6
17. Rajasthan	—	—	—	12½	15	60% posts in Armed constabulary also reserved.
18. Sikkim	—	—	—	15	15	
19. Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	10	10% Forest Guard and 5% Forest Watcher.
20. Tripura	—	—	—	2	2	
21. Uttar Pradesh	8	—	@8	3	3	
22. West Bengal	—	—	—	5	10	
23. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	10	20	
24. Andaman & Nicobar	—	—	—	10	20	
25. Chandigarh	—	—	—	10	20	
26. Goa, Daman & Diu	—	—	—	10	20	
27. Delhi	—	—	—	10	20	
28. Mizoram	—	—	—	10	20	
29. Pondicherry	—	—	—	10	20	
30. Lakshadweep	—	—	—	10	20	
31. Dadar, Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	10	20	

@For ECOs and disabled officers only.

*In Medical & Engineering services for qualified ECOs/SSCOs
(Authority State Government sanction letters)

ANNEXURE 'B'

Statewise Position Regarding Grant of Financial Assistance to pre 1.1.64 Pensioners' Widows

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Implemented by States
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Yes
2.	Assam	Under Consideration
3.	Bihar	Yes
4.	Gujarat	Yes

1	2	3
5.	Haryana	Yes
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Yes
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	Yes
8.	Kerala	Yes
9.	Karnataka	Yes
10.	Madhya Pradesh	Yes
11.	Maharashtra	Yes
12.	Manipur	Under Consideration
13.	Meghalaya	No
14.	Nagaland	No
15.	Orissa	Yes
16.	Punjab	Yes
17.	Rajasthan	Yes
18.	Sikkim	No
19.	Tamil Nadu	Yes
20.	Tripura	Yes
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Yes
22.	West Bengal	Under Consideration
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	Yes
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	Yes
25.	Chandigarh	No
26.	Delhi	Yes
27.	Goa	Yes
28.	Mizoram	Yes
29.	Pondicherry	No

[Translation]

India's Foreign Indebtedness

*9. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's foreign indebtedness stands at 17,800 crores of Rupees at present;

(b) if not, the exact amount thereof and the annual amount of interest paid by Government of India thereon; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase rather than decrease in the poverty of the population of the country in spite of such a staggering indebtedness to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir. External loans have been undertaken for investment and productive purposes and have contributed to our development efforts according to Plan priorities.

Statement

(i) Outstanding External Debt Liability of India :

(Rs. Crores)

Category	Amount (as on 31.10.84)
(a) Government loans	22,490
(b) Non-Government loans	778
Total (a) and (b) : 23,268	

Approvals of External commercial borrowings and suppliers credit from 1980-81 to 1984-85 (upto Dec. 1984) amounting to Rs. 7,056 crores have also

been given. However, the external debt on this account will be spread over a number of years in the future as and when the loans are actually drawn/utilised.

In addition, India has outstanding repurchase obligations of Rs. 4,626 crores on drawings made under the facilities of the I.M.F.

(ii) The budgetted amount of interest payment during 1984-85 are of the order of Rs. 418.08 crores in respect of Government loans. In addition the estimated charges on I.M.F. loans (CFF & EFF) would be Rs. 433.41 crores.

[English]

Losses in Public Sector Steel Plants

*10. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector steel plants have been incurring huge losses if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to wipe out the losses incurred;

(c) the steps envisaged to replace the obsolete technology and ageing equipment at the two major plants in Bhilai and Rourkela and totally rebuilding the ones at Durgapur and Burnpur; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to revamp the administrative structure of these plants so as to fix responsibility for their failure to make profit, especially when the demand for steel is very high ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The working results of SAIL and IISCO for the last four years

are given below :

		(Rs. in crores)
	SAIL	IISCO
1980 - 81	(+) 1.01	(-) 28.79
1981 - 82	(+) 39.17	(-) 37.11
1982 - 83	(-) 105.76	(-) 71.05
1983 - 84	(-) 214.53	(-) 24.06
	(+) Profit	(-) Loss

(b) Though there have been price increases in the past, these have not fully compensated SAIL for increases in the cost of production. SAIL has introduced a production-cum-Profit Improvement Management System to achieve higher production and improved profitability. The strategy includes diversification of its product-mix to better match the demand, accelerate sales by adoption of an aggressive marketing strategy and reduction of inventories of raw materials, stores and spares. Special measures to achieve cost reduction by improving technological processes, better maintenance to maximise the availability of equipment by timely repairs, minimisation of purchases of stores and spares and restriction of expenditure in all possible ways have been also adopted.

(c) and (d). Schemes for modernisation and technological upgradation of Durgapur, Rourkela and IISCO are under consideration of the Government. Schemes are also under formulation for de-bottlenecking schemes of Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants so as to enable these plants to achieve their rated capacities.

Strengthening of Territorial Army

*11. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to strengthen the Territorial Army under the Chairmanship of General Sparrow ; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of that Committee ; and

(c) those which have been accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 21/85].

Development of Coal Reserves in Orissa

*12. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa have requested his Ministry for the development of coal resources in that State ;

(b) if so, the steps taken therefor ;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken therefor ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). No such request has been received from State Government of Orissa. However, based on regional exploration done by the Geological Survey of India and the detailed exploration by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute of Coal India Limited, the development of coal resources of an area is taken up irrespective of any request by the State

Government etc., depending upon the requirement of coal by various consuming industries in different parts of the country. In accordance with this policy, 4.7 million of coal will be produced in Orissa during 1984-85.

2. The Central Government have recently sanctioned 5 coal projects in Orissa namely Bharatpur Opencast, Bharatpur washery and Jagannath expansion in Talcher coalfields and Belpahar and Lajkura Opencast in Ib Valley coalfields. New projects viz Ananta Opencast and Kalinga Opencast with attached washeries are also being planned. A Master Plan of the Talcher coalfield in Orissa is also being taken up for identifying new projects and infrastructural needs. Coal production in Orissa is expected to go up from 4.7 m t in 1984-85 to about 13 m t. by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan i.e. 1989-90.

Capacity utilisation of Steel Plants

*13. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the capacity utilisation rate of different plants of Steel Authority of India Limited for the last 5 years ;

(b) the main reasons for the plants not working to full capacity ; and

(c) measures being taken to improve the position ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The capacity utilisation with respect to D.P.R. capacity for saleable steel at all the SAIL Steel Plants during the last five years is given below :—

% Capacity Utilisation

Product Plant	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85 Target
Saleable Steel						
BS P	87	93	93	94	80	93
DSP	49	48	63	66	49	52
RSP	85	80	89	81	70	77
BSL	43	43	75	78	65	76
SAIL	66	66	81	81	68	76
IISCO	54	65	61	63	55	48
ASP	76	70	87	78	42	93
SSP	—	—	10	21	22	53

(b) and (c), The main factors affecting production were restrictions in the supply of power and poor quality and inadequate availability of indigenous coking coal as well as some technological deficiencies in the Plants. Efforts are being made to improve the supply of power and coking coal of right quality in close cooperation with the supplying organisations. The

steel plants are making efforts to maximise their own limited captive power generation. As a long term measure, additional captive power generating units are being established at Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur and Bhilai Steel Plant. The technological deficiencies are being met through modernisation/de-bottlenecking schemes already under consideration,

'Loan Melas' organised by Commercial Banks

*14. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India in its report on the "Trend and progress of banking in India" for the year ending June, 1984 expressed concern at the dwindling profitability of commercial banks in the country ;

(b) whether this has been due to the 'loan melas' organised by the public sector banks in various parts of the country ;

(c) whether the Banking Companies Regulation Act requires all banking operations to take place within specified hours at premises licensed by the Reserve Bank of India ;

(d) whether Government are aware that these and other rules of open disclosure of loan amounts violate banking rules ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) the steps taken to stop these 'loan melas' ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Reserve Bank of India in its report on trend and Progress of Banking in India for the year ended June, 1984 has indicated improving profitability as one of the medium term tasks before the banks.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India have advised that no provisions of the Banking Regulation Act are violated by holding of public functions for distribution of loans to small borrowers, in which they voluntarily participate.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No such steps are contemplated.

Plan Targets and achievements of Rural Banks

*15. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the State-wise annual Plan targets and achievements of the rural Banks during the Sixth Plan so far as also the position of the loan recovery ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : It was envisaged to set up 105 regional rural banks during the Sixth Plan period. As against this, 108 regional rural banks have been set up between April, 80 to December '84 taking the total number of regional rural banks to 173, covering 304 districts. There were no statewide targets for setting up of the regional rural banks.

In regard to lendings by regional rural banks, no plan targets are fixed at the State Level. The regional rural banks are allocated shares in various credit-based plan schemes at the district level. By the end of June, 84, 162 regional rural banks had opened 8727 branches with deposits amounting to Rs. 774.3 crores and advances of Rs. 859.97 crores giving a Credit Deposit ratio of 111 per cent. The statewide information is set out in statement-I.

Available information on loan recovery for end June, 83 shows that 142 regional rural banks had made a recovery of Rs. 191.42 crores against the demand of Rs. 367.05 crores. Thus, the recovery amounted to 52% of the demand. State-wise data is given in statement-II.

Statement—I

Statewise operations of RRBs (As at the end of June, 1984)

(Rs, in Lakhs)

State/U.T.	No. of RRBs.	No. of branches	Deposits	Advances (Outstanding)	C.D. Ratio (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Andhra Pradesh	12	656	7087.72	9318.32	131
2. Assam	5	184	1935.14	1104.38	51
3. Bihar	18	1344	12354.85	10883.14	88
4. Gujarat	7	133	840.78	535.86	64
5. Haryana	2	174	2366.73	2131.47	90
6. Himachal Pradesh	1	84	1296.00	708.39	55
7. Jammu & Kashmir	3	220	1491.94	887.55	59
8. Karnataka	9	686	4572.47	8700.33	190
9. Kerala	2	238	2916.56	4013.87	168
10. Madhya Pradesh	21	965	5748.50	5721.08	99
11. Maharashtra	7	213	1064.48	1502.79	141
12. Manipur	1	12	25.84	31.67	122
13. Meghalaya	1	19	63.49	30.35	48
14. Nagaland	1	3	1.27	1.26	99
15. Orissa	9	649	3950.41	8782.53	222
16. Punjab	3	21	72.67	52.37	72
17. Rajasthan	13	557	4041.26	6184.94	153
18. Tamil Nadu	1	121	1258.22	2174.60	173
19. Tripura	1	61	901.11	1499.19	153
20. Uttar Pradesh	35	1899	20930.61	16007.34	76
21. West Bengal	8	482	4415.19	4822.37	109
22. Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	6.30	0.09	1
23. Mizoram	1	4	12.62	3.60	29
ALL INDIA	162	8727	77434.16	85997.39	111

Statement—II

Statewise data on recovery of dues (as at the end of June 1983)

State/U.T.	No. of RRBs	Demand	Recovery	Percentage of (4) to (3)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(amount in Rs. lakhs)				
1. Andhra Pradesh	12	5341.29	2707.33	51
2. Assam	5	346.15	199.52	58
3. Bihar	17	3169.62	1583.02	50
4. Gujarat	4	155.07	95.31	61
5. Haryana	2	1113.08	611.94	55
6. Himachal Pradesh	1	413.00	162.00	39
7. Jammu & Kashmir	3	285.51	135.25	47
8. Karnataka	8	4964.69	3111.08	63
9. Kerala	2	3114.00	2269.00	73
10. Madhya Pradesh	18	1676.77	753.03	65
11. Maharashtra	3	879.29	396.33	45
12. Manipur	1	2.20	2.11	96
13. Meghalaya	1	—	—	—
14. Nagaland	1	—	—	—
15. Orissa	9	3280.11	1439.54	44
16. Punjab	3	0.09	0.09	100
17. Rajasthan	9	2588.16	1291.85	50
18. Tamil Nadu	1	713.00	418.00	59
19. Tripura	1	943.91	502.98	53
20. Uttar Pradesh	33	5769.44	2713.21	47
21. West Bengal	8	1949.80	750.79	39
ALL INDIA	142	36705.18	19142.38	52

**Army Exercises by Pakistan
Near Indian Borders**

*16. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan was carrying out large scale army exercises near the Indian border between September and December, 1984 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to these moves ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). Pakistan Army formations are reported to have carried out their winter training exercises near our borders during the period October to December, 1984. Such training exercises are conducted every year.

Government keep under watch all developments having a bearing on our security and take appropriate measures to ensure the security of the country at all times.

**Losses Suffered by Public Sector
Projects during Sixth Plan**

1. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the losses in public sector projects ;

(b) the steps taken by his Ministry and the concerned Ministries to rectify the defects ;

(c) the names of the public sector projects which increased production during the Sixth Plan Period ; and

(d) the total loss by public sector projects during Sixth Plan and the investment made by Government on these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The major reasons for the losses of public sector undertakings can be summarised as follows :

- (1) Power shortage in various parts of the country ;
- (2) Recessionary conditions prevailing in industries like steel, textile, shipping, etc.
- (3) Technical and Production problems.
- (4) Labour unrest arising from time to time.

(b) The Government is continuously reviewing the performance of public enterprises and among the steps taken to improve the performance, mention may be made of the following :

- (1) Constitution of special study teams to go into specific causes of continued low capacity utilisation wherever noticed and recommend short-term and long-term remedial measures ;
- (2) Additional investments are provided for balancing facilities and captive power plants wherever justified ;
- (3) Technology upgradation, modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment and diversification of products, wherever considered appropriate ;
- (4) Regular monitoring by the concerned Administrative Ministries and Departments through quarterly performance review meetings in respect of individual enterprises.
- (5) Improving the selection and appraisal of top managerial personnel as well as timely filling up of top vacancies.

- (6) Government is monitoring execution and expeditious completion of major project on a continuous basis.

(c) Measured in terms of value of production, all the enterprises in the manufacturing/production sector except Bharat Dynamics Ltd. have increased their production during the Sixth Plan period so far, compared to the year preceding the Sixth Plan, namely, 1979-80.

(d) In the four years 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 of the Sixth Plan, the Central public enterprises taken as a whole made a loss only in 1980-81, amounting to Rs. 202.97 crores. The years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 ended with overall net profits of Rs. 445.92 crores, Rs. 617.85 crores and Rs. 245.67 crores (Provisional) respectively. The Central Government investment in these enterprises are as follows :

	(Amount Rs. in crores)
As on 31.3.1980 (before the commencement of Sixth Plan)	13955
As on 31.3.1981	15954
As on 31.3.1982	19393
As on 31.3.1983	23281
As on 31.3.1984	26754

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Himachal Pradesh

2. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government and Reserve Bank of India have accepted any liberal approach for the opening of branches of nationalised banks in hilly States/regions of the country, as defined by the Planning Commission, ensuring adequate relaxation

in the criteria of distance and population, which are not reliable indicators for such areas as compared to the normal plain areas ;

(b) if so, the nature of relaxation allowed in respect of hill areas ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore and whether such relaxation is proposed to be incorporated in the branch licencing policy of the Reserve Bank of India during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) : Under the current branch licensing policy for the period April, 1982 to March, 1985, hilly regions, regions which are sparsely populated and tribal areas are given special consideration and branch expansion in such areas is allowed on a comparatively liberal basis, taking into account the existing gaps in the availability of banking facilities, the need for meeting the banking requirements of identified target groups, growth in economic activities etc. The State Governments have been advised of this approach: The branch expansion policy for the period 1985-90, which would be coterminus with the period of Seventh Five Year Plan, is yet to be finalised.

Survey for Opening of Bank Branches in Himachal Pradesh

3. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in Himachal Pradesh district-wise for which (i) the State Bank of India (ii) the Punjab National Bank, (iii) the United Commercial Bank, and (iv) the Central Bank of India have made any survey for opening new branches of their banks in 1983-84 and 1984-85 :

(b) the names of such places among them where the Reserve Bank of India has given the required licences and where branches (i) have been opened (ii) are yet to be opened ;

(c) the likely dates by which the remaining branches would be opened in each case; and

(d) the reasons for not granting licences in respect of the places surveyed by the banks and the likely date by which the licences would be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) The names of the places for which State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, United Commercial Bank and Central Bank of India have applied to the Reserve Bank of India during 1.1.83 to 31.12.84 for opening new branches are set out in Statement-I.

(b) The names of places for which the Reserve Bank of India has issued authorisations/licences are set out in Statement II. The places where bank offices have already been opened are also mentioned in this statement.

(c) The banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India, from time to time, to utilise pending licences expeditiously.

(d) During branch expansion programme for the period April '82-March' 85 the Reserve Bank of India has allotted as many as 100 centres to different banks in the State of Himachal Pradesh. The need for allotment of more centres to banks will be reviewed during the next branches expansion policy.

Statement-I

Statement showing the names of places in Himachal Pradesh for which Reserve Bank of India has received applications from the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, United Commercial Bank and Central Bank of India during the period 1.1.1983 to 31.12.1984 for opening offices

District	Centres for which applications received from			
	State Bank of India	Punjab National Bank	United Commercial Bank	Central Bank of India
1	2	3	4	5
Bilaspur	—	Deoth Bilaspur	Auhar Chhakch Behal	—
Chamba	Hatli (ADB)	—	Rakh, Garola Bargal, Pukhri Dalhausie Sundla	Dalhausie, Pukhri, Sahoor, Garola, Sarol
Hamirpur	Sujanpur-Tira Nadaum	Mair, Salaun Jungle Beri, Chabottraa Dhaned Sera, Karur/Gouna, Kuthera Tal, Lambloo	Sujanpur-Tira Deodsiddh	—
Kangra	Ghorab Gupt Ganga, Sapri, Jawalamukhi	Sanghal, Guler, Chamukha, Nandpur-Bhatodi, Bankhandi	Sapri, Gharana, Nurpur, Bain, Dantal, Rey, Thakurdwara, Milwan, Ghugar, Dandla, Malthan, Paprola, Bhawarana, Panchrukhi, Sansai Mananda,	Jawalamukhi
Kinnaur	—	—	Karchhaya Pawar Kothi	—

District	Centres for which applications received from			
	State Bank of India	Punjab National Bank	United Commercial Bank	Central Bank of India
Kulu	Haripur	Manali Dobhi Jagat-Sukh	—	—
Lahaul & Spiti	Gondhla	—	Tandi, Gondhla	—
Mandi	Chatrokhari	Mahadev Sunder Nagar I, Sandhole, Alundi, Tullah	Sarakaghat	—
Simla	Bahli, Poria Jutog, Cantt, H.P. Medical College-Upgradation of Extension Counter Dhalli, Longwood-Simla	Thanedar, Simla Lower Bazar Jutog Cantt. Dhalli, Khalini- Simla, Bharar	Bhutt, Bahli Taklech, Khalni Taradevi, Kobi Bharari (Pahog) Kufri, Bhatha- Kuffar, Dhamwari Village Power (Gawahi), Jangla	—
Sirmur	Rajpur Rajgarh (ADB)	Paonta Sahib	Mangarh Rajpur	—
Solan	Nalagarh	Baddi Kasaufi Kunihar	Kunihar, Sukh Johari	—
Una	Mahatpur, Jhakeria, Una-Cantt.	Thana-Kalan, Pottan-Prohitan, Pandoga, Gondpur- Banheera Marwari Dungofi, Jhalera Kuriala, Saloh	Nangal-Kalan, Thana-Kalan, Bahdala, Ghsnari, Saloh	Thana-Kalan, Dhundla (Satellite Office)

Statement-II

Statement showing the names of places referred to in statement-I in respect of which the Reserve Bank of India has issued authorisations/licences and where Branches have already been opened

District	State Bank of India	Punjab National Bank	United Commercial Bank	Central Bank of India
Hamirpur	—	Mair (opened)	—	—
Kangra	Ghorab	—	—	—
Lahaul & Spiti	Gondhla	—	—	—
Simla	Bahli (opened) Poria	— —	Taklech (opened) Kufri (opened)	— —
Sirmur	Rajpur	—	Mangarh (opened)	—
Una	—	—	—	Dhundla (Satellite Office)

Relaxation of Ban Imposed on Recruitment to New Posts in Hill States

4. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation was received by Govt. for the relaxation of ban imposed on the recruitment to new posts in respect of hill States/regions during the year 1983-84;

(b) if so, the action taken by Govt. on this request; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which the decision would be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Instructions issued to Ministries not to fill up the existing vacancies presently till 31.3.85 form part of measures taken in the overall public interest to counter inflationary trends. It would not, therefore, be appropriate to relax it only in case of Govt. offices in some specific areas. Proposals for filling up of posts are considered on merits and relaxations are given in most exceptional circumstances.

Exemption of Ban on Filling/Creation of New Posts

5. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministries of Communications, Information & Broadcasting, Railways and Works & Housing forwarded any cases for exemption from the application of the ban on the filling of vacancies and the creation of new posts for undertaking any new development projects/administrative expansion or upgradation during the year 1983-84; and

(b) if so, the details of the instances referred to the Ministry of Finance by each of the Ministries ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). Earlier to January, 1984, non-Plan posts could not be created by the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government except with the approval of the Cabinet. In January, 1984, Ministries etc. were advised not to create new posts, either Plan or non-Plan except in most exceptional circumstances or fill up existing vacancies. Proposals for creation of posts in most exceptional circumstances were, however, considered on merits.

Proposals received in the Ministry of Finance for creation of posts in most exceptional circumstances are considered at appropriate levels in the Finance Ministry but no records of such proposals are maintained. It is, therefore, not possible to furnish the details of instances in which the Ministries referred to in the Question sought exemption from application of the ban orders for creation of posts in most exceptional circumstances during the year in question.

Assistance to States for Rural Industrialisation

6. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government gave assistance in all the Five Year Plans to each State for rural industrialisation ;

(b) if so, the extent of the assistance given and the results achieved ;

(c) whether Government have made any provision to assist States in the Seventh Five Year Plan also for rural industrialisation; and

(d) if so, to what extent each State would be assisted and if no provision has been made the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Promotion of Village and Small Industries is generally treated as synonymous with rural industrialisation. While the primary responsibility for their promotion rests with the State Governments,

the Centre also plays an important supplemental role, including assistance for provision of infrastructural facilities, technical guidance and financial assistance. The total outlays provided for the Village and Small Industries sector both by the Centre and States over the successive Plans are given below :

Plan period		Rs./crores
First Plan (1951/56)	...	31.20
Second Plan (1956/61)	...	200.00
Third Plan (1961/66)	...	264.00
Annual Plans (1966/69)	...	132.55
Fourth Plan (1969/74)	...	293.13
Fifth Plan (1974/79)	...	535.03
Annual Plan (1979/80)	...	239.48
Sixth Plan (1980/85)	...	1780.45

The progress made by this sector is already contained in the Sixth Plan Document.

(c) and (d). The Approach document for the 7th Plan (1985/90) has indicated that there would be adequate emphasis on promotion of rural industrialisation.

Fixation of External Value of Rupee

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present position of India's foreign exchange reserves;

(b) whether the rapid decline of the Pound Sterling in relation to the U.S. Dollar has serious implications for India and could lead to a revision of the basis on which the external value of the rupee is worked out ;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government have taken in this regard; and

(d) if no action has taken so far, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) India's Foreign Exchange Reserves as on 28th December, 1984 stood at Rs. 6385.60 Crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Coal Supply to West Bengal

8. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the existing coal supply to West Bengal to meet the demand for power plants and tea gardens in North Bengal;

(b) whether this coal supply does not meet the demand of North Bengal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether North Bengal is facing crisis of coal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). At present there is no thermal power station operating in North Bengal requiring coal. However, the coal companies are making adequate offer of coal for supply to the thermal power stations in the State of West Bengal. The Power stations could not make full use of this offer due to poor release of wagons by them. The power stations have also failed to move linked coal by road adequately due to their own transport problems. In regard to tea gardens in North Bengal, coal supplies during the period January '84 to December '84 were 1,90,600 tonnes as against their sponsored quota of 1,86,300 tonnes per annum recommended by the Tea Board.

(d) No crisis of coal has been reported by tea gardens in North Bengal. Movement is being effected to these tea gardens regularly for building up their stocks even though most of them are normally not in production during the off-season.

**Payment of Dearness Allowance to
Central Government Employees**

9. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instalments of additional Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees are not given when they become due and are delayed for months ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the number of instalments of additional Dearness Allowance which are due to Central Government employees till date and the steps Government propose to clear them quickly ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). As on 18th January, 1985, two instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees have become due for consideration with effect from 1-8-1984 and 1-11-1984 respectively. Payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and relief to pensioners costs the exchequer approximately Rs. 70 crores and Rs. 8 crores per annum respectively. Therefore, the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the budget. The question of sanction for payment of these instalments is receiving the attention of the Government.

[Translation]

Drinking Water in Danapur Cantonment Board Area

10. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the civilian population in Danapur Cantonment Board area in Bihar has to face drinking water crisis every year ;

(b) if so, whether a new water tank in the said Cantonment Board area had already been constructed ;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making supply of water therefrom ; and

(d) the time by which Government propose to make supply of water from the said water tank ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :

(a) No, Sir. The water supply is however, disrupted sometimes due to mechanical breakdown or power failure.

(b) to (d). To augment the water supply further a new water tank with a capacity of 4.5 lakh litres has been construct-

ed in the Danapur Cantonment Board area. Some ancillary works relating to installation of pump, electric installation and fittings of transformer which were entrusted to the Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar for execution still remain to be completed. The Cantonment Board authorities are in constant touch with the authorities of that Department to get the work completed and commission the water tank.

[*English*]

Increase in Domestic Prices of Non-Ferrous Metals

11. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic prices of all non-ferrous metals except aluminium in the country are about double the world prices ;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof, and how Government propose to compete in the international market with the present high prices ; and

(c) whether because of this heavy price of steel and non-ferrous metals in the country, the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is unable to compete in the world markets as stated by the Chairman of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in a Delhi Seminar ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The domestic prices of non-ferrous metals in the country are considerably higher than the ruling world prices.

(b) The main reasons leading to this situation as are follows :—

(i) indigenous production often being undertaken with lower grade ores.

(ii) the input costs such as power Tariff are higher, and

(iii) the technology and equipment in use is many times not upto date, due to constraint resources.

The indigenously produced non-ferrous metals are primarily meant for the domestic market. However, when these metals are used for producing items which are exported, certain fiscal reliefs are provided in the form of duty drawback, cash, compensatory support etc.

(c) The Chairman, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited does not recollect having made any such statement in the recent past.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Bharat Refractories Unit at Pithoragarh, U.P.

12. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the construction work of Bharat Refractories Unit proposed to be set up in Dewalthal (Pithoragarh), Uttar Pradesh, is likely to start ;

(b) whether the site therefor has since been selected ; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government to fulfil the assurance given to rehabilitate the displaced persons elsewhere ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Pithoragarh Project of Bharat Refractories Limited envisages the mining of raw magnesite and the establishment of a plant for dead burning of magnesite in a rotary kiln. The construction work for the establishment the plant is likely to start in June, 1985. The site for the of plant has been selected.

(c) The Project authorities will give due concessions to displaced persons in the matter of employment as per Government policy.

Opening of Regional Rural Bank in Pithoragarh (U.P.)

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a regional rural bank in Pithoragarh (Uttar Pradesh) ; and

(b) if so, the time by which it would start functioning and the places where its branches would be opened under its jurisdiction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Detailed proposals from the State Bank of India, which has been asked to sponsor the regional rural bank are awaited. The Bank has been asked to expedite them. The branch expansion programme for the regional rural bank can be drawn up only after it is established.

Setting up of Planning Commissions in States

14. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commissions have been set up in all the States on the pattern of the Planning Commission at the Centre;

(b) if so, the names of those States; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to advise the States to set up such Planning Commissions and to prepare/determine and make appraisals of their respective annual plans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c). In response to the suggestion made by the Planning Commission to the States as

early as in 1971 to set up State Planning Boards, all State Governments excepting Jammu & Kashmir and Sikkim, have set up planning bodies known variously as State Planning Commission, State Planning Board or State Development Board. Sikkim Government has indicated its inability to set up such a Planning Board at present. The Jammu & Kashmir Government has, however, agreed to set up an apex planning body called the State Policy and Planning Council.

Targets Fixed for I.R.D.P. and Self Employment Guarantee Scheme of Nationalised Banks

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

(a) whether, under the programmes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme and Self Employment Guarantee Scheme for educated persons launched by Government for poor people and unemployed educated persons, separate targets have been fixed for various nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the targets fixed for and the targets achieved by each of them during the last two years; and

(c) the action being taken against the managements of the banks which failed to achieve the targets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Annual action plans prepared for each district indicate bankwise and sectorwise credit programme in respect of major schemes including schemes like I.R.D.P. and self-employment scheme. At the national level the targets are given for the banking industry as a whole and in some cases there is statewise distribution of physical and financial targets.

The overall target of lending under I.R.D.P. during Sixth Plan was Rs. 3,000

crores which is likely to be exceeded by the banks. The targets and achievements of lending by banks under I.R.D.P. for the last two years are as follows :

(Rs. crores)

Year	Term credit disbursed	
	Target	Achievement
1982-83	600	713.98
1983-84	600	773.51

So far as the scheme for providing self-employment to the un-employed educated youth is concerned, a target of assisting 2.5 lakh beneficiaries was fixed for 1983-84. Against this, the banks sanctioned loans to 2.42 lakh beneficiaries involving an amount of Rs 401.54 crores. A fresh target of 2.5 lakh beneficiaries has been fixed for the current financial year 1984-85 also.

[English]

Major Shake-up of Public Sector

16. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have undertaken a major shake-up of the public sector units which have been continuously on the losing list and if so, the extent of changes being made;

(b) if so, whether their structural changes involve a series of changes in senior personnel to remove a major hurdle in the way of their efficient running; and

(c) whether the need to tone up the working of the public sector arises out of the reliance to be put on their profits for funds for the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c),

The continuously losing enterprises have been a matter of grave concern to the Government and the Government have already taken a number of steps to improve their performance. Among the steps initiated, mention can be made of the following :

- (i) Constitution of special study teams to go into specific causes of continued low capacity utilisation wherever noticed and to recommend short term and long term remedial measures.
- (ii) Additional investments are provided for balancing facilities and captive power plants wherever justified.
- (iii) Technology upgradation, modernisation and rehabilitation of plant and equipment and diversification of products, wherever considered appropriate.
- (iv) Regular performance reviews by the concerned Administrative Ministries and Departments through quarterly performance review meetings in respect of individual enterprises.
- (v) Improving the selection and appraisal of top managerial personnel as well as timely filling up of top vacancies.
- (vi) Government is monitoring execution and expeditious completion of projects on a continuous basis.

Government is constantly reviewing various aspects of the management of public enterprises including changes in personnel, structure of the organisation etc., wherever necessary with a view to improve their performance.

Recovery of Developmental Loans

17. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the former Union Finance Minister have shown concern over the poor recovery of developmental loans;

(b) if so, whether he had warned that a stage had come where corrective action could not be delayed any longer;

(c) if so, whether he had expressed these views before the Conference of State Ministers incharge of Rural Development held in September, 1984;

(d) whether a low level of co-operative banks, performance in rural development Programme has been attributed directly to poor recoveries and the public sector bank had also not fared well regarding recovery of their direct agricultural advances;

(e) if so, the suggestions made by him in regard to the steps to be taken for recovery of loans;

(f) The extent to which the suggestions have been accepted and implemented by State Governments; and

(g) The extent to which the recovery percentage has been increased ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The former Union Finance Minister while addressing the Conference of State Ministers in-charge of Rural Development had emphasised the need for improving the recovery of bank dues. It was mentioned that banks would be able to sustain a bigger lending programme only when they are able to recycle the funds. Thereafter in October, 1984 the former Union Finance Minister also wrote letters to State Chief Ministers for extending requisite support to the banks in the recovery of their dues.

(d) It is true that a number of cooperative banks have been forced to curtail their lending programme on account of poor recovery. The recovery of direct

agricultural advances by the commercial banks is nearly fifty two per cent of the demand and it is not regarded satisfactory.

(e) and (f). It was suggested that special recovery drive may be organised for improving the recovery position of cooperative as well as commercial banks. Many State Governments have replied positively and assured that they would extend all necessary help to the banks for the recovery of their dues.

(g) It is too early to assess the results of suggestions made in October, 1984.

Modernisation of Navy by China and Pakistan

18. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether China is equipping its Navy with guided missiles and electronic nuclear and automatic weapons as part of its military modernisation drive;

(b) if so, whether modernisation of Navy will have a greater implication in the Indian Ocean;

(c) if so, whether China has also agreed to help Pakistan in modernising its Naval Force;

(d) if so, whether both China and Pakistan's modernising Navy will have great implication on the security of India; and

(e) if so, the extent to which India has also modernised its Naval force to meet any threat from China and Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Government have seen reports to this effect.

(b) The ambitious plan of China to modernise its Navy, with guided missiles and electronic nuclear and automatic weapons, is likely to have an impact on the maritime security environment in the Indian Ocean.

(c) China has been one of the suppliers of Naval weapons to Pakistan.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir, the modernisation programmes of these two countries are likely to have security implications for India. The Government of India reviews constantly the growing threat to India's security from the induction of Naval hardware in our areas of interests. The Indian Navy's acquisition and construction plans are suitably updated to meet emerging or possible situations.

Benefits to Military Personnel under the Military Manpower Planning Programme

19. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a more scientific approach to military manpower planning is being formulated by his Ministry in the light of the experience of the two recent cadre reviews and the rising expectations of the three services with regard to career prospects and emoluments ;

(b) if so, the proposals that are being considered under the programme ;

(c) the extent to which the benefits will be made available to the military personnel ; and

(d) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) to (d). Two Cadre Reviews have been undertaken during the last few years to

remove certain imbalances and stagnation in the various ranks of the Armed Forces and to improve their career prospects. A number of posts were upgraded to ensure better promotion avenues for the men as well as the officers. For certain officer ranks, Selection grades were introduced ; besides, time frames for promotion have also been reduced. The quota of honorary commissions for Junior Commissioned officers have also been increased.

Government are committed to the concept of improving the lot of all its employees including those in the armed forces. The Fourth Pay Commission set up by the Government are also examining certain proposals regarding pay structure of the Military personnel.

Achievement of Target of Saleable Steel by Public Sector Steel Plants

20. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector steel plants are anywhere near achieving the 1984-85 target of saleable steel ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) if so, whether this achievement would also help the plants to record higher profits ; and

(d) whether cost of steel production had also gone up in public sector steel plants and if so, reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. During the year 1984-85, the public sector integrated steel plants are set to achieve their annual targets of saleable steel production. The targets and actual achievement during the 9 months period April-December, 1984 are given below ;

('000 tonnes)

Plant	Target 1984-85	April-December 1984			Actuals during April-Dec. 1983
		Target	Actual	%Fulfillment	
SAIL plants including IISCO	5410	3743	3602	96.2%	3241

The production in SAIL plants including IISCO during April-December 1984 is 11% higher than that during April-December 1983.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The achievement of target of saleable steel will help SAIL in improving its financial performance.

(d) The cost of production of saleable steel has been going up over the years as will be seen from the following table :

Year	Cost of production of saleable steel in four integrated steel plants of SAIL (Rs./T)	Increase in cost of production of saleable steel over previous year (Rs./T)
1980-81	2553	...
1981-82	2859	...
1982-83	3432	...
1983-84	3970	...

The main reasons for increase in the cost of production is the increase in the cost of various inputs like coal, power, petro-fuels, labour cost over the period.

[Translation]

Decline in Tax Collection

21. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a 10 per cent decline in tax collection this year ;

(b) if so, the amount of taxes which should have been collected and the amount by which the collections fell short this year ; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Bringing the Weaker Sections above Poverty Line

22. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to bring the weaker sections of the society above poverty line during the last five years ;

(b) the results achieved so far Statewise ; and

(c) further steps taken in this regard and the target fixed for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : (a) A number of programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) have been under implementation to bring the weaker sections of society above poverty line. These programmes are aimed at increasing the income of the weaker sections by creation of assets leading to a steady flow of income or of employment.

(b) In the first four years of the Sixth Plan (1980—84), 12.58 million families have been assisted through the IRDP and 1,428 million mandays of employment have been generated through the NREP and the RLEGP.

(c) As envisaged in the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan, the package of poverty alleviation programmes will continue at an accelerated pace in the Seventh Plan period.

Development of Iron Ore Mines

23. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken for the development of iron ore mines in the country ;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in last three years for the development of iron ore mines in Orissa ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c)'. The production capacity in Orissa is very large compared to the present production. Enhanced production of iron ore on account of increased domestic steel production or higher exports of iron ore is likely to be met from the existing capacities itself.

Setting up of Nickel Project in Sukinda, Orissa

24. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Nickel Project near Sukinda in Orissa ;

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

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Sanction was issued earlier based on preliminary feasibility report envisaging the use of the indigenous technology for setting up of Sukinda Nickel Project. However, the project could not progress as the indigenous technology chosen failed when tried on pilot plant scale. The indigenous technology having failed, foreign consultancy had to be chosen judiciously. An expert deputed by Candian International Development Agency carried out a preliminary evaluation of the available data and according to his report, it would be necessary to undertake additional exploration, laboratory and pilot plant test work, before feasibility report can be prepared. A scheme for additional exploration has been prepared. Offers were invited from foreign consultants for review of exploration data and laboratory and pilot plant test work. Based on the offers received selection of a suitable consultant is under

finalisation by Hindustan Copper Limited. Once this exercise is completed the whole question of taking up of additional exploration and test work on the Sukinda Nickel ores will be considered.

**Opening of new Branches of
Commercial Banks**

25. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the opening of new branches of various commercial banks in different States and Union Territories during the Sixth Plan ;

(b) the State-wise achievement made in this regard so far ; and

(c) the details of the programme prepared to achieve the Sixth Plan bank expansion programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The

current branch licensing policy covers the period from April 1982 to March 1985 and aims at achieving a coverage of one bank office for every 17,000 population on the basis of 1981 census in the rural and semi urban areas. For the stipulated norms of population coverage, 7540 branches were required to be opened during the policy period in rural/semi-urban areas of deficit districts. In addition, 823 branches were proposed to be opened in non-deficit districts.

(b) State-wise details of the increase in the number of branches between 31.3.82 to 30.6.84 and also authorisations/licences pending with the banks as on 30.6.84 are set out in the statement.

(c) The State Governments were to identify centres for opening new bank branches on the basis of the recommendations of District Consultative Committee. During the current policy period, so far about ten thousand centres have been allowed to banks for opening offices in rural and semi-urban areas on the basis of such recommendations and also on the basis of proposals received from individual banks.

Statement

State-wise/Union Territory-wise increase in the number of branches of commercial banks in the country between 31.3.82 and 30.6.84 as also the number of authorisations/licences pending with them as on 30.6.84

State/Union Territories	Rural	Semi urban	Urban	Metro-politan/Port Towns	Total	Autorisations/Licences pending as on 30.6.84
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	451	23	29	30	533	425
2. Assam	134	27	4	—	165	221
3. Bihar	426	25	26	—	477	712
4. Gujarat	252	24	22	24	322	205
5. Haryana	109	16	19	—	144	27

	2	3	4	5	6	7
6. Himachal Pradesh	91	1	—	—	92	35
7. Jammu & Kashmir	78	2	10	—	90	86
8. Karnataka	426	33	36	24	519	258
9. Kerala	55	80	18	6	159	57
10. Madhya Pradesh	642	60	38	—	740	490
11. Maharashtra	415	25	54	48	542	490
12. Manipur	11	—	1	—	12	37
13. Meghalaya	26	4	—	—	31	32
14. Nagaland	9	2	—	—	11	6
15. Orissa	228	24	11	1	264	166
16. Punjab	141	16	23	—	180	119
17. Rajasthan	312	38	34	—	384	216
18. Sikkim	10	2	—	—	12	
19. Tamil Nadu	283	44	40	44	411	196
20. Tripura	2	1	—	—	3	38
21. Uttar Pradesh	1078	57	64	14	1213	1360
22. West Bengal	213	33	11	34	291	690
23. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	—	—	—	1	2
24. Arunachal Pradesh	10	1	—	—	11	25
25. Chandigarh	5	—	6	—	11	7
26. Delhi	7	1	—	70	78	72
27. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Goa, Daman & Diu	10	—	—	1	11	5
29. Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Mizoram	5	2	—	—	7	28
31. Pondicherry	2	—	—	2	4	4
Total	5432	541	447	298	6718	6009

Import of Fire Arms by Private Persons

26. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether unusually large number of fire-arms are being imported daily by private persons ;

(b) whether any passenger can bring into the country fire-arms as general baggage after paying 340 per cent duty plus penalty upto 500 per cent ;

(c) whether these fire-arms are brought/imported by passengers coming from Singapore and Hongkong ;

(d) whether in July last year a retired Bragadier was arrested for possessing 3 revolvers and 450 cartridges at the airport ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to stop import of fire-arms by private persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Persons of Indian origin returning from abroad can bring fire-arms of non-prohibited bores as baggage subject to payment of 340% duty and production of a valid licence under the Arms Act. Such persons cannot, however, bring more than one revolver/pistol or one rifle/shot gun, and such fire-arms cannot be sold with in a period of 10 years.

(c) These fire arms are imported by persons coming from different countries including Singapore and Hongkong.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) On 19/20.7.84 one Shri Jagir Singh, a retired Brigadier was arrested at Palam Airport as he was found to possess three revolvers and 450 cartridges which

had not been declared by him. The revolvers and cartridges were detained. A Show Cause Notice has been issued and the case is under adjudication. Shri Jagir Singh was arrested and is being prosecuted.

Under the existing Import Policy, import of fire arms into India except as a gift from close relations covered by a valid Customs Clearance Permit, or as baggage by persons returning from abroad, is already banned. Moreover, any person intending to import a fire arm either as a gift or baggage has also to produce an Arms Licence.

Profitability of Banks

27. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India report on banking for the year ending June, 1984 has expressed concern at the declining profitability of banks :

(b) whether this decline is also due to high incidence of sickness in industry ;

(c) whether operating costs for Indian banking industry are high as compared to other countries ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve better profitability for banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India in its Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India for the year ending June 1984, has indicated improving profitability as one of the medium term tasks before the Banks.

(b) Advances to sick industrial units have increased over the years. Banks are nursing many of these units to become viable and in the process the package of

concessions extended envisages sacrifices in the forms of reduction in interest rates, funding of overdue interest, grant of additional limits on soft terms etc. This to some extent affects the earnings of banks.

(c) No comparative study of the operating expenses of Indian Banks with that of the Banks in other countries has been carried out.

(d) Measures to improve the profitability of banks and to sustain their viability are under continuous review.

NRI Investments in New Equities

28. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intend to restrict Nonresident Indians' investments in equity only to new issues and expansion projects ;

(b) the total amount so far invested by Non-resident Indians in new issues and expansion projects and the amount invested in the existing equities ;

(c) whether Government consider this flow into new investments as against investments in existing equities as reasonable ; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to encourage flow of Non-resident Indians' investments in new equities ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) to (d). Perhaps, the Honourable Member's intention is regarding investments made by non-resident Indians under the direct and the portfolio investment schemes. So far as direct investment schemes are concerned, according to data

available with the Reserve Bank of India as on 30th November, 1984, the proposals approved since 1st April 1982, for investments in shares/debentures amounted to Rs. 215.21 crores. This is encouraging. Data maintained by the Reserve Bank of India under the Portfolio Investment Scheme relate to actual investments made, and as on 30th September, 1984, shares/debentures worth Rs. 43.69 crores were purchased by non-resident Indians through Stock Exchanges under this scheme.

Shortage of Coking Coal to Steel Plants

29. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a perennial shortage of supply of coking coal to the Steel Plants ; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to ensure quality, adequate and speedy supply of coal to the Steel Plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). It is a fact that the Steel Authority of India have been importing some quantity of washed coking coal for a number of years. During 1983-84, 0.463 million tonnes of washed coking coal was imported, which amounted to 3% of the total quantity of washed coking coal consumed by the steel sector in that year.

The question of supply of coking coal to the steel plants has recently been examined in details by an Expert Group, which submitted its report in December, 1984. This Expert Group has suggested a number of steps both short-term and long-term, to be taken to increase the supplies of coking coal to meet the requirements of the steel plants as well as to improve the quality of these supplies. Accordingly, new coking coal mines are being taken up and existing mines are being modernised and expanded in the Jharia and other coalfields and new washeries are being set up. For this purpose,

an outlay of about Rs. 1000 crores (at 1984-85 price level) has been proposed for the Seventh Five Year Plan period.

A number of measures have been adopted by the Coal India Limited to improve the quality of coking coal supplies to steel plants, including the following :

- (i) Supply of raw coal with high ash percentage and poor caking characteristics to the washeries has been minimised.
- (ii) Maximum possible attention is being given to ensure better maintenance and operation of the washeries.
- (iii) Major modifications have been carried out in some of the washeries by the installation of balancing facilities to optimise their performance.

As our coals are very difficult to wash and need a specialised treatment, as a long term measure, a separate institute for designing and constructing new coal washeries is being set up, which will ensure the adoption of the latest washing technology to suit Indian coals.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is it now? Why do you do like this? Why do you shout like this? I am open to suggestions. Why are you shouting like that? What are you doing?

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDEVATE (Rajapur) : I want to draw your attention to the fact that what has happened in the Union Carbide at Bhopal is a very serious matter, and there is total failure of the administration. I have given an adjournment motion.

MR. SPEAKER : You have seen that the Minister is coming with a statement. It will be done later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have already done it. You know it. Why should you do this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We must understand each other now. This is the first time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not cut any ice. I assured you that if there was anything, you could come to me, I would listen to you and I would give time for the expression of your ideas and your thoughts on any given subject, but not like this. I am not going to budge. I want your cooperation. I have requested you to cooperate, and I am open to suggestions. Already there is one thing; and according to the rules, I have already admitted that. I will give you every chance, whatever be the subject. Again, my assurance on the floor of the House is that on any subject under the sun, according to the rules, I will allow it. Why should you unnecessarily take time?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Is this in the rules?

MR. SPEAKER : If you have read the rules, you will realize it. I know the rules; but if you do like this, I am not going to listen.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record without my permission. I am open to suggestions, and I have already said that Bhopal is going to be discussed. The Minister is going to make a statement.

**Not recorded.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
There is a way out...

MR. SPEAKER : No question of way out.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There is a way out on the basis of what you have said. If the Minister is going to make a statement, I would submit that under rule 193, there can be a discussion on that.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I said earlier. The Minister's statement means you can have your submission, and we will allow the discussion. There is no problem at all on that. That is what I said : never be agitated. You can come to me. I will explain things to you. We will meet at 12.15, and then devise ways and means, and give the priority.

SHRI AMAL DUTTA (Diamond Harbour)—*rose* (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You are an old hand. Are you a new one? You know what to do. You give your notice under rule 193 and then we will discuss. But don't waste my time.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura)
—*rose*.

MR. SPEAKER : You are also a very old hand. Why do you try to do this unnecessarily? No. I am going to be very strict from now on.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDUPATLA JANGA
KEDDY (Hanamkonda) : Sir, I have

given notice of an adjournment motion on the Governor of Andhra Pradesh refusing to sign the ordinance forwarded to him by the Chief Minister.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Under the rules, you cannot raise it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The Business Advisory Committee will decide it. So simple it is. It is the BAC which does it. New Papers Laid :

Shri Narasimha Rao.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Under the rules you cannot.

SHRI CHANDUPATLA JANGA
REDDY : I have given an adjournment motion...

MR. SPEAKER : You come to me, and I will explain to you. No submission now.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : No point of order now. You can come to me. I will tell you. You can discuss with me. Now Mr. Narasimha Rao.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHARAO) : I beg to lay on the Table.

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2/85]

Notification under Government of Union Territories Act, 1963

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : On behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O. 955(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd December, 1984 containing President's Order dated the 22nd December, 1984 regarding extension of President's Rule in the Union Territory of Pondicherry for a further period of six months with effect from 24th December, 1984, issued under section 51 of the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3/85]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : On behalf of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, I beg to lay on the Table

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Investment Centre, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4/85]

Gangtok Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance 1984

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Gangtok Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984, (No. 1 of 1984) (Hindi and English versions) promulgated by the Governor of Sikkim on the 17th December, 1984, under article 213 (2) (a) of the Constitution read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 25th May, 1984, issued by the President in relation to the State of Sikkim. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5/85]

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : A point of order...

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order ?

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I am just reading it out. I invite your kind attention to Article 75(4). I just quote it —it says :

“Before a Minister enters upon his office, the President shall administer to him the oaths of office and of secrecy according to the forms set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.”

MR. SPEAKER : It is not connected with me here.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : This is a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : No ; there is no point of order.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : The Ministers have to take the oath individually and Separately, as required in the Constitution. This is a constitutional point.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the first time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order. It is my order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot discuss the conduct of the President. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my reply to your point of order. My ruling cannot be challenged. It is out of order. You are a very sensible person. Why do you behave like this ? Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed a submission on it. Why do you unnecessarily take the time of the House ? You are a new member ; you should try to learn something good. I am not going to allow it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Can the Ministers take oath collectively ?...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Last time you did not do it. Why are you doing it now ? You were a member of Lok Sabha last time also. What happened then ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We did not do it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why did you not do it at that time ? I am not going to listen to all this. Please sit down and take your seat. I have already overruled you and my ruling cannot be questioned by anybody.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What is your ruling ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have already done that. Mr. Reddy, you are a young man ; you try to understand something good.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : I am an old hand. I may be new to Parliament but not to Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER : You don't want to be a young man ?.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We want to do it now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then provide something constructive and positive. I have already allowed a submission on this subject. If it comes under the purview, the Minister will reply. Please sit down now.

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—*Contd.*[*English*]

General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Ordinance 1984, National Capital Region Planning Board Ordinance 1984, Foreign Contributions (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance 1984, Calcutta Metro Railway (operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provisions Ordinance, 1984 etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) of the Constitution :—

- (1) The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Ordinance, 1984 (No. 10 of 1984) promulgated by the President on the 17th September, 1984.
- (2) The National Capital Region Planning Board Ordinance, 1984 (No. 11 of 1984) promulgated by the President on the 19th October, 1984.
- (3) The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1984 (No. 12 of 1984) promulgated by the President on the 20th October, 1984.
- (4) The Calcutta Metro Railway Operation and Maintenance) Temporary provisions Ordinance, 1984 (No. 13 of 1984) promulgated by the President on the 22nd October, 1984.
- (5) The Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Amendment Ordinance, 1984 (No. 14 of 1984) promulgated by the President on the 20th November, 1984.

- (6) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984 (No. 15 of 1984) promulgated by the President on the 20th November, 1984.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6/85]

Notifications under Income Tax Act 1961, Wealth Tax Act 1957, Estate Duty Act 1953, Customs Tariff Act 1975, Central Excise and Salt Act 1544 etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 :—
 - (i) The Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. S.O. 757 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1984.
 - (ii) The Income-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. S.O. 824 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 1984.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—7/85]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 46 of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957 :—
 - (i) The Wealth-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1984, published in Notification No. S.O. 758 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1984.

- (ii) The Wealth-tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. S.O. 958 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 1984.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-8/85]

- (3) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 6(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd January, 1985, regarding exemption to the moneys payable under the Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme, 1980 or under any other Group Insurance Scheme taken up by an employer with the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the benefit of his employees from levy of estate duty under sub-section (2) of section 33 of the Estate Duty Act, 1953

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-9/85].

- (4) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 695 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying 'Indo-UAE Submarine cable Project' as a project under Heading 84.66 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 for concessional rate of 40 per cent *ad valorem* (basic customs duty) on all goods imported for the project, under section 10 of said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10/85]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—

- (i) The Central Excise (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 1984

published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1028 in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1984.

- (ii) The Central Excise (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 791 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 1984.

- (iii) The Central Excise (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 811 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1984.

- (iv) The Central Excise (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1984, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1253 in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1984.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-11/85]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

- (i) G.S.R. 622 (E) and 623 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Heat Reclaim Centrifugal Machine when imported into India from basic customs duty in excess of 40 per cent *ad valorem* and auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 25 per cent *ad valorem*.

- (ii) G.S.R. 632 (E) and 633 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to the

di-iso-butylene, Heptene and Nonene imported for the manufacture of oxoalcohols from the whole of the basic, auxiliary and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

- (iii) G.S.R. 637 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 77-Customs dated the 17th April, 1980 so as to exempt Chindies, paper cuttings and the waste packing material arising in the course of production within the zone subject to certain conditions from the payment of customs duty.
- (iv) G.S.R. 642 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 236/76—Customs dated the 2nd August, 1976 so as to exempt diaries imported into India by the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund from the payment of customs duty.
- (v) G.S.R. 656 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum resinding Notification No. 18/84—Customs dated the 14th February, 1984.
- (vi) G.S.R. 660 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to glass shells of sizes 45 mm, 60 mm and 80 mm diameter imported for the manufacture of electric lamps from basic customs duty in excess of 10 per cent *ad valorem* up to 30th August, 1985.
- (vii) G.S.R. 661 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to glass shells imported for the manufacture of fluorescent tubes from basic customs duty in excess of 10 per cent *ad valorem* upto 30th September, 1984.
- (viii) G.S.R. 662 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to lead glass tubings imported for the manufacture of components of electric lamps and fluorescent tubes from the basic customs duty in excess of 25 per cent *ad valorem* up to 30th September 1984.
- (ix) G.S.R. 663 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods covered by Notification Nos. 234/84—Customs to 236/84 Customs dated 15th September, 1984 from the auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 5 per cent *ad valorem*.
- (x) G.S.R. 664 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

- amendment to Notification No. 157/82—Customs dated the 26th May, 1982 so as to insert a proviso in the notification to make clear the intention of exemption granted under other notifications.
- (xi) G.S.R. 674 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of Canadian Dollars and USA Dollars into Indian currency or *vice versa*.
- (xii) G.S.R. 679 (E) and 680 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Ethylene Dichloride imported for the manufacture of PVC resins from the basic customs duty in excess of 20 per cent *ad valorem* and from the whole of additional and auxiliary duties of customs leviable thereon.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 682 (E) and 683(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to palm kernel oil when imported into India for the manufacture of fatty alcohols from the basic customs duty in excess of 25 per cent *ad valorem* and from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 688 (E) and 689 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to components and equipments when imported into India for the manufacture of trawlers from the whole of the basic, auxiliary and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.
- (xv) G.S.R. 696 (E) and 697 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 228/83—Customs dated the 16th August, 1983 regarding increase in the effective rate of basic customs duty on certain specified chemicals from 70 per cent to 85 per cent *ad valorem*.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 709 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice versa*.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 715 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding increase in the rate of export duty on coffee from Rs. 640 per quintal to Rs. 720 per quintal.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 719 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 329/76—Customs dated the 2nd August, 1976 so as to exempt Calcined Mica blocks and Calcined Mica

- scrap from the whole of the export duty leviable thereon.
- (xix) G.S.R. 741 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 230/82-Customs dated the 19th October, 1982 upto 31st October, 1985.
- (xx) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 295/83-Customs dated the 1st November, 1983 upto the 30th April, 1985.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Butadiene imported for the manufacture of Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR) from basic customs duty in excess of 35 per cent *ad valorem* and from the whole of additional duty of customs leviable thereon.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 747 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian currency or *vice-versa* in supersession of Notification No. 213-Customs dated the 1st August, 1984.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 750 (E) and 751 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to continue exemptions from customs duty to components of commercial motor vehicles imported for the manufacture of heavy, medium or light commercial motor vehicles from customs duty in excess of 45 per cent *ad valorem* allowed under Notification Nos. 260/84-Customs dated the 22nd October, 1984 and 135/84-Customs dated the 11th May, 1984.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 762 (E) and 763 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to aircraft equipments, engines and spare parts imported into India by Messrs Air India International and Indian Airlines on a temporary basis for fitment to their aircrafts from the whole of the basic auxiliary and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 777 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding concessional rate of import duty of 5 per cent *ad valorem* in respects of parts of specified computer peripheral devices.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 778 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding concessional rate of import duty of 60 per cent *ad valorem* in respect of computer software in object code and software in source

- code in any media other than printed matter on paper.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 779 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding concessional rate of import duty of 60 per cent and 25 per cent *ad valorem* in respect of two categories of computer peripheral devices.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 780 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding concessional rate of import duty of 60 per cent *ad valorem* in respect of computers.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 781 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to make some minor changes in Notification No. 232/83-Customs dated the 18th August, 1983 and Notification No. 233/83-Customs dated the 18th August, 1983.
- (xxx) G.S.R. 782 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to grant complete exemption to the goods specified in Notification Nos. 279/84-Customs to 282/84 Customs dated the 19th November, 1984 from the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.
- (xxxi) G.S.R. 783(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to make consequential changes in Notification Nos. 136/84-Customs and 142/84-Customs both dated 11th May, 1984 relating to auxiliary duties of customs.
- (xxxii) G.S.R. 1(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1985 together with an explanatory note regarding exemption to certain specified machinery and equipment for gem and jewellery industry from basic customs duty in excess of 15 per cent *ad valorem* and complete exemption from countervailing duty.
- (xxxiii) G.S.R. 5(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (xxxiv) G.S.R. 631(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum containing Corrigendum to Notification No. 219/84-Customs dated the 10th August, 1984.
- (xxxv) G.S.R. 22(E) and 23(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th January, 1985 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to components of electrically operated trolley buses, electrically operated tow tractors (other than platform trucks and fork-lift trucks) and battery powered road vehicles when imported into India for the

manufacture of such electrically operated vehicles from basic customs duty in excess of 25 per cent *ad valorem* and auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-12/85]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944—

- (i) G.S.R. 640(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 49/83-CE dated the 1st March, 1983 so as to fix an effective basic excise duty of Rupees 41.00 per Kg. on nylon filament yarn above 250 deniers but not above 750 deniers.
- (ii) G.S.R. 641(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 51/83-CE dated the 1st March, 1983 so as to fix an effective basic excise duty of Rupees 41.00 per Kg. on textured nylon filament yarn above 275 deniers but not above 825 deniers.
- (iii) G.S.R. 645(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to raw naphtha falling under item No. 6 of the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 and intended for use as fuel

for running the gas turbine at the Talcher Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India from excise duty in excess of Rupees five hundred and twenty five per kilo litre.

- (iv) G.S.R. 657(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to ferro-alloys (other than ferro molybdenum) when used in the manufacture of dutiable iron and steel products from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (v) G.S.R. 665(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding effective rate of basic excise duty on pipes and tubes of copper.
- (vi) G.S.R. 666(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making amendment to Notification No. 175/84-CE dated the 1st August, 1984.
- (vii) G.S.R. 690(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 38/73-CE dated the 1st March, 1973 so as to exclude 'Acrylic plastic bangle tubes' from the purview of the said notification.
- (viii) G.S.R. 691(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1984 toge-

- ther with an explanatory memorandum seeking to reduce the basic excise duty on Cellophane film of regenerated cellulose of thickness not exceeding 0.25mm from 20 per cent to 10 per cent *ad valorem*.
- (ix) G.S.R. 692(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Heavy Petroleum Stock intended for use as fuel for the generation of electrical energy by specified electrical undertakings from the whole of the excise duty.
- (x) G.S.R. 704(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to electricity from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xi) G.S.R. 705(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 110/84-CE dated the 11th May, 1984 so as to make certain consequential change following the exemption granted to electricity.
- (xii) G.S.R. 706(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 51/78-CE, 52/78-CE, 53/78-CE dated the 1st March, 1978, 105/78-CE and 106/78-CE dated the 27th April, 1978.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 729(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to glass shells and glass bulbs used in the manufacture of television picture tubes from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 730(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to metallised polyester and metallised polypropylene film upto a thickness of 12 microns and used in electronic capacitors from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xv) G.S.R. 731(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of basic excise duty of 30 paise on aerated waters other than soda, sold in glass bottles containing more than 200 millilitres but not exceeding 250 millilitres.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 753(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 147/84-CE dated the 18th June, 1984 so as to exempt six more drug-intermediates from the payment of central excise duty and to withdraw the exemption granted to Acrylonitrile.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 757(E) published in Gazette of India dated the

- 9th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified excisable goods when cleared for display in Fair or Exhibition in India from the whole of duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 758(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 108/81-CE dated the 24th April, 1981 so as to make available the exemption contained therein for a period of five years from the date of first clearance of paper or paper board from an eligible unit or from the date of publication of the said notification.
- (xix) G.S.R. 768(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 74/78-CE dated the 1st March, 1978 so as to exclude Zinc Oxide used as a pigment/paint from the purview of the said notification.
- (xx) G.S.R. 795(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th November, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to raw naphtha from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon subject to the conditions specified in the notification.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 800(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to solid fuel briquettes manufactured from the agricultural wastes from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 810(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to polyvinyl chloride films and sheets of thickness not exceeding 0.25 millimetres and produced other than by extrusion process from the duty of excise leviable thereon as is in excess of the amount calculated at the rate of twenty per cent *ad valorem*.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 832(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 234/79-CE dated the 20th July, 1979 upto 29th February, 1985.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 834(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendment to Notification No. 36/84-CE dated the 1st March, 1984 so as to withdraw the excise duty concession which was available on glass rods and glass tubes designed for use in the manufacture of electric lighting bulbs by small scale units whose capital investment in plant and machinery does not exceed Rupees 3 lakhs.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 835(E) published in Gazette of India dated the

29th December, 1984 together with an explanatory Memorandum seeking to invoke the provisions of section 11C of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 in regard to payment of duties of excise on Zinc ingots used in the manufacture of zinc dust which was further used in the manufacture of zinc unwrought within the factory of production, during the period commencing on the 1st August, 1976 and ending with the 12th March, 1982.

- (xxvi) G.S.R. 836(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to invoke the provisions of section 11C of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 in regard to payment of duties of excise on shells and blanks of pipes and tubes of copper used in the factory of production in the manufacture of copper pipes and tubes, exempted for certain purposes under Notification No. 169/83-CE dated the 21st June, 1983 and 292/83-CE dated the 17th December, 1983.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 837(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 34/83-CE dated the 1st March, 1983 up to 31st December, 1985.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 1251 published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 1984 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

amendment to Notification No. 201/79-CE dated the 4th June, 1979 so as to delegate to Assistant Collector, the Collector's power to permit removal and return of goods for purposes of tests, repairs refining, re-conditioning or varying out any other operation necessary for the manufacture of the goods specified in Appendix to the said notification.

[Placed in Library. *See*. No. LT-13/85]

- (8) A copy of the General Insurance (Rationalisation and Revision of Pay Scales and other Conditions) of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Amendment Scheme, 1984 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 729(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1984 issued under section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972.

[Placed in Library. *See*. No. LT-14/85]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1984 along with Audited Accounts, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.
- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1984.

[Placed in Library. *See*. No. LT-15/85]

- (10) A statement (Hindi and English versions) on the results of the market loans floated in October and December, 1984.

[Placed in Library. *See*. No. LT-16/85]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Institute of Applied Man Power Research, New Delhi for 1983-84

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 1983-84.

[Placed in Library. *See*. No. LT-17/85]

12,09 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table following five Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of Seventh Lok Sabha and assented to :—

- (1) The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (2) The University Grants Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1984.

- (3) The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (4) The Family Courts Bill, 1984.
- (5) The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1984.

2. I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, of the following nineteen Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Fifteenth Session of Seventh Lok Sabha and assented to :—

- (1) The Electricity (Supply) Amendment Bill, 1984.
- (2) The Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (3) The Multi-State Co-operative Societies Bill, 1984.
- (4) The Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (5) The Levy Sugar Price Equalisation Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (6) The Hooghly Docking and Engineering Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1984.
- (7) The Constitution (Forty-seventh Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (8) The Constitution (Forty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (9) The Bengal Immunity Company Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Bill, 1984.
- (10) The Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (11) The National Security (Second Amendment) Bill, 1984.

- (12) The Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Bill, 1984.
- (13) The Constitution (Forty-ninth Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (14) The Constitution (Fiftieth Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (15) The Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India Bill, 1984.
- (16) The Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (17) The Banking Laws) (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (18) The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- (19) The Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 1984.

- (ii) Ninety-ninth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Eighty-eighth Report on National Small Industries Corporation Ltd.
- (iii) Hundredth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Ninety-fourth Report on HMT Ltd. (Excluding Tractors Division).
- (iv) Hundred and First Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Ninety-fifth Report on Central Warehousing Corporation.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

[English]

Twenty-First Report

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table Twenty-First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions (1984-85) (Seventh Lok Sabha) on the representation regarding working and development of Kandla Free Trade Zone which was presented by the Chairman of Committee to the Speaker of the Seventh Lok Sabha on the 23rd November, 1984, before its dissolution.

12.10 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

Ninety Eighth Report, Ninety-ninth Report, Hundredth Report and Hundred and First Report

SECRETARY-GENERAL : I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings (1984-85) which were presented by the Chairman of the Committee to the Speaker of the Seventh Lok Sabha on the 19th November, 1984 before its dissolution :—

- (i) Ninety-eighth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Ninety-seventh Report on Productivity in Public Undertakings.

12.11 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

[English]

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

- 1, Shrimati Basavarajeswari

2. Shri Zainul Basher
3. Shri Sharad Shankar Dighe
4. Shri Vakkom Purushothaman
5. Shri Somnath Rath
6. Shri Nissankara Rao Venkataratnam.

This is a panel of Chairmen who will be presiding over the proceedings of the House and talking to you.

—————
**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (GENERAL), 1984-85**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : On behalf of SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1984-85.

—————
**DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(GENERAL) 1982-83**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : On behalf of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1982-83.

12.12 hrs.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (PUNJAB), 1984-85**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : On behalf of Shri Vishwanath Prarap Singh, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Punjab for 1984-85.

—————
**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1984-85**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1984-85.

—————
**DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS
(RAILWAYS), 1982-83**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of Budget (Railways) for 1982-83.

12.13 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : TRAGIC LOSS OF HUMAN AND ANIMAL LIFE AT BHOPAL AS A RESULT OF LEAKAGE OF POISONOUS GAS FROM STORAGE TANKS OF THE UNION CARBIDE FACTORY THERE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): It is with a deep sense of anguish that I rise to make this statement on the tragic accident that occurred in Bhopal on the night intervening 2nd and 3rd December, 1984 due to leakage of Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas from the factory of M/s. Union Carbide. Because of the wind direction, the gas drifted towards thickly populated areas of the city. Persons affected by the gas suffered eye irritation, cough, breathlessness, nausea and choking sensation. There was substantial loss of human and animal life. The State Government authorities took immediate action to mobilise transport and medical personnel. Medical teams were despatched for house to house visits to render, on the spot, medical first-aid and to take the affected to hospitals. Arrangements were made for free distribution of food packets and milk. On the very same day, the city water was analysed for toxicity and was declared to be safe. Scavenging teams were organised to remove the carcasses of dead animals and affected areas disinfected to prevent outbreak of epidemics. The Railway authorities took immediate action to control all incoming trains to Bhopal.

2. The Prime Minister and Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, visited Bhopal on the 4th and 5th December respectively. Experts from various disciplines, including Medical, Technical & Environmental, were immediately

rushed to Bhopal. Dr. Varadarajan, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Secretary to the Government of India, was assigned by the Government of India to coordinate all scientific efforts. A Coordination Committee was set up in the Government of India to deal with all matters arising out of the accident.

3. It was, decided, after examining various alternatives, that the safest course for neutralising the balance MIC was to convert it into the end product, i.e. Carbaryl pesticide. Elaborate precautionary measures were taken for performing this task and detailed plans were drawn up by the concerned State & Central authorities, at a very high level. All plants and equipments were got tested for reliability and necessary modifications made. Three specially equipped helicopters and two spray planes were kept ready for spraying water in the atmosphere above the factory, should the need arise. A meteorological control room was established for checking atmospheric conditions. The entire factory area was sealed off. Control rooms were set up and a hot-line tele-communication between Delhi and Bhopal and wireless system were also established. A list of dos and don'ts was also prepared for advising the public.

4. The 'Operation Faith' for neutralising MIC commenced on the morning of 16th December, 1984 when the Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh was also present in the plant and was completed by 22nd December, 1984. The transfer of MIC from the tank to the Carbaryl plant was conducted only during the day time. There was a potential danger throughout. However, on account of the untiring efforts of our scientists and the guidance given by them, the operation proved a complete success.

5. On 3rd December itself, all medical personnel from Bhopal and neighbouring districts were mobilised and 700 doctors were actively engaged in medical operations; of them 200 were brought from outside Bhopal. Eminent specia-

[Shri Veerendra Patil]

lists, including anaesthetists and ophthalmologists as also medical stores and equipments such as oxygen cylinders were also sent from Delhi. Another 1,200 paramedical staff was engaged for treating patients in 21 hospitals and dispensaries and 12 additional temporary dispensaries, round the clock. About 1,70,000 persons, including 10,700 with serious ailments were treated in and outside Bhopal.

6. Immediately after the accident, the State Government announced ex-gratia relief, the scale of which was Rs. 10,000 per deceased person, Rs. 2,000 for seriously affected individuals and upto Rs. 1,000 for those sustaining minor injuries. The distribution started from 4th December. A total sum of Rs. 100.58 lakh has so far been disbursed. The State Government are distributing foodgrains at the rate of 12 kg. per family unit per month in affected areas. This facility has also been extended to families living in Jhuggi Jhonpar-pattis. An amount of Rs. 42 lakhs has been made available in cash and another approximately Rs. 55 lakhs through supply of edible oils and sugar to the State Government from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The Government of India has released a ways and means advance of Rs. 5.00 crores to the State Government.

7. Air and plant foliage, including vegetables and fruits, were also got analysed and found to be free of any toxic contents. A multi-disciplinary team of the Department of Environment, comprising of Botanists, Zoologists, Entomologists, Soil Microbiologists and Limnologists, in coordination with state authorities, is continuing to closely monitor any possible further change in the flora and fauna, in phase.

12.17 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair*]

8. To study the symptoms and to

determined the long term effects, three teams had been sent from Indian Council of Medical Research and a team of toxicologists from Ministry of Agriculture has also been deputed to determine the long term effects on human beings.

9. The number of dead persons as ascertained so far by State Government is about 1408. The final figures are being further verified by publishing lists of these persons; the State Government have also engaged the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, along with a few other institutions of social work, to do a house to house survey for assessing casualties and other details.

10. Immediately after the accident, the District Magistrate, Bhopal passed orders under Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code to restrain the Union Carbide from carrying out further production operations. The State authorities registered a criminal case under the Indian Penal Code against the plant authorities. The investigation of this case, which was subsequently transferred to the CBI, is headed by an officer of the rank of IG and assisted by technical personnel from Government of India. The State Government have also set up a Commission of Enquiry headed by a Judge of the High Court and its terms of reference, *inter-alia*, cover investigation into the events and circumstances of the accident, the adequacy of steps taken by the factory authorities, the adequacy of safety measures and their implementation and recommendations in regard to measures for prevention of similar accidents in industries of this nature. The Inspectorate of Factories of the State has not renewed the factory licence of the factory beyond 31st December, 1984 and the factory is at present closed. The State authorities have also issued a notice under the Insecticides Act, 1968, to the Company for cancelling the manufacturing licence under the said Act.

11. The Government of India in consultation with the State Government is

133 *Statement Re : Tragic PAUSA 28, 1906 (SAKA) Statement re. payment of 134*
Loss of Human and Animal life at D.A. to Central Employees
Bhopal as a Result of leakage of and Dearness Relief to
Paisinous Gas pensioners

considering various options available for obtaining adequate compensation for the victims of the gas tragedy and recovery of expenses incurred by Government. For this purpose, a legal cell has been established in the Ministry of Law, A final decision in this regard is expected to be taken after the return of the Attorney General who has gone to USA to consult American lawyers.

12. The Ministry of Labour have advised all State administrations to undertake a thorough review of the existing rules and regulations under the Factories Act and its implementation, particularly with reference to industries using hazardous operations and processes including highly toxic substances.

13. Government have already decided to set up a special cell to make a detailed study of the practices in vogue in developed countries for dealing with hazardous substances and the institutional controls in force, to ensure safety for man and environment. Based on these studies, it will be possible to make a detailed review of the existing systems and practices to identify gaps in the prevailing legislative and institutional arrangements in our country and take suitable steps for streamlining or strengthening such arrangements.

14. Government is also considering the setting up of a National Scientific and Medical Committee for a coordinated study on the effects of toxic gas leakage on live systems and to give authoritative opinion about appropriate steps that need to be taken on the medical and scientific level.

15. I am sure all the members will join me in expressing sympathy of this House to those who have suffered from this tragedy. Immediately on assuming charge as Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, I visited Bhopal and had detailed discussions with the State Government officials. I would like to assure the House that Government is firmly resolved to take such steps as may

be necessary to avoid the recurrence of such accidents, and to ensure fair compensation for those who have been affected by the tragedy. In this immense task, I am sure that effective participation by the Members of this House, will be readily forthcoming.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : This is a tongue-in-the-cheek statement. That is why we had tabled an Adjournment Motion. I had been to Bhopal only day before yesterday and I saw what had happened. What he has said in the statement is wide of the mark..... (Interruption).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot put any question after the statement. I am not going to allow any question now.

12.22 hrs.

STATEMENT *re* : PAYMENT OF
 INSTALMENT OF DEARNESS ALLO-
 WANCE TO CENTRAL GOVERN-
 MENT EMPLOYEES AND DEARNESS
 RELIEF TO PENSIONERS INCLUDING
 FAMILY PENSIONERS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
 MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
 JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Accord-
 ing to the existing scheme payment of
 an instalment of Dearness Allowance to
 Central Government employees is
 taken up for consideration after every
 eight point increase in the 12-monthly
 average of the All India Average Con-
 sumer Price Index for Industrial Workers
 (base 1960-100). The last instalment
 of Dearness Allowance was sanctioned on
 15.9.1984 with effect from 1.6.1984
 with reference to the average index of
 552 points. Since then, payment of two
 more instalments of Dearness Allowance
 with effect from 1.8.1984 and 1.11.1984
 respectively have become due for consi-
 deration.

[Shri Janardhan Poojari]

2. Government have now decided to pay these two instalments of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees in cash along with the salary of January, 1985. Orders in this behalf will be issued by the Ministry of Finance soon.

3. Along with the payment of Dearness Allowance to the serving Central Government employees, Dearness Relief to pensioners including family pensioners is also sanctioned. Government have also decided to sanction two instalments of Dearness Relief to the pensioners with effect from 1.8.1984 and 1.11.1984. Orders in this regard will also be issued by the Ministry of Finance soon.

4. The financial burden on the Exchequer during the current year as a result of payment of two instalments of Dearness Allowance would approximately be Rs. 64.17 crores and on account of Dearness Relief to the pensioners would approximately be Rs. 7.33 crores.

12.23 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 21st January, 1985, will consist of :

1. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.
2. Consideration and passing of :
 - (a) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

(b) The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(c) The Calcutta Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provisions Bill, 1985.

3. Discussion and voting on :

(a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1984-85.

(b) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 1982-83.

(c) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1984-85.

(d) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1982-83.

(e) Supplementary Demands for Grants for the State of Punjab for 1984-85.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha :

(a) The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(b) The National Capital Region Planning Board Bill, 1985.

(c) The Sugar Undertakings (Taking Over of Management) Amendment Bill, 1985.

(d) The Gangtok Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1985.

5. Consideration and passing of the Administrative Tribunal Bill, 1985.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, I would like to suggest the following items to be included for next week's business.

- (1) Discussion on the statement by the Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers on the tragic accident in the Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal.
- (2) Discussion on the intrusion of Lankan Naval boat into Indian territory, killing Indian fishermen.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, I would like the following subject to be discussed next week.

Election law is deficient in many ways and it is the need of the hour that Parliament pays attention to it. While election procedure has been explained in the Manual and other rules there are loopholes which can jeopardise the very purpose for which the elections are held. The Election Law does not require marginal changes, but a drastic revision. The law needs to be simplified and nothing should be left to the vagaries of a returning officer or a Presiding Officer. It is very strange that no qualifications stand prescribed for appointment of a Returning Officer or a Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer carries a great responsibility, but there is no check on the appointment of people of doubtful character and incompetence as Presiding Officers.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : Sir, on a point of order. I would like to know what is going on in the House. We are discussing the List of Business for the next week, alternative proposals or additions to be made, and here the hon. Member makes a speech on the election law. I would like to know what is going on in the House. What is the order in the House? Mr. Chairman, will you kindly give a ruling? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : These submissions have been approved by the Speaker. I

am allowing the hon. Members to make them.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would like this point to be made clear as to how submissions can be made... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am not yielding. If he repeats like this... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I want this point to be made clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. The business is in order. The hon. Member is on his legs. Please resume your seat.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would like simple answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly resume your seat.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I want a simple answer; nothing else. When the List of Business for the Next Week is announced, can we make submissions?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is reading the draft which has been approved by the Speaker.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : He might have been in the Lok Sabha some years back, but this is the procedure now.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : What kind of order is it... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, why should he interrupt me? You must admonish him. He must be admonished by the Speaker. I do not know why... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have allowed you to speak.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : You admonish him for making this interruption. He must learn to... (*Interruptions*)
The next time he does it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I do not care.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has a point of order, which he raised. I have ruled it out.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : This is a draft, which has been approved by the Speaker. He does not know it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you discuss it ? Please go on.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Since he has interrupted me, I will read it afresh. This is very important.

Sir, I would like the following subject to be discussed next week :

Election law is deficient in many ways and it is need of the hour that the Parliament pays attention to it. While election procedure has been explained in the manual and other rules, there are loopholes which can jeopardise the very purpose for which the elections are held. The Election Law does not require marginal changes but a drastic revision. The law needs to be simplified and nothing should be left to the vagaries of a Returning Officer or a Presiding Officer. It is very strange that no qualifications stand prescribed for appointment of a Returning Officer or a Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer carries a great responsibility, but there is no check on the appointment of people of doubtful character and incompetence as Presiding Officers. The law does not even specifically provide that the contesting candidates can have the list of Presiding Officers before the date of polling yet the candidates have been given the right to challenge the appointment of nearest relatives of a rival candidate as Presiding Officers. The Returning Officers possess vast powers to take decisions which can

be challenged in Courts only and Election Commission itself can do nothing but watch the situation helplessly. This kind of defective law has to be scrapped.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, I want to make a submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No submission except those which have been accepted by the Speaker.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire populace of India has already recognised late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, as the 'Mother of the Nation', from the core of their hearts. The Parliament has to accept this verdict of the people. A motion to this effect may be listed for discussion in the business for the next week.

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I beg to make the following submission for inclusion in the next week's business of the House :

Very serious drought conditions in Orissa since September, 1984 had caused large-scale crop loss in 7.83 lakh hectares in 138 blocks of the State, including Bhubaneswar, Khurda and Nayagarh sub-divisions affecting and causing widespread misery to a population of over fiftyfive lakhs. Earlier, standing crops in 4.19 lakh hectares were also damaged by floods. The Central Government should come in a big way to the assistance of millions of drought-affected people of the State immediately. I urge upon the Government to include this urgent matter in the agenda for the next week's business in the House.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, I would like the following to be discussed next week :

Article 75(4) of the Constitution requires a Minister to take oath of office

and of secrecy according to the terms set out for the purpose in the 3rd Schedule.

(*Interruption*)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make statements. Read only the approved draft. That part which has not been approved will not go on record.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : This was not done in respect of the members of the Cabinet. All the Ministers jointly and collectively seem to have taken an oath, which is not in conformity with the Constitutional requirements. This would ultimately mean that the Ministers constituting the present Cabinet have not taken oath in terms of the Article 75(4), which would mean that they have no constitutional and legal authority and right to assume and perform the functions of a Minister. This House, therefore, is constrained to take the strictly legal and constitutional view of what is reported as a collective and mass scale oath taking which is neither visualised under the Constitution, nor sanctioned and approved by it.

I raise this important, grave and urgent matter of public importance inas much as the technically legally valid Government constituted as per the spirit and requirements of the Constitution is not obtaining in this country to transact the business of the Government, much more so the business of the August House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : Sir, I have listened to all the submissions made to the Chair regarding the business for the next week commencing from 21st. These are for consideration of the Business Advisory Committee. When it meets, these matters will be placed before it and they will go into that question. I will inform the Ministers concerned also.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : I did not get him, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Regarding the suggestions of everybody, the hon. Minister says that they will be discussed in the Business Advisory Committee, is that so ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Yes, Sir.

12.35 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI A.K. SEN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR
IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1984

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984.

**Not recorded.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section 2 dated 18.1.1985.

12.36 hrs.

**CALCUTTA METRO RAILWAY
(OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE)
TEMPORARY PROVISIONS BILL***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to make temporary provisions for the operation and maintenance of the Calcutta metro railway and for matters connected therewith, pending the making of regular arrangements for such operation and maintenance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make temporary provisions for the operation and maintenance of the Calcutta metro railway and for matters connected therewith, pending the making of regular arrangements for such operation and maintenance.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR
IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE
CALCUTTA METRO RAILWAY
(OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE)
TEMPORARY PROVISIONS ORDINANCE, 1984**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS SHRI BANSI LAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Calcutta Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Temporary Provisions Ordinance, 1984.

12.37 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN ; Now, Prof. Ranga will move the motion.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : May I make a suggestion that we might adjourn now and meet at 20 minutes to two O'clock ? After Lunch hour we may take up this debate in the House. We can now adjourn for one hour for Lunch and after one hour when we re-assemble, we can take up this motion.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakha patnam) : It is unusual and unheard of.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Better go on.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may go on. There are still 20 minutes to go,

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let us have a fuller House for this debate.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : You may start now and resume after the House re-assembles.

(Interruptions)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Mr. Chairman Sir, I have great pleasure in moving this motion which stands in my name.

Sir, I beg to move :

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

* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II Section 2 dated 18.1.85.

“That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 17th January, 1985.”

Sir, I would like to extend my welcome to the serried ranks of the new Members who have come into this House and I wish to express my regret that quite a large number of those old friends of ours who have made their great contribution to the debates of this House have not found it possible to come back and it is not my intention to make any invidious distinction, but I do miss specially my old friend, Indrajit Gupta, who has been in this House for a very long time and who has been making very constructive contribution to the debates of the House.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY :
Mr. Indrajit Gupta is back again. He is not in the House but he is returned to the House. Let Prof. Ranga know this.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : He is absent now. And I had missed him for the last three days I do not know what has happened I hope he would surely be able to come back to us.

Old or new, we all make one House. As it is used to be said in England where we have a mother of Parliaments, Parliament is something like a club without drinks without the other paraphrenalia which they have in the West. But that means that to whichever political Party we may belong we should settle down to become friends and develop bonhomie so that no bitterness should be caused by any temporary frayed tempers that may come to be displayed in the House and they would be able to serve the cause of the country to the best of their ability and their likes.

I am very glad indeed that the President has been able to make a very good report to the nation through his speech. On every front of our national

life, he has been able to report progress—on the international front as well as on the home front. Then, progress does not mean the achievement of all the objectives that we have placed before ourselves. There are bound to be shortfalls there and there have been some shortfalls. But nevertheless we wish to go ahead and the nation has given its approval to the manner in which the Government has been carried on at the Centre after the period of three years under the Janata rule and during the past five years also during which Indiraji was the Prime Minister that is after she was returned by the people to be the Prime Minister after her three years of life outside Parliament—I mean, outside as well as inside Parliament. You all know, how Indiraji was treated by Parliament itself. But she was such good parliamentarian, that she accepted the decision, the dictates of Parliament here and then vacated her seat. And thereafter she made her appeal to the people and was fortunate enough to come back again into power with a huge majority behind her and provided national leadership for those five years.

And now we have a new regime under the present Prime Minister and in this regime we are now exhorted not only to go along the path that has been chosen and the policy that has been adopted by Parliament during the past but also to look to the future and think of future programmes. And with regard to that, this Government has a plan and a programme placed before our Parliament which is progressive according to me and which would lead us towards prosperity also. To think of future in a bold way for a Government which is charged with the responsibility of the administration is indeed an essential duty.

But what is that future to be? Are we to be a poor country? No, Sir. Are we to be loaded and burdened with poverty all the time? No. Are we not to try our best to relieve our country from poverty as much as possible? Yes. And that is why this Government is wedded to the 20-point programme. That is why this Government is not only wedded to the

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20-point programme as it was given to us by Indiraji, but also it wishes to expand it and develop it further into new fields so that we would be able to have a more comprehensive attack on poverty.

Would poverty go within one year or within five years or within a short time? The answer has been, no. That answer has been given not only by Indiraji but also by all of us. No one would be able to get rid of poverty in such a short time through Government efforts alone. The people will have to make their own efforts also. Government will have to aid them. They will have to cooperate with one another not only at the Central level but also at the State level so that it will be possible for us to make rapid progress.

Now, if you look to the various amendments that are tabled here, you will find that the people are asking for various things which have already been taken up by the Government in regard to agriculture, in regard to removal of poverty, in regard to the improvement of rural conditions, the rural people, the urban people, the semi-urban people and various other sections of our people also. What we have been doing, as I have already said, is not enough. Therefore, I suggest that there should be a national housing policy, a national policy for the removal of slums and a national policy for the control of population which we already have but it has got to be further developed so that it would not be necessary for our cities to go on having more and more slums, ever fresh slums, as and when the people go on growing in their numbers even though earlier slums are being removed.

A herculean effort was made in Madras by the DMK Party and later on by the AIADMK Party to remove slums from the sea-side, from the Madras city. What is the result? Fresh and new slums have grown and are growing. That is the case in every other city also. Therefore, we

have got to keep these two things together, one the population control and the other the control over slums and the clearance of slums. In addition to these two things, we should also have a housing policy. If these three things are taken up together, it would be a very useful thing indeed and a very constructive attack on the problem of poverty.

We also find quite a number of amendments in regard to farmers and agriculture. The President has also told us how we have made tremendous progress in agricultural production. 150 million tonnes a year is not a small quantity. It has not been achieved till now. It has never been achieved during the whole period of planned development. We hope to improve it further.

The President has been good enough to pay a very high tribute to the spirit of enterprise, to the spirit of cooperation, and the hard work that has been contributed by our farmers. This could not have been possible if earlier proposals that came from the Planning Commission had been adopted. If the Parliament had not in its wisdom brought about a compromise between the Planning Commission's plans and the farmers' demands, this could not have been achieved. There was a time when an effort was being made to cooperativise agriculture, to collectivise agriculture, in an indirect manner. But the Parliament saw to it that it was not adopted. As a result of that compromise, more than 100 million farmers in this country are today self-employed, independent, free, owing their own small holdings, cultivating their own holdings, finding their employment there and free also to produce their foodgrains and various other crops, market them and to live their own self-employed independent lives.

That is the power of Parliament and it is to that Parliament that Indiraji had paid her homage and it is that Parliament to which all the members, new members as well as old members, have returned.

Then there are agricultural workers. We wanted minimum wages for them.

Government has adopted the policy. The legislation for minimum wages has to be implemented. The Government of India has agreed to reduce the period of enquiry from three years to one year as is the case with industrial workers also. I am happy about it. But it has got to be implemented. It can be implemented only by the State Governments. All that the Government of India can do is to land its good offices. I hope that the Government of India will be able to do that in the following years so that agricultural workers would also be protected.

Crop insurances are needed. Minimum of insurances are needed. Some efforts are being made by some states. The policy is being accepted already by the Government of India. It has got to be implemented. The initiative in this regard has to be taken by the State Governments.

Some of the State Governments like the Maharashtra Government and Bihar Government also have taken up the question of insurance for unemployment, for at least one adult member in every family. That policy has got to be universalised for the whole of India through the good offices of the Government of India. But then Government of India can only offer its good offices. The initiative has got to be taken by the State Governments and funds also will have to be found by the State Governments. Government of India can certainly help them and aid them.

Similarly, cattle insurance has got to be organised for certain sections of cattle breeders. Cattle insurance is being provided partially. But it is not universalised as yet.

Cattle insurance, crop insurance and also fire insurance has got to be implemented. So far as the cities are concerned, there is fire fighting machinery and equipment. It is true that it is not enough. Yet, it is there. But, so far as the villages are concerned, not much of a beginning has been made. This also has

got to be taken up by both the Governments, Provincial and Central.

Many of our friends have tabled here amendments in regard to more and more powers for the States. The States have got to use the powers that they have been given now, in order to provide protection in the direction that I have suggested.

There is no fire insurance for the agricultural workers. Every summer, thousands and thousands of agricultural workers' huts and hovels come to be consumed by outbreaks of fire. No protection is given. Only nominal grants are being given by the Collectors in the States in their local areas. But that does not go anywhere at all. Therefore, we want these three insurances to be taken up. For that, a national policy has got to be worked out, not by the Union Government alone but by the Union Government and by the State Governments together. They will have to work it up so that there would be proper cooperation in regard to sanction of adequate funds and coordination of work and only then these people would be protected properly.

Then there are industrial workers as well as agricultural workers. I am very glad indeed the President has paid a tribute to the industrial workers for having maintained industrial peace. The President has paid a tribute to the industrial entrepreneurs also in this regard. This has been made possible because of the acceptance of the policy of tripartite settlements and I hope it would become more and more effective and more and more universalised also. But that will not be enough. The agricultural workers also have to be protected in a similar manner through tripartite agreements. The Payment of Wages Act is not being enforced at present in regard to payment of wages so far as the agricultural workers are concerned. There are many areas in our country where the agricultural workers do not find any kind of protection from the local landlords. Even some companies are entering into the field of agriculture now and they also fail to pay the wages of the

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agricultural workers in time. Take, for instance, the sugar-cane growers themselves. They have not been paid their wages and cane prices for two to three years in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Crores and crores of rupees are in arrears. So is the case in Andhra Pradesh also. All such sectors in social life have got to be protected from all malpractices through the proper enforcement of Payment of Wages Act.

Then there are workers in cottage industry. We have adopted the policy of according protection to the workers in the cottage industry. Government of India has been paying huge sums for giving protection to the workers in cottage and khadi industries through the opening of emporia all over India for the products of cottage and khadi industries. It is good. But, at the same time, there are so many other workers also, not less than 60 million people, if not more, those who are self-employed; they sell vegetables, they carry all kinds of things. They render all kinds of services to the society as a whole, all by themselves either as individuals or as families. They have to be protected and they can be protected by the offering of easy credit to them and in various other ways also. Thought has got to be given as to how, in what manner and to what extent these people can be protected. That too has got to be taken up by the Planning Commission in a very serious manner. True, the Planning Commission has accepted the suggestion made by some of us in regard to the need for protecting the self-employed people. But, till now, they have paid attention only to those self-employed people who are highly educated, who have taken their degrees, B.A.s, M.A.s., engineers and so on. They are only a fringe, a tiny minority among the huge mass of self-employed people. Among the self-employed people, women are more in number and they have to be protected. No State Government has, so far, taken up this particular aspect of planning and removal of poverty. It is high time now for the Government of India to give leadership to all the State Governments

and help them in chalking out a concerted policy of helping these people and assisting them.

Then there is the cooperative movement; it has got to be democratised. There is the panchayat movement also; it has also got to be democratised. They have to be radically reorganized also. At present the State Governments in their sphere and the Union Government also in its own relevant sphere take power into their own hands to nominate people as Chairman, as Sarpanch. This power has to be removed. Elections are also being rigged and mismanaged. Now thought has got to be given to the plan that was suggested by me as well as Shri Jayaprakash Narayan to keep these organizations out of the control, out of the ken, of these political parties and their mutual rivalry. If you leave it to one-vote majority, there would be trouble, and there has been trouble in many States. Therefore, some thought has got to be given to the ancient practice of choosing the leader by drawing lots from out of a panel of elected members. Then there would be a marriage between democratic method as well as the ancient Indian method of drawing lots. If some effort is made in that way, we can free our villages, and our cooperatives and cooperators from the menace of factionalism, groupism, casteism and various other kinds of malignant social ills that we are suffering from.

I must pay a tribute to one good old friend of mine who also happens to be in this House, that is, Mr. Anjiah. For twelve long years we never had any elections either for panchayats or for cooperatives; during his regime elections were held for them peacefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member will continue after lunch. The House stands adjourned for lunch. We shall meet again at 2 O' clock.

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

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Three minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Ranga to continue his speech.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : I would like to add to what I have said in the morning my tribute to the Agricultural Scientists who have done their best to help our farmers to produce as much as 150 million tonnes of foodgrains during last year. They have done excellent work and I would like them further strengthened.

I have a word of warning to be given to Parliament in regard to the Planning Commission. My experience of the Planning Commission has not been uniformly happy. Not many new schemes or suggestions have ever emanated from them. There is, for instance, the question of the natural disasters that overtake this country from time to time. Almost every year, some part of the country or the other suffers either from frost or from landslides or drought or cyclones or floods and so on. Yet, till now they have not taken proper notice of the suggestion that I have made to them as well as to the FAO and other international organisations, that there should be an international insurance fund. At the national level also there should be a national insurance fund as also at the State level. Unless there is an insurance fund against these natural disasters, neither crop insurance nor a cattle insurance can succeed fully. We have to insure farmers against these pests which affect our crops from time to time. No effort has so far been made by them to prepare any such scheme. It goes to the credit of a few States like Kerala, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Bihar who

have made some experiments in this direction.

It is high time that the Planning Commission be reorganised and charged with preparing new plans for further development.

Sir, I congratulate the Government on the contribution that they have made in regard to scientific development in our country in various directions. The latest is going to be 'Anuradha'. Earlier we had 'Rohini'. Here, I think, we are first almost in the whole of Asia—possibly amongst all the non-aligned countries.

Sir, then there is a question of infrastructure. Our roads are in a bad condition. They are mainly under the control of States. The States are not playing their role as well as they should. The States have their own legislatures to control them and energise them. In addition Centre has to play its own role by encouraging them and aiding them also financially. Until and unless these roads and railways are developed especially in the North-East frontier and also in west and other backward areas it would not be possible for the fruits of our agricultural research and industrial development to reach the masses in our country.

Then there is the question of administration also. The success of all these plans depend on the efficiency, loyalty, honesty and the integrity with which administration cooperates with the Government. As you all know Cabinet ministers are there everywhere—good, bad and indifferent and excellent also—but they depend on the cooperation of these people mostly for the implementation of their plans. If today Indiraji's wonderful plans for rural development, for social development have not achieved the targets that were set by her, it is mostly because of the failure of the administration to cooperate with the Cabinet at the Centre as well as at the State level. At the same time, I would like to sound a note of warning. It is never good for any Cabinet

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to quarrel with the administration. If you quarrel with your instruments then you will not run the show. There should be cooperation and coordination between the administration on the one side and the Government on the other and that is why I welcome the new move that is being made on the inspiration of our Prime Minister to re-vamp the administration and help the administration to develop that sense of cooperation with the Government and the Cabinet.

Sir, at the same time their service conditions have got to be improved. They have to be given every possible encouragement. They should not be treated as if they are mere servants. They should not be suspected all the time. You have to take them at their word and if there are insufficient officers, then certainly take action but let us not start with suspicion and a derogatory attitude towards administration. Several States have burnt their fingers on this in the North as well as in the South. Therefore, I hope that better counsel will prevail between the Cabinet and the administration.

Sir, I wish to congratulate—although it is too late to congratulate—and I wish to pay my tribute to Indiraji for having engineered a veritable social revolution in this country. Agriculture has made progress. The workers are also being paid higher wages but it is not these things which would matter much. Our history has pushed down tens of millions of our people in our country as backward classes, as Harijans, as Tribals and other helpless people.

These people have to be given a hope, a spur. That was done by Indiraji. Earlier it was done by many social reformers right down to Anna ji and E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker there in the south. Here in the north also there were the Arya Samaj people and various, people among the Muslims. But they did not have control over administration. Indiraji came to have control over the administration for the whole of India, Wherever there was

any trouble at all against the Harijans or backward classes, wherever atrocities were perpetrated against any of these sections of the people, Indiraji was there first to rush to their aid, to give them succour and to give them encouragement. It is in that direction that a veritable revolution has been engineered in our country and it is still going on. If today 400 people have come to be returned here to this House, it is because Congress has been transformed from those days of the intellectuals; later on there were the days of the upper middle classes and then the middle classes. Now it is the proletarians of the country, rural as well as urban proletarians who were socially submerged and pulverised. These people have been awakened. Today they hail the Congress as their revolutionary champion and it is because of the revolutionary championship of the Congress that all these Members here have been able to come.

I am glad that the Prime Minister and the President have paid special attention to their needs by these various schemes that they have already inaugurated and other schemes that they propose to take up. You have got them here, NREP, RLEGP and various other things also. But then should not the people also be expected to cooperate in making these schemes a success? At one time when Jawaharlal ji was there at the head of the Government, we organised what was known as Bharat Sewak Samaj in order to get 50% contribution from the people for the construction of local roads and other communications, bridges, social development and so on. Unfortunately, not much has been done in that direction in recent years. There were the Students' Social Organisations—ACC, NCC and various other organisations also. All these have got to be encouraged and brought into the mainstream and helped to bring these depressed people into the mainstream. It is only then that we can make real progress, as much progress as we want, as much progress as is envisaged by the President.

I now come to the international question. I am sorry that the Indian ocean is

not free and peaceful. I am also sorry that there is no safety at all from the nuclear powers. Where is the guarantee of any kind of a peace for anybody? The only guarantee has been forged by the nonaligned movement. This was conceived and developed by so many of us as non-officials; it was later on developed into an international instrument, an instrument of peace by Jawaharlal ji. It has been accepted now over the whole of the world. Americans who decried it once have now accepted it, Russians who were suspicious in the beginning have now come to accept it and acclaim it. Today it is the only guarantee and its handle is placed in the hands of India. There was Indira ji's consistent leadership. Now it comes into the hands of our own present Prime Minister. They stand by this non-aligned movement. I congratulate them and I congratulate myself also and the other members of this House for having been responsible for developing the greatest instrument and weapon of peace, to assure the people of the world, for some time at least of peace on this earth and safety from that terrible weapon of nuclear power.

Finally, I wish to pay my tribute to the present Government as well as the President for being able to present here this document of triumph of their administration, of their governance, of their leadership to this country during the last five years. The evidence of it is the presence of these 400 people.

It is no good to going on cavilling at it. The people have been given the chance and choice and our friends who have been decrying our leadership in Punjab, in Assam, over the whole of India, over Sri Lanka and in the United Nations have gone to the people, to the electorate and criticised Indiraji's administration and her policy. We have also gone to the people and told them about our achievements. In the end, the people have given their judgement. That judgement is contained in this Address. It is a document of triumph and any Government in the world would be proud of the kind of progress that this country has made

during the last five years, and the testimony of this is that this Government has been able to get massive mandate from the people. My only regret is that Indiraji is not here to see how our people have acclaimed the administration, the best possible administration we have achieved during the last 35 years of independence of this country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble President has stated in his Address that 1984 was a year of crisis and of test. What else could be a greater national misfortune than the loss of our most beloved national leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi during that year.

The Session of Eighth Lok Sabha has commenced. During the Seventh Lok Sabha, the atmosphere was that of confrontation. In a Parliamentary democracy, the Opposition and the Government have a certain role to play but that role is played in an atmosphere of cooperation. The Opposition has to criticise in a constructive manner, only then Parliament is able to accomplish its objectives and discharge its fundamental duties. If we recall the atmosphere in which Indiraji was assassinated we will find that at that time talk of confrontation and secession was the order of the day. The fissiparous and antinational forces got strength from that. Indiraji repeatedly said during the last months of her life that if the nation had to march forward then we would have to uphold the fundamental principles which our great leaders in the Congress had set out before and after independence and that we would have to strengthen the unity and integrity of the country. I feel sad to say that because of the atmosphere of confrontation during the Seventh Lok Sabha, we had to face so many crisis and had also to suffer the greatest national loss. Yesterday, we saw the whole House in extreme sorrow. Today we are missing Indiraji. She is not there in her seat. Our former great leader is not with us today. It is a matter of sorrow. Some days ago we saw the whole of the nation steeped in sorrow.

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

I had the good fortune of carrying her last letter to the Seminar organised by the United Nations on the occasion of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Freedom Struggle of Namibia. It was her innermost desire to see each country free from bondage. That Seminar was held on the 31st October, the very day when she was assassinated. I was sent there and I saw that as soon as the news of her assassination reached there, not only the people of India but all the leaders in the General Assembly of the United Nations were weeping. The whole world and the humanity was engulfed in sorrow. We should bear in mind and ensure that such a crisis does not recur in our country. We chose our new leader. The whole world was astonished to find how strong the roots of democracy are in India. However, the people of our country have shown their courage. Elections were held and a new leadership emerged. Whenever our country passes through crisis, the people of our country rise to the occasion. You have seen that on such an occasion we have set an example of our democratic tradition. You have also seen what the Hon'ble President has said that after the assassination of our Prime Minister, riots occurred but our new Prime Minister, forgetting his own sorrow, tried to control the situation very firmly. Our new Prime Minister followed well the tradition of Indiraji that whenever there is sorrow, crisis, violence or riots, the Prime Minister should go there to console the people. Our new Prime Minister visited the riot-affected areas of Delhi and controlled the situation. Our nation and democratic tradition got fresh strength from this. Our democratic tradition received the greatest strength when our new leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi got unprecedented majority in this election. What is the reason behind it? our countrymen have shown that whenever internal or external forces try to weaken our country, they, forgetting their differences, become one. Many of our brethren tried to arouse the communal and regional sentiments, but the people of the country acted like a steam-roller and, setting aside everything, gave unprecedented majority

so that no one dare to weaken our country. Thus, the people of our country have voted for upholding the unity and integrity of India. We should bear this in mind that actually this was the victory of the principles of secularism of the Congress and the democratic set up it has given to the country. This has strengthened those principles of secularism on the basis of which our country is going ahead even after 35 years of independence. Under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi our nation not only became strong in economic, social and political sphere but it also achieved international prestige. That is why the people of the world mourned her death. Shrimati Indira Gandhi became the symbol of world peace. She not only wanted eradication of poverty from India but also wished India to emerge as a strong nation.

The hon'ble President has mentioned about international affairs.

In the Non-aligned Conference held in Delhi during 1983, she was made its chairperson much against her wishes. She never desired it. She wanted that the election should be unanimous and she was elected unanimously. We witnessed her remarkable achievements in the international forum during this period. Hon'ble President has also made a reference in his Address to the two major questions posing a threat to the world. One of these questions is that if the third world war breaks out it will destroy the entire world. There would not be any life left on the earth. In this situation, there is only one alternative for survival, i.e., to establish peace in the world and to avert war. Indiraji had made utmost efforts in this direction, as a result of which Delhi Declaration of the Non-aligned Meet emerged under her leadership. It is for this reason that she had been recognised as the symbol of peace in the whole world. And people want peace in the world.

Mr. Krieski, visited our country recently. He was given Nehru Award. He had also said how Indiraji had played a leading role for establishing peace in the world and averting third world war or

the atomic war in order to save the world from disaster.

Moreover, all the developing countries, may be India, China or the countries of Africa or Latin America which are making efforts for their development, need peace, as without peace no developing country can progress.

It has become a question of life and death for the developing countries that there should not be any war in the world. So far as the industrially developed countries are concerned, things like strategic convergence, national interest, global interest or balance of power also have significance but, for the developing countries peace is a question of life and death, because there can be no peace in an atmosphere of war and tension. Indiraji always emphasised it and tried to develop peaceful relations with all the neighbouring countries, so that a feeling of friendship and cooperation developed. She was of the view that the militarisation of the Indian Ocean backed by atomic arsenal was a threat to our country, and all our efforts in the direction of eradication of poverty, strengthening the country and following our national principles would be imperilled by that. She was, therefore, always worried about it. She was of the opinion that no progress could be made in the present world without peace.

Today, the international economic order and the fiscal system have taken such a shape and the condition of market has deteriorated to such an extent that howsoever we may work hard, we continue to suffer losses. Today, all the developed countries are adopting protectionistic policy, as a result of which we get less price for our exports. Indiraji always said that the tragedy with the present world was that a few people, some industrially developed countries, could spend 700 billion dollars every year on armaments but when there was the question of Seventh loan of I.D.A., when there was the question of helping the developing nations, they expressed their inability. This is not the question of soft loans. During the last session, this amount was 16 billion dollars but this year this has

been reduced to 9 billion dollars and the reason for this decrease was stated to be that the condition of the developed countries was bad and that they were unable to give 7 billion dollars more for the progress of the developing countries. This does not relate to India only, but to all the developing countries of the world. Thus, the economic order of the world has taken such a shape that the entire capital and power is concentrating in the rich and the industrially developed countries. The condition of the poor countries, developing and non-aligned countries, which are more than 100 in number, has been deteriorating. This order ought to be changed. This is the main issue today. Shrimati Indira Gandhi gave a strong leadership to the country and to the world at large. The need of the hour is that we should follow the path shown by her. Only by following that path our nation can progress.

It is a matter of pleasure and I feel proud of it that the new leadership of the new generation emerged in our country has emphasised on the one hand the need to propagate our old ideals, the principles laid down by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Indiraji, and on the other hand, regarding the problems facing the country, it has been precisely mentioned in the President's address as to what should be the priorities. His view-point is very clear. The priorities laid down clearly show what has to be done by us.

The most important thing is that there should be clean and healthy public life in this country. For the first time, the Government have said that they would introduce the anti-defection Bill in the current Session of the House. We will make efforts in the direction of electoral reforms in order to make political life clean. Even now, the defeated candidates of the opposition parties say that elections are not fair. A leader of an opposition party from Bihar has said that they would have to contest the next assembly election with unlicensed guns in their hands and that they would kill the supporters of Congress, etc., etc.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mention his name.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : I do not want to mention his name here. Such things are still being said.

Our Prime Minister has rightly said that although we have massive majority, yet we would use it in a proper way. The task before the Eighth Lok Sabha is to maintain unity of the country and to bring about its development and we would endeavour for it. He has spelt out an outline of it. He has also solicited the cooperation of the Opposition to achieve these objectives.

When we review the priorities, we will find that the solution of the problems of Punjab and Assam tops the list. The Government have made up their mind on these issues. The Government have not delayed it even for a day. A cabinet committee has been constituted in this regard and the matter is under consideration. The suggestions of the Opposition are being solicited as we have to remember one thing that in a parliamentary system if confrontation takes place then the same situation will arise which we witnessed during the previous Lok Sabha. We have to create an atmosphere of cooperation. If we work with a spirit of cooperation then each and every problem of the country can be solved.

Today, the parameter, the outline which has been put forth by us is that the unity and the integrity of the country must be maintained and strengthened and accordingly we will solve the questions of Punjab and Assam. We will take the country forward by making it strong. This is our decision.

Our country has a pluralistic society where people of different communities, castes and religions live. In India, the Congress has completed hundred years. This is the centenary year of the Congress. We have to remember those commitments for the fulfilment of which the Congress

has been striving before and after independence and the House has to complete this task.

We have to fight against communalism, casteism and regionalism. Unfortunately, a regional party has emerged. We have to change it into a national Party. First the heart will change, then the spirit will follow suit.

I am happy that the Prime Minister has laid stress on good Centre-State relations and mentioned about the federal constitution. Indiraji also used to say this. It is incontrovertible that there should be a strong Centre and there should also be strong States. If the Centre is weak, country will disintegrate, the feeling of regionalism will increase, the spirit of nationalism will get weakened, and the achievements of the Congress during the last one-hundred years for which lakhs of people sacrificed their lives will go in vain. I am happy that the members of the regional party have expressed the feeling of cooperation. The problems of Punjab and Assam cannot be solved without a sense of cooperation. If there is a sense of cooperation, then these problems will be solved. This will result in the meeting of hearts of all brethren and friends. In this way the country will become strong and march forward.

Our Prime Minister has assured a clean political system and public life. I recall that President Kennedy had said on becoming President for the first time in 1960 that he took inspiration from the idealism of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. As Prof Madhu Dandavate said yesterday, the Prime Minister would have to create in him supreme self-confidence like his mother. I may add that his programmes reflects the idealism of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. We should imbibe the idealism of Panditji which inspired President Kennedy and our generation.

In the President's Address, mention has been made about the clean political system, reforms in administrative system,

reforms in education system, priority to the social, economic and cultural development of women, encouragement to science and technology and about other things. I welcome these ideas, Today the enthusiasms generated in the people after the election should be converted into cooperative and disciplined endeavour so that the pace of development is speeded up and the country prepared to enter into the twenty first century. The Eighth Lok Sabha should also have the same objective and strive to achieve that. In the next five year we should make the foundations strong so that we may be able to take this country into the twenty-first century under the leadership of our Prime Minister. In the Eighth Lok Sabha the people have given us massive majority and we will try our best to fulfil the commitments that we have made to the people.

The Previous Government under the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi had made a commitment to give a strong Government to the people. We fulfilled it. You have seen that under the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi, the poorest people of the villages had benefited under the 20 point programme and every State had made progress. The most important thing is that today our farmer has attained self-confidence and become self-reliants. Whatever progress we are seeing in the villages is not confined to some parts of Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra but it is there in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar also. The day, the Green 'Revolution' spreads fully in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the farmers of India will be in the forefront among all the farmers of the world. Today America is the biggest exporter of agricultural produce. You imagine the day when India will also start exporting in the beginning of the twenty-first century.

Today, we have foreign exchange worth Rs. 6,000 crores. It was Re. 4,000 in the previous years. During the past years our foreign exchange position became so sound that we repaid 1.3 billion dollars out of a loan of 5.1 billion dollars which we had taken saying

that we do not require any more credit. The people were astonished when we said this. You see the report of the World Bank as well as the report on International Affairs. Those who are not our friends are also astonished at the charisma shown by the people of India. Under such conditions, we can make much progress if we cooperate with our new Prime Minister. He has encouraged new technology and changed the method of working because he is concerned about the country. He wants to take the country ahead. Indiraji also wanted to do so. Our Planning Minister Shri Narayanan is present here. He is our old friend and he knows well that we have three tasks in the seventh Plan— food, work and production. Production does not mean growth, it means productivity. Our return is not proportionate to our investment. This is a lacuna in our economic system. Today, the price of everything is going up. In comparison with the capital we invest, the ratio of input and output is declining. I am giving you one example of Steel Plant at Vizag. The Minister for Steel is not present in the House. This Plant was inaugurated by Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1970, when I was Minister for Steel. My name is also inscribed there along with Indiraji's name. Fifteen years have passed but the Vizag plant has not yet been set up. Consequently, the Plant will not prove economical on its completion. This is just one example besides many others. The Prime Minister has emphasised that every work should be completed as per schedule. There are many administrative problems. Our infrastructural programmes have also increased. Whatever programmes we draw up, whether they are related to electricity or oil, we should provide the requisite funds for them. If the requisite funds are not made available, it results in the failure of programmes. As is the case of Vizag Steel Plant, it would never prove economical, it would never earn profits because fifteen years have elapsed

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : It will never be set up ; that is why you are delaying it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : No, it will be set up.

The President also mentioned about foodgrains. During the last five years you have seen that we have become self-sufficient in this respect. You have seen that during the last five years, employment has been provided to about one crore 45 lakh families under N.R.E.P. and other programmes. Two years ago, Indiraji said two things on August 15 from Red Fort : drinking water would be made available in every village and at least one member from each family would be provided with job. Every family would have an employed member and the employment would be productive. Our new Prime Minister has adopted such working methods as have brought about speed and efficiency in our work. He has fixed accountability for every one. There would be no one, big or small, without accountability, so that he may not sit complacent. He will be accountable for his work. Especially the public sector undertakings should be made successful. A large amount of capital is invested in these undertakings and if we are not able to increase their productively and if no progress in the input and output ratio is made then the already high prices would go on increasing because we cannot produce cheaper goods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I would like to say... (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Speak about Sri Lanka.

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : You may speak about Sri Lanka, I do not have much time. However, in regard to Sri Lanka, it has been made clear that there cannot be a military solution to this problem. There should be a political solution and the refugees from Sri Lanka must go back and live there peacefully. We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of any country including Sri Lanka.

As I have already said, the Eighth Lok

Sabha is meeting after the President's Address. The country has given it a new strength. As the Prime Minister has said, we would use this massive majority to strengthen the country, to develop the country and to implement the clear-out programmes which the President has mentioned in his Address. There is a feeling that our administration should be clean and our public life should be healthy and whatever work we do, it must be done speedily and systematically with all the devotion, as we find in Japan or other countries. There is a need of national cooperation, national consensus on this issue. This Eighth Lok Sabha would become unique and historic if we get a new leadership from this Lok Sabha and a new atmosphere is created here and if it gives its consent to the policies of the Government and the programmes set out by the President. As the Prime Minister has said, we are about to enter into the 21st century and by that time our country would be strong and there would be no poor, there would be no discrimination on the basis of caste and there would be no clash between regionalism and nationalism. India would remain one and be able to eradicate poverty not only from this country, but from other countries as well. In this way, we would be able to take our country into the 21st century and for creating a clean life, we are making a beginning by bringing anti-defection Bill. We should all cooperate in this regard and the country should progress. We should try to remove poverty, there should be no unemployment. We all should live unitedly and make our country strong. All should live in cooperation with one another. We should also make use of science and technology so that the developmental work is speeded up and the differences between the rich and the poor are removed. For ensuring a socialistic set up in the country, we want cooperation from all sides.

With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members

present in the House, whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips to the Table within fifteen minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. These amendments only would be treated as moved. A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the notice board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officers at the Table without delay.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. It is a ritual for the President to address the Joint Session of the two Houses, and this ritual we have been following, because we have been following the colonial system in this country. We shall follow it, as long as this parliamentary system is there. There is no alternative.

The President in his speech has spoken of a massive mandate . . . (*Interruptions*)
If I am interrupted like this . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is better not to yield.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am saying whatever I have to say. If any member has any point, let him raise it as a point of order. Otherwise, let him keep quiet.

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI (Banaskantha) : What is meant by 'colonial system' ?

AN HON. MEMBER : You refer to dictionary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The President in his speech has said :

“The unprecedented mandate received by the ruling party under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi

shows the overwhelming concern of our people for the unity and integrity of the nation and their desire for a strong and stable Government at the Centre.”

Sir I take strong exception to this particular expression coming from the President. Of course, we know that the President does not write his speech, but I would say that the speech should be written in a manner which would be befitting the President for his Address. That has not been done in this case.

It has been stated before in this House, and I repeat it, that the ruling party today has got only a mandate of 50 per cent of the electorate. It so happens that it has got only 7 per cent more votes than it has got last time in 1980. It has got a massive majority in this House; but that massive majority does not mean a massive mandate. A confusion is sought to be created among the people that the Congress has got a massive mandate. It is nothing like that. Only 7 per cent more people have voted for it. It should go down into their Consciousness, because they seem to think they have got a massive mandate. What is more painful is the fact that the President is made to... (*Interruptions*) Because they do not have or know anything better, they are interrupting me. The President has been made to say :

“(this) shows the overwhelming concern of our people for the unity and integrity of the nation”

Does it mean that 50 per cent of the people, who have not voted for the Congress mandate, they are not for the unity of the nation and the integrity of the nation ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI : Sir, on a point of order. The hon. Member has just now said that the President was made to say. Is it in order ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is there any infringement of the rule ?

SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI: He said that the President was made to say. He cannot make a statement on the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. You take your seat

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is most regrettable that the President has been made to say by implication that 50 per cent of the electorate has voted for people who are anti-national and, therefore, these 50 per cent are people who are against national integrity and national unity. What is this kind of speech? Is it befitting for a President to say this? It may be a vote for a stable Government. It is all right and I accept the latter part — that out of the desire for a strong and stable Government the people have given 400 MPs of the Lok Sabha to the Congress (I). The Prime Minister is sitting here and in an interview to the TIME Magazine he lamented the lack of a strong Opposition. Does not this mean that what the Prime Minister has said thereby is that what the people have done by electing 400 Congress (I) people is wrong? Yes, that is what by implication he has said.

(Interruptions)

All right, you are at liberty to say what you want to say when you get a chance to speak. I am here to say what my interpretation of Prime Minister's saying is. Sir, that is one point on which I agree with Shri Rajiv Gandhi that people's will has not been reflected in this Parliament. This calls for reform of the electoral process for which we have been crying for a long time. We have been shouting for it, fighting for it, but because the Congress (I) had a majority we could never get it through. They had been able to get power previously. Now they are saying like this as if it was not a stable Government, as it was not a strong government, although Mrs. Gandhi had given that slogan in 1980 and got two-thirds majority. Was that not a strong Government? Was that not a stable government so that you say only now

when 400 people have been elected to the Congress (I).

You have a strong Government? Is that what the President means to say here. He has been made to say so. But this is wrong this is unfair and this is not befitting of Parliamentary democracy to make the President say this kind of a thing.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, I am on a point of order. You know and my learned friend also knows that no aspersion can be cast on the President of India. Only under a substantive Motion any criticism of the President of India can be done. So, while making his submission in his speech, the Member should be advised to refrain from casting an aspersion. He is a lawyer and he should know that this message has come from the Government of India. It is well known to the House and to him as well, because he is a lawyer and I suppose he knows the law, that has got to come from the President of India and the President of India works through a constitutionally elected Government which a representative Government. Therefore, any reference to President of India or any insinuation or an aspersion cast to him should be expunged from the proceedings.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, this is what the President has been made to say by the Government which is in power. I have made it very clear and there is no aspersion on the President personally.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : It is for the Chair to decide.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You listen carefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tewary Ji, please take your seat.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : If there is anything personal or individual against the President that has been said by me, please delete that.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, there is a distinction. President of India is President of India and he is not an individual.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not said anything casting aspersion on the President of India. Please take your seat.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sit down and make peace.

PROF. K K TEWARY : Sir, this elementary thing he should know.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Unfortunately these diversionary tacticts just not only derogates from the decorum of the House, but distracts the Member, who is on his legs. That is Prof. Tewary's usual tactic. Unfortunately, I am not getting protection from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you are getting full protection, Mr. Datta. Don't be afraid of that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, I have been making a point on the electoral process. We have asked for its total recasting and restructuring because in this election it has been seen how the electoral process can be abused. This election has seen it that totally incorrect and misleading allegations against the Opposition parties have been made.

15.00 hrs.

To quote one instance or I shall quote two instances--one is, it has been made to appear—I will not mention any names—by people in high authority of the Ruling Party that the Opposition Members have been supporting the Anandpur Saheb Resolution, which is totally incorrect and false. (Interruptions) Sir, so far as we, the CPI (M), are concerned, I can say on behalf of my Party that in June 1983, there was ...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. You also sit down. I am taking care of that. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)...I am on my legs. Please sit down. Allow him to speak. When you speak, you may reply to his points. Let him make his points.

[English]

Please continue.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, it only shows where the shoe pinches, Sir, it has been made to appear as if the CPI(M) also have supported this Anandpur Saheb Resolution and I say, it is totally false. I say this because in June 1983 there was a conclave of Opposition Parties meeting in Delhi which laid down the ways in which the whole Punjab problem could be solved. Sir, it is those things which the Congress went on rejecting and ultimately it is in the June 2, 1984 broadcast of Mrs. Gandhi that the same things were repeated. If this one year of procrastination had been avoided, it could have avoided the entire Punjab tragedy, it could have avoided the entire alienation of a significant community of India.

(Interruptions)

It is not a question of interruption. If you are on a point of order, say so.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tewary, he is not yielding.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : He is yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he is not yielding. Are you yielding, Mr Datta ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No,

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he is not yielding.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : At the time of conflict, the Akalis were invited ..

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tewary, you please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Tewaryji, this is not the way of debating. Please take your seat.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : This is very wrong on the part of the Member to repeatedly disturb me. Once or twice one can understand. But every time every sentence I utter he is going to disturb me.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him speak. You may reply to his points when your turn comes.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, this has been a heinous tactic, but it has succeeded because of the money power which has been brought to play in an unprecedented manner in this election. That is why...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Why should you use that here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why can't they listen ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You continue, they will listen.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Is it possible to carry on when everybody is shouting ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They think that you are yielding. This is the trouble.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : This unprecedented money power which has been brought to play in this election points to the need for an early electoral reform because money power is not only alone, but also mixed with muscle power in breaking up election meetings, in breaking up hundreds and thousands of...

(Interruptions)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : In West Bengal, the CPI (M) people have been rigging the elections.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Tewaryji, please take your seat. When your time comes you will reply. Please take your seat. This is not the way of conducting the business. When your time comes, you will reply. You are a good parliamentarian, you can reply to them. Why are you interrupting ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I am merely trying to point out...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a good parliamentarian. This is not the way. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, hon. Member is taking out his coat. What is the intention ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, he is not taking out.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, all this rigging, booth-capturing, money power

and muscle power should be done away with. There should be an electoral reform and I regret to say that the President's Address has made no mention of the electoral reforms. For five years, this Government is going to be here. There will be many more Presidential Addresses. If this is not in the plan for this year, 1985 at least let it be known whether they want to go through an electoral reform in the ensuing years before people's will is asked to be reflected through the elections. Let there be an election which will be responsive to people's will and opt an election where 50% of the people will vote 80% of the representatives.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What about Telugu Desam? Money has played there.

AN HON. MEMBER : No.

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY : That is in spite of your money power.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, the President says :

“The fair and peaceful manner in which they were held is a tribute to the democratic genius of our people”.

Unfortunately, it was not fair and peaceful. For record's sake I am saying this. We come to that later.

Sir, in my humble opinion, for formulation of such a law, a commission should be set up. A number of suggestions or electoral reforms have come from the Chief Election Commissioners—present and past—which were made from their own experience of conducting the elections. But these suggestions have not been given the serious consideration that they deserve. Nor have any processes been mooted to bring into effect such reforms so that the will of the people will be really reflected in the composition of the House.

It is the desire of every person to have a strong Government. It is as much our desire, the desire of Members in the Opposition, as is the desire of the Party in the Government. And the Prime Minister has said again and again that they will see that the Opposition is able to function properly. Unfortunately, in this President's Address, there is no mention of it at all. The President's Address has been prepared long after the election results were out. There is an unprecedented mandate of the people has been mentioned but nothing has been said as to how the Opposition, weakened as it is, is going to function. This is also an unprecedented thing. The Opposition never had so few Members as it has today. This should have found a mention that the Government is seriously considering some institutional changes in the functioning of our Parliament so that the Opposition can be effective. The Opposition is voicing the concern or the grievances of the people which the ruling Party Members are unfortunately not in a position to do.

15.09 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI
in the Chair.]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Madam, there are many economic issues mentioned in the President's Address, though they are very brief. It has been mentioned that the foodgrains production has gone up. Yes, it has gone up. But has it gone up against the trend of foodgrains production which we were experiencing for the past 10 years or 20 years? There has been a jump because there has been a stagnation previously. It does not show anything. Half-truth is sometimes worse than an untruth.

AN HON. MEMBER : What is the truth?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The truth is that we have not exceeded the trend of 2.2 per cent annual increase in

[Shri Amal Datta]

foodgrains production. That is the truth. And that truth should have been revealed in the President's Address. With a population of 700 million people—750 million by this time—we have reached the foodgrains production of 151.5 million tonnes in 1983-84 and, possibly, we are going to have a little more this year. This is a bonanza that we have got because of good successive monsoons. I do not say that the Government has no credit for that. But what is really the credit for that? We can only be properly assessed when we compare our figures with the comparable figures of other countries. Which country is comparable to India? The only country which we can think of as comparable to India is China. For the education of hon. Members, I may tell you that the foodgrains production of China with 1000 million population is 400 million tonnes. They have 1 tonne of foodgrains for every $2\frac{1}{2}$ persons whereas we have 1 tonne of foodgrains for every 5 persons. These are the comparable figures given by the World Bank, unimpeachable so far as our learned friends opposite are concerned. This is an achievement we have made after more than 35 years of Independence and the Chinese have made an achievement after 33 years of their Revolution.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is no independence there.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : At least there are no Opposition parties there.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : In China, one family has not ruled for so many years.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The credit is sought to be taken because the prices have not increased so much. The increased in whole sale price index is only 6 per cent as compared to 12 per cent last year. It is welcome. Why has it so happened? It is because we have got

two bonanzas. One is that good monsoon has given us increased foodgrains production and the other is that we have got a tremendous increase in the production of petroleum. What have we done to get an increase in petroleum production? Have we sunk new wells so that petroleum production has gone up or is it that the old wells are giving us more petroleum production what is much more than what we had expected? What we had expected at the end of the Sixth Plan was 26 million tonnes of petroleum whereas we have already got in the last year which is not over 30 million tonnes of petroleum. We have got it because the nature has been very kind to us. From the bowels of the earth more liquid gold has flowed. So, you do not take credit for that. The prices have not gone up only because of that.

Then, you have got a trade gap. It is a deflationary process to have a trade gap. It is bad for the rupee as an exchange but it is good for a deflationary process. We are able to afford it not because of what we have done in India but because other Indians with great risk to themselves are working abroad and remitting money to our country. Rs. 3000 crores are being remitted every year and we get the benefit of it. We import much more than what we export. Last year, we exported goods worth Rs. 6000 crores less than what we imported. That is why there is an inbuilt deflationary process in the trade gap that we have. It does not go to the credit of the Government. The Government has not done anything for consumer price index stabilisation, as we have been demanding time and again we must have a public distribution system for 14 essential commodities. What have they done about it? Nothing. What would it have cost the Government? It would have cost not more than Rs. 1,000 crores today. When we mooted this proposal in 1981, it would have cost the Government Rs. 600 crores. That they did not pay. They were not willing to pay that subsidy for public distribution system in respect of 14 essential goods. But they have paid subsidy to those who can enrich themselves at the cost of the public exchequer, at the cost of the

money which has been taken, 90% of it has been taken by indirect taxation from the poor people! Rs. 3,000 crores are given as subsidy to traders, to exporters, who are necessarily the wealthy people and necessarily the supporters of the ruling party. This is the state of the Indian economy and that is not reflected in the Presidential address.

Credit has been sought to be taken. Foreign exchange SDR drawings from IMF have been given up. I do not understand why they were given up. What is the purpose of taking credits in this respect? First, we surrender to humiliating terms to IMF in order to get 500 million SDR credit which is around Rs. 5,000 crores, I understand. It will be more now, because the dollar rate has gone up. What we have done is that because we have got the oil, about which we did not know, in 1981 when we entered into this humiliating agreement, surrendering the very ingredients of sovereignty, the powers of our Government to determine what should be the policy of the Government, how they will deal with the labour, what concessions they will make or not make. Everything was surrendered to get into that agreement, to get 5 billion SDRs from the IMF. But now that we got the oil and we got a good monsoon, we are in a position to surrender and the Members who have just spoken have taken great credit for that. Well, President, has made a remote on that! Very good! We were in a position to do so. But why? That has not been explained here. I have just explained that the reason is nature's bonanza and not because what our Government can take credit for.

What happens to our agriculture? Where is the mention of agriculture here? How much has been done for agriculture in this country on which 70% of our people depend? What has been done to bring the additional irrigation potential into being? What has been done to see that it is utilised? What has been done to see that the land is equitably distributed? Even today, 6 million

hectares of land, as calculated by National Sample Survey, remains to be taken away from the landlords and to be redistributed. It is 6 million hectares of land in the whole country! Only two States have implemented the land reforms, West Bengal and Tripura, the two Left-front Government States. It is for everybody to see this. It is mentioned even in the report of the Planning Commission. It is admitted. There is no quarrel about that. What is the Government to do in future to see that the new agricultural techniques introduced are not introduced in such a way that they give rise to more inequity in the country as it is done in Punjab? Nothing has been said about that. There is no commitment in this whole Document.

My learned friend Mr. Bhagat has said about the commitment to socialism and that our country will progress towards socialism. But what is there about socialism in this President's speech? What is the commitment to more equality, not to talk of socialism? This society must move towards more equality. And what has been stated in this Document to say that there is a resolve, there is a commitment in the Government to move towards more equality, both in the industrial sphere as well as in the agricultural sphere? There is nothing.

This document only records certain events which have happened and gives certain subjective interpretations...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has been allotted 30 minutes. He may try to conclude as early as possible.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Only 13 minutes are left for the government business to be over for the day. You give me those ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to conclude.

SRI AMAL DATTA : Certain rural-development measures have been mentioned here. What is mentioned is that

[Shri Amal Datta]

so many families have been brought within the scope of NREP, RLEGP, etc. but what benefit has accrued to these families? Has any benefit accrued to these families at all or has the benefit gone only to the bankers, contractors and those middlemen between the people and the Government? There is no assessment of the projects which the Government have undertaken. There is nothing about the amount of money which has gone for the benefit of these 14.5 million people who are said to be covered by these Programmes.

There is no mention, I am afraid, about the great sickness which is prevailing in the industrial world. We, who come from West Bengal, know that there is sickness in the industry. Rather than opening new industries and giving new opportunities of employment, the existing industries are being closed down every day. This is a by-product or the direct product of the Government's own policies of not updating the technology in time, of not investing. Government has taken over the management of the industry, but they have not invested a single pie to see that the required repairs to machinery are carried out. This is something which concerns the entire nation because 500 big factories and 60,000 small and medium-sized factories are closed today in the whole of India. This may not concern many of the Members opposite, but this does concern us. Something should have been said about what is going to be the government policy about industrial sickness because so far it has been declared that the Government is not going to support sick industries any more. They were going to close down even by 31st January. I hope they are going to extend the time to see whether nationalisation is possible. You must nationalise them for the protection of the employment of those workers who are already employed. You must see that those areas which are already industrialised do not suffer from any lack of funds from which they have been made to suffer for the last 10 or 20 years.

Some tears have been shed for the

textile industry. It is very good that the Government is concerned with the textile industry. But here again I am told by government circles that jute is not to be given any encouragement. There are jute industries closed and sick which are waiting for nationalisation for years two or three or four years. But the Government has refused to nationalise them. Even if the State Government wants to nationalise, they are not approving of nationalisation. Crocodile tears are being shed only for a section of the textile industry, namely, the cotton textiles, but all the textile industry is not being included which should have been.

Coming to the foreign policy of the Government, this Government has stated through the President's Address that "our friendly relations and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries continue to develop. That is all right because we know that the Soviet Union has helped us in the past, the Soviet Union has seen us through very bad times. But in paragraph 31 they say:

"We welcome the increasing cooperation in economic, scientific, culture and educational fields with the United States of America."

Why is there the need for increasing cooperation? Is it because we did not have any cooperation before? Or, why this sudden spurt in your desire for increased cooperation? Do we not know what game the United States of America is playing in the whole of the world and *vis-a-vis* India? Prof. Ranga, the Mover of this Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address, has stated that the Indian Ocean is no longer a zone of peace and he is disturbed by that. Who is the cause for the Indian Ocean not remaining a zone of peace? Is it not the United States? Why does the Government of India not have the courage to name the United States as the country responsible for militarisation of the Indian Ocean? We have heard of foreign hands trying to destabilise this

country. Many times not only in this House but also outside mention has been made of foreign hands in relation to Assam and Punjab. What has happened to those foreign hands ?

They are not mentioned here. The Government of India has not mentioned to whom these hands belong. This was a fitting occasion to mention—when the destabilisation process initiated by these foreign hands culminated in a national tragedy. The consequence of the national tragedy has been an unprecedented majority for the ruling Party and, therefore, “a strong and stable Government”. That “strong and stable Government” should have had the courage to mention who were the owners of these foreign hands, who tried to destabilise the country, who are making the Indian Ocean not a zone of peace but are militarising it. This courage is lacking in this strong and stable Government”. The relations with the Soviet Union will continue to grow. But which will develop faster ? Indications are there already for those who can see that our country is going to veer a new course, a new course of allying itself with the imperialists. That is the course which has been charted out by my friends in the ruling Party.

A period of 35 years after independence is not a very long period in a nation's history. But the country has not developed to the extent it was desired. I am not saying that it has not developed at all. I am only saying that the desired development has not taken place, the desired harmonious relationship and integration in the nation has not taken place. So, the country has to be alert that those who want to destabilise other countries taking advantage of their poverty, their diversity, their lack of integration, are not given a handle to disintegrate the country. That alertness, I am afraid, is not there. It is necessary that all of us should be alert. We on this side are alert, but we want you also to be alert, and the people must be made alert. That has never been done in this country. We have seen in Mrs. Indira Gandhi a great champion in the world theatre for

world peace, for ban of nuclear arms, for nuclear freeze and so on. But have the Indian people been made conscious of the apprehension of nuclear war, of what is happening in the Indian Ocean ? The Indian people have not been made a party to this particular desire, they have not been brought into any movement. They are not conscious even today from where the threat is coming. This is something which should have been done. But still there is time. That is why I am administering this warning to those friends sitting on the ruling Benches that they must not let the whole thing slip away from their grip, from the grip of their Party and the Government.

They must make the entire people of India a party to these movements to contain the imperialists, to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and to get nuclear peace declared among the nations who desired peace in the world. This is not something to be played upon in the theatre by inviting some world leaders. I think, this is something which has to be done in the streets of the country, in the villages, in the fields and all the people of India must be a party to this movement.

With this I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Sir, I beg to move :—

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any plan suggesting that the State Governments be given by the union government share of the revenues keeping in view their development needs” (1)

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

“but regret that there is neither any

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

mention in the Address that the right to work will be made a fundamental right nor any indication that the unemployed will get unemployment allowance within a prescribed period till they get proper employment." (2)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the Government's failure to remove enormous difficulties being faced by the general public, as a result of the rapid increase in prices of essential commodities." (3)

That at the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any relief to the pensioners in view of the decreasing value of the rupee. (4)"

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the failure of the Government in checking the increasing unemployment." (5)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any schemes to guarantee proportional return for agricultural produce against the cost of production and residential accommodation, medical facilities and living wage to the workers" (6)

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

"but regret that the Address does not

mention about the need for appointment of a tribunal headed by a Judge of Supreme Court for impartial inquiry into the violent riots, which took place in Delhi and other parts of the country following the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi as a result of which there is a sense of insecurity among the riot victims." (7)

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

"but regret there is no mention in the Address about the incidents of attack on opposition leaders by anti-social elements and their release on bail during the recent Lok Sabha elections and also the effective steps to check such type of growing terrorism in politics." (8)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the need to check the misuse of A.I.R. and Door-darshan particularly during elections." (9)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is neither any mention of the difficulties caused to the general public on account of salestax nor any assurance to abolish the sales-tax within a fixed period." (10)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the fact that the number of persons living below the poverty line has been increasing every year during the last Five Year Plan period." (11)

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

“but regret that the Address makes no mention about the non-increase in the earnings of Railways in terms of goods and passenger traffic in proportion to the investment made in the Railways by the Government during the last 25 years.” (12)

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

“but regret that the Address makes no mention about the illeffects of increasing money power in the elections and need to check the use of unlimited money by parties in the name of election campaign.” (13)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is neither any mention of the defect in our present election process nor any indication of any action to remove there being no direct nexus between the percentage of votes polled and the number of seats won by political parties in Parliament or State Legislatures and hence lack of proper representation of public opinion in the Houses ” (14)

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

“but regret that the Address shows no concern over the disappointing results of the sports policy of the Government.” (15)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the

following be added, namely :—

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to check the erosion of top soil in different hilly areas of the country including Darjeeling hill.” (16)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to include Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.” (17)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to grant regional autonomy for the Nepali speaking people in three hill sub-divisions of the district of Darjeeling within the State of West Bengal.” (18)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for providing more central assistance for overall development of hill areas in the district of Darjeeling.” (19)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to develop tourism in the district of Darjeeling which is one of the most beautiful tourist areas in the world.” (20)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of

the Government to take over the closed and sick tea plantations in all the tea-growing States.”(21)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to provide excise rebate to the small tea producers in West Bengal.” (22)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to relax the restrictions on foreign tourists the district of Darjeeling.”(23)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to set up a Sainik School in Darjeeling.” (24)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to enforce labour legislation awards and tripartite agreements in the interest of the working class.”(25)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to ensure strict enforcement of provisions of the Provident Fund Act and schemes framed thereunder in the interest of the workers.” (26)

That at the end of the motion, the

following be added, namely :—

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to solve the problem of reservation of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.” (27)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to set up a television centre at Siliguri.” (28)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to expand the All India Radio Station at Kurseong.”(29)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to introduce a direct train from New Jalpaiguri to New Delhi.” (30)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to introduce a super fast train from New Jalpaiguri to Calcutta.” (31)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to seal the border with Bangladesh and save the people of border areas like Islampur, Chopra and other parts of

West Dinajpur district in West Bengal from the atrocities and plundering by the anti-social elements coming from across the border." (32)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to set up a number of small scale industries in the backward district of Darjeeling." (33)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to set up tannery, jute and sugar industries in the backward areas of Islampur and Chopra in the district of West Dinajpur in West Bengal." (34)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY (Adilabad) : I beg to move :

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the severe drought conditions in several parts of Andhra Pradesh and the need to extend massive financial aid to the State to meet the relief operation in progress." (36)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the failure to clear Telugu Ganga canals in Andhra Pradesh to pass through the Reserve Forests." (37)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the

following be *added*, namely :

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of Government to provide for a long term famine eradication programme in the chronic drought affected areas in the country." (40)

SHRI DEVINENI NARAYANA-SWAMY (Anantapur) : I beg to move :

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the need for any relief measures for rural workers on account of unprecedented drought in 190 *Talukas* of Andhra Pradesh particularly in Rayalseema district." (42)

DR. SARADISH ROY (Bolapur) : I beg to move :

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government in taking effective steps to minimise accidents in coal mines." (50)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to consult all Central Trade Unions and standing Labour Committees before bringing any labour legislation for enactment." (51)

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

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

formulating uniform policy for giving loans to the people of rural areas by nationalised banks." (52)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to reduce the interest rates on loans given to marginal farmers and share-croppers." (53)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to bring down the prices of steel and cement." (54)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to protect the handloom weavers of the country." (55)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the equitable distribution of river waters for irrigation purposes among various States." (56)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address regarding the threat to the integrity of the country from increasing communal and caste feelings and the steps taken to tackle the menace." (57)

That at the end of the motion, the

following be *added*, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure to implement the land ceiling laws." (58)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure to end the vast disparity in the prices of agricultural commodities and industrial products." (59)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to enact a central legislation for agricultural workers." (60)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to provide house—sites to the landless poor and necessary financial assistance to construct houses." (61)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the clear and firm policy of the Government regarding nationalisation of industries." (62)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the widespread pollution of drinking water sources endangering public health." (63)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the declaration of Sundarban as a backward area.” (64)

That the end of the motion, the following be *added*, namely :

“but regret that there is no mention about the tendency continuing since long to argue that candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes are not having minimum efficiency or competency to fill the quota as prescribed in the different Government departments and Undertakings excepting a few in the lower grade services.” (65)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to issue a circular to the Government Departments and undertakings to fill up the backlog in recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.” (66)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address regarding the punitive steps for deliberate violation of reservation order for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.” (67)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to grant regional autonomy to the

Nepali speaking people in three hill sub-divisions of the district of Darjeeling within the State of West Bengal.” (68)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for providing more central assistance for the development of hill areas in the district of Darjeeling.” (69)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to develop tourism in the district of Darjeeling which is one of the most beautiful tourist areas in the World.” (70)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to undertake concrete measures to revamp and rejuvenate the tea industry in the tea district of Darjeeling.” (71)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to takeover the closed and sick tea plantations in all the tea growing States.” (72)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to provide excise rebate to the small tea producers in West Bengal” (73)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for providing minimum wage to the agricultural labourers throughout the country.” (74)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to provide pension to agricultural labourers, widows and disabled persons.” (75)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for exempting the poor and marginal farmers, bargadars and agricultural workers from the payment of agricultural and other government loans and interest on co-operative loans throughout the country.” (76)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure to check the falling moral standards in public life.” (77)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure to put curbs on consumption by rich.” (78)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is

no mention about the failure to devote adequate attention to the conditions of the rural poor and the hardships of small farmers and of agricultural labourers.”

(79)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the programme for provision of drinking water, as well as rural health and education for all at a faster rate.” (80)

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

“but regret that the Address fails to mention about systematic killings of Harijans by the rich upper castes in U.P. and Bihar” (81)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the inability of the Government to remove the lacunae in the enactments relating to rape, dowry death, atrocities on Harijans and other weaker sections of the population, labour laws and laws relating to hoarders and profiteers.” (82)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the stench of corruption which pervades the administration and the wheels of industry stop moving because of inefficient management, bureaucratic attitude and corruption.” (83)

That at the end of the motion, the following be *added*, namely ;

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the curtail-

ment of the State Governments' powers." (84)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the discriminatory attitude in regard to the allocation of funds to the non-Congress (I) States." (85)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to condemn surveillance of innocent citizens by the intelligence agencies through tapping of telephones, censoring of their letters." (86)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to condemn the discriminatory attitude of the Government towards the people of West Bengal and Tripura so far as Central Services are concerned." (87)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the blatant misuse of the official media like All India Radio and Doordarshan in the General Election in December, 1984." (88)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the increasing indebtedness of the country." (89)

That at the end of the motion, the

following be *added*, namely :—

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the fact that the fruits of the development are beyond the reach of a large section of population." (90)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the failure of the Government to evolve a policy to eradicate mass illiteracy from the Country." (91)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the undemocratic management of the educational institutions in the country and the steps the Government propose to take to do away with the undemocratic private management of the educational institutions." (92)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for the democratisation of the University Acts." (93)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to fight all obscurantist, communal and undemocratic ideas in the field of education." (94)

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

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

inclusion of Nepali Maithili, Manipuri and Dogri languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution." (95)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about meagre rural health and educational facilities available in the rural areas." (96)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to note the Central Government's discrimination against West Bengal and Tripura with regard to release of foodgrains and other essential articles." (97)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government in checking the recurrence of flood havoc in the country." (98)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the need for adequate financial help to the States which are affected by the drought, flood and other natural calamities." (99)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to mention the increasing insecurity in rail travel." (100)

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

"but regret that the Address fails to mention the increasing rail accidents and derailments." (101)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the fact that the countryside is still outside the purview of the public distribution system." (102)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the prevailing bonded labour system in the country." (103)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the child labour system prevailing in the country." (104)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to give land/property rights to refugees from earsthwhile East Pakistan now settled in various parts of the country." (105)

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

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to locate one of the proposed units of the Bharat Electronics Limited in West Bengal." (106)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to have a policy of national minimum wage.” (107)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the threat being posed to the peace and security of the world by the U.S.A. due to its policy of heavy militarisation.” (108)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the growing pressure from the multinationals for a free run of the underdeveloped countries so that neo-colonialism gets back what old colonialism lost.” (109)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the genuine help rendered to India by the Socialist countries” (110)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the US naval base in Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean which is a constant threat to the security of the literal States.” (111)

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

“but regret that in the Address there

is no mention about the rapidly deteriorating international situation and the danger of war due to imperialists pursuing of their policy of arms build-up, stationing new and powerful nuclear missiles in Europe, policing of Gulf area and the Indian Ocean with the expansion of existing bases like the nuclearised Diego Garcia and setting up of new bases.” (112)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the arming of Pakistan with lethal weapons by the United States of America and the resultant threat to the country's security.” (113)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the continuance of U.S and Pakistan hostility and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.” (114)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the US war cries and resultant danger to world peace and security.” (115)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to nationalise all the foreign assets in the country.” (116)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is

no mention about the failure of the Government to nationalise the monopoly holdings of our country." (117)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the increasing impoverisation of the rural masses." (118)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need-based wage policy in India." (119)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about need for radical land reforms in the interest of the peasants and agricultural labourers." (120)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to curb the monopolists and foreign multinationals in the country." (121)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the fact that the Government is giving further concessions to the monopolists and multinationals." (122)

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

"but regret that in the Address there

is no mention about the deteriorating economic situation in the country where the rate of inflation is increasing day by day resulting in steep rise in the prices of essential commodities." (123)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the all round attack on the living standards of the people through increased taxation and attacks on the wages of the workers and employees." (124)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about need for the abolition of contract labour system in the country." (125)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the Government's failure to ensure equal pay and facilities for working women." (126)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure to reach the goals of *per capita* minimum income and *per capita* minimum availability of many essential commodities to majority of the population in the country." (127)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the Govern-

ment's failure to stand up to the expectations aroused in the early years of planning," (128)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the conspicuous consumption by the affluent and miserable living conditions of the vast majority of the common people," (129)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the mounting unemployment in the country," (130)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the increasing trend of under-employment in the country," (131)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the inability of the Government to amend the Constitution to make right to work a fundamental right." (132)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the increasing atrocities on women in the country," (133)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the increas-

ing atrocities on the Harijans minorities and other weaker sections of the population in States like Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra." (134)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention of the oppression of tribals by non-tribals in the tribal belts." (135)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the increasing menace of dowry and dowry deaths in the country." (136)

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

"but regret that the Address failed to condemn the incidents of increasing rape by policemen and other law enforcing forces." (137)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to release money to the different States for the year 1984-85 as recommended by the Eighth Finance Commission." (138)

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

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for setting up a Petro-chemical complex at Haldia in West Bengal which the people of West Bengal are demanding since long." (139)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for setting up of a ship repairing yard in West Bengal.” (140)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for setting up of a ship building complex at Haldia in West Bengal.” (141)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for setting up of an electronic unit in West Bengal.” (142)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention a but the need for expansion and modernisation of the Durgapur Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur and HISCO, Burnpur and Kulti Works.” (143)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the delay in the part of the Central Government to clear the West Bengal Government's proposal to set up new Power unit in the State.” (144)

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

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

setting up of a IDPL's unit in West Bengal.” (145)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for reopening of closed industrial units in West Bengal by nationalising these units.” (146)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention that unemployment allowance would be given to the unemployed persons till they get job.” (147)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention that the post of Governor will be abolished and alternative institutional arrangements made for maintaining channels of communication between the Union and the States.” (148)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention that the subject of education would be reverted into the State List.” (149)

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

“but regret that the Address fails to mention that there is need for special grants for universities which the States cannot need.” (150)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is

no mention about the need for deletion of the Concurrent List and the transfer of each of the items covered by it to the State List ; (b) need for deletion of article 248 and introduction of an explicit provision so that the residuary powers vest with the States and not with the Union ; (c) need for deletion of, or amendments to, articles 249, 252 and 254 so that no State could be deprived of any legislative powers which belong to it without its prior concurrence, (d) need for deletion of articles 200 and 201 in their present form, and making it obligatory on the part of the Governor to give assent to all bills passed by the State Legislature on items belonging to the State List.” (151)

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

“but regret that the Address fails to mention that the articles 247 to 254 would be so amended that the Union Government’s power to legislate on items belonging to the State List do not exceed beyond a period of six months.” (152)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention that the State Governments would be allowed parallel jurisdiction over radio and television.” (153)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention that the planning would be decentralised right up to the village level.” (154)

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

“but regret that the Address fails to

mention that the objectives as adumbrated in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951 would be re-defined, and the responsibility for overall planning and licensing of industries would be transferred to the States.” (155)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for setting up of a nuclear plant in West Bengal.” (156)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for introduction of a super fast train between New Delhi and Hawrah.” (157)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for extension of suburban facilities upto Asansol, West Bengal.” (158)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for introduction of EMU coaches between Asansol and Burdwan.” (159)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for construction of a new railway line between Raniganj to Bankura via Mejia.” (160)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for electrification of Bandel-Katwa line and the construction of double line between Bandel and Katwa.” (161)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for setting up of a HMT unit in West Bengal.” (162)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the per capita availability of many essential articles which far short of the goals set for the Government in the early years of planning.” (163)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the large number of bills passed by the West Bengal Assembly which are pending with the Central Government for Presidential assent since long.” (164)

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

“but target that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to curb the activities of notorious bootleggers in the capital.” (165)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is

no mention about the mining accidents resulting in death of several hundred mine workers.” (166)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to acquire surplus land in the country and distribute the land to the landless labourers.” (167)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the increasing number of rail accidents in the country.” (168)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about minimum wage to be introduced for working people.” (169)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to carry out the directive principles in the Constitution as embodied in articles 38, 39 and 40 to 50 in Part IV of the Constitution.” (170)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to guarantee the trade unions their right of collective bargaining and trade union rights without any discrimination.” (171)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to set up a Committee consisting of sitting judges of High Courts to rectify the existing erroneous working class consumer price index.” (172)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the mismanagement and mal-administration in industrial units taken over by the Government.” (173)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the unprecedented use of money power during the Lok Sabha General elections in 1984.” (174)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the U.S. imperialism which is trying to distabilise India though its nefarious activities of aiding and encouraging secessionist forces within the country.” (175)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention of U.S. imperialism which is trying to encircle India by establishing military bases around our country and by supplying sophisticated arms to the regimes hostile to democracy.” (176)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to nationalise foreign capital in the country in order to build a strong self reliant economy.” (177)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the root causes which harm the unity and integrity of the country and failure to define the ways to root them out ” (178)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to immediately implement compulsory and universal school education in the country.” (179)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the unequivocal condemnation of multinational companies which produce harmful materials and their utter neglect of all safety laws that led to the disaster as recently happened in Bhopal gas tragedy.” (180)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the sinister role played by the multinationals in the third world by passing on their discarded technologies.” (181)

That at the end of the motion, the

following be *added*, namely :

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need for abandonment of the Government’s present policy of wooing the multinationals,” (182)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to take immediate review of the safety systems in all the potentially hazardous plants in the country after the Bhopal tragedy.” (183)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the Government’s deep concern over the reported visit of a number of chemical war experts from USA, West Germany, U.K. to Bhopal in view of the spiralling chemical arms race by these countries providing them an opportunity to evaluate the potential of MIC in such warfare.” (184)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to hold proceedings of the Enquiry Commission on Bhopal tragedy in public and need for the report being made public without delay.” (185)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the failure of the Government to take long term investigation measures on

Bhopal tragedy with a view to alleviating the obnoxious effects.” (186)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO (Vijaywada) : I beg to move :

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

“but regret that the Address does not mention the need for giving remunerative prices to the agriculturists and the need to maintain parity between the prices of agricultural produce and industrial products and inputs.” (187)

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

“but regret that the Address does not mention any measures to construct a nuclear power plant near Nagarjuna Sagar Project which will be highly useful to all the Southern States.” (188)

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

“but regret that the Address does not mention the necessity of a radical change in the policies adopted by the Government hitherto and give agricultural top-most priority, small and cottage industries, second priority and big industries third priority to reduce economic disparities and to provide more employment opportunities.” (189)

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

“but regret that the Address does not take note that even now more than thirty crores of people are below the poverty-line.” (190)

That at the end of the motion, the

following be *added*, namely :

“but regret that the Address does not take note that even now more than sixty per cent of the people are illiterate.” (191)

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

“but regret that the Address does not contain any assurance that the poor people will get rice at rupees two per kg. to enable the family to have meal at least once in a day.” (192)

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

“but regret that the Address does not suggest any measures to help the poor people to get cloth at a cheap price within his reach.” (193)

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

“but regret that the Address does not mention the necessity to decentralise some powers of Union Government so that the State Governments can play bigger role in the development of States.” (194)

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : I beg to move :

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the failure of the Government to take appropriate measures at proper time to avoid sickness in textiles industry in the country and taking appropriate stern measures against mill-owners who have misappropriated crores of rupees rendering lakhs of workers jobless.” (247)

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

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address that in spite of implementation of six development plans and spending huge amounts for alleviation of poverty there is marginal alleviation of poverty and fifty per cent population is still living below poverty line.” (248)

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move :

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

“but regret that in the Address, there is no mention of the failure of the Government to take adequate precautionary measure to protect the life of the late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi even though she herself declared on more than one occasion and more specially in her last address in Orissa that there was a threat and danger to her life.” (255)

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

“but regret that in the Address there is no mention of 330 million persons living below the poverty line and the ever increasing problem of unemployment and steep rise in prices.” (256)

15.31 hrs,

RESOLUTION RE : MEASURES TO ERADICATE POVERTY

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we proceed with the Private Members' Business.

[Mr. Chairman]

Before we take up the Resolution of Professor Madhu Dandavate, we have to fix time for this Resolution. Let us fix two hours to start with.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Madam Chairman, I beg to move :

“That this House expresses its concern over the failure of the Government to lift vast sections of the masses above the poverty line and demands concrete measures to eradicate poverty from the country.)”

Madam Chairman, for a country like India—a developing country—the problem of priorities is of extreme importance. In a country like ours huge expenditure on expensive Asiad or five star hotels or huge tourist centres or colour TV or for that matter on metro railway cannot be a priority in this land of Gandhiji. Eradication of poverty and the necessary developmental projects which will assist this process are really speaking the priorities. Our concern for eradication of poverty from five lakh villages in the country and also the poverty of the urban poor—that has to be the priority and looking from that point of view all the policies need to be re-oriented.

Madam Chairman, permit me to say that in a country like India in the developmental projects what we find is that more and more people are going below the poverty line. I think those who live below the poverty line can be described as orphans of our development and we have too many orphans of development in our country and that is the tragedy of our country.

While analysing the entire problem of poverty and taking cognizance as to how the problem of poverty is being tackled and what type of new projects and new development schemes are required let us first start with the very concept of poverty.

How do we define poverty? There are various ways in which ‘poverty’ has been defined in different countries but as far as our country is concerned even the existing Planning Commission has accepted a certain connotation of poverty line and during this discussion I would like to proceed on that basis.

According to the Planning all the persons who are not able to have in rural areas consumption of calories of the order of 2400 or those inhabitants of the urban areas who are not able to have consumption of 2100 calories, they are supposed to be the people living below the poverty line. That is the old concept and the present Planning Commission has already accepted this concept. This is in terms of calories.

If we try to have it in terms of income equivalent on the basis of 1979-80 prices it will come to Rs. 76 per capita per month in the rural areas, Remember, 76 per capita per month in the rural areas and Rs. 88 per capita per month in the Urban areas. These are supposed to be income equivalents of poverty line.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : It is 65 and 75.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am quoting the figures from the Economic and Political weekly in which the Advisor to the Perspective Planning Division of the Planning Commission under his own signature has given this figure.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is the Sixth Plan Document. In rural areas it is 65 and in Urban areas it is 75. Price base is 1970-71.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Anyway, I am proceeding on the basis of my own conclusions drawn from the documents which are on the basis of certain articles written and signed by certain individuals. If you come to the equivalent of 1983 prices in that case it is

Rs.108 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 130 per capita per month in urban areas. These have been calculated on the basis of a packet which contains bare requirements of food and certain non-food requirements. They are taken together and on the basis of that the entire packet has been worked out. If you accept this as 3 concept and as definition of poverty line it is interesting to note what are the dimensions of poverty in this country. The dimensions of poverty also can be explained on the basis of available data.

I will not speak without reference. I would like to place before the House as far as possible authentic information. Here I have the Economic and Political Weekly of April, 1984. There is an article by Shri S.P. Guha, Adviser, Perspective Planning Division of the Planning Commission. I quote those figures. What is the exact estimate of people living below poverty line? Of course there are varying estimates. But I would like to stick to those estimates which are acceptable to Mr Guha who is Adviser to the Perspective Planning Division of the Planning Commission. In 1961 it is estimated that 240 million persons lived below the poverty line. In 1978 the estimate which was prepared mentions that 309 millions lived below poverty line. Of course there is one more estimate. Enough documents are not available. But some research scientists have worked on that. Their estimate is this. In 1978 not 309 millions lived below poverty line but 370 millions. So the two probable figures available are 309 or 370 millions. The same author gives this figure. The annual increase in the number below poverty line is 3.6 million persons per year. Of course it takes cognisance of the fact that some persons who were below poverty line were lifted due to various anti-poverty measures taken by Government. At the same time because of renewed unemployment or because certain productive assets have not been made available in rural and urban areas certain new sections are driven below poverty line. If you take the aggregate number it is estimated that on an average the annual increase in the number

below the poverty line is 3.7 million persons per year. Roughly we can say that each year that passes adds to the persons below the poverty line an addition of 307 millions persons. If that is the proposition what is the poverty ratio? An important indicator of poverty is the ratio of number of people living below poverty line divided by the country's total population. Here we find that poverty ratio turns out to be 46.45 per cent on the basis of earlier estimates. If the subsequent estimate of 370 million is taken as correct, then what happens is this.

In that case the higher estimate on poverty ratio appears to be 56.6%. A simple meaning of these facts is that either 46.45% of India's population lives below the poverty line or 56.6% of India's population lives below the poverty line.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : But according to the mid-term appraisal, it is only 42%. It is according to the Planning Commission's Sixth Plan document. Earlier it was 50%.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) ; Perhaps it suits him to quote, like this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Yes but while replying you can lift some people above the poverty line. The figures that has been given by the hon. Minister, that is, 42% is also bad enough as far as the poverty is concerned. Then again, in 2000A.D. if you project these figures, it is estimated that 394 millions will be living below the poverty line, a disastrous picture. Of course, it is not always proper to mechanically project the same figures into the future. But after all, in economics the method of extrapolation is always utilised and, therefore, I have utilised that methodology of working out the figures for the future. We can imagine that if the same pace continues and at the same rate at which every year 3.7 million people are added to the number

[Prof. Madhu Dandavote]

of people living below poverty line, a dangerous proposal will emerge and in the year 2000 A.D. we might have 394 million people living below the poverty line. What will it mean? It will mean that in the year, 2000 A. D. those who live below the poverty line in India will be more than the population of India when India become free in 1947.

Whether we sit on the side of Opposition or the Treasury benches, the fact would be that in 2000 A.D. the number of persons living below the poverty line are going to be 394 millions, that is, more than the population of India when India was liberated in 1947. It is a staggering proposition and a dangerous proposition and therefore that is to be met. When my friend, Mr. Biju Patnaik, the former Chief Minister of Orissa was sitting by my side in the morning, I tried to find out certain figures relating to Orissa which is considered to be an extremely under developed territory of our country. I was told that in 1961 when Mr. Biju Patnaik happened to be the Chief Minister, he had quoted on the floor of the House as the Chief Minister of Orissa I was told of the figure of 35%—that 60 lakhs of persons were below the poverty line in Orissa and in 1984, it was 85%. That means 2.70 crores live below the poverty line in Orissa. I am deliberately choosing an illustration, an extremely backward area in the country where the per capita income is extremely low, where priorities for developmental activities are very low and where we find operations of economic activities are extremely low. Then, what about the findings of the National Sample Survey of 1983? I would refer to the latest National Sample Survey Report. The latest National Sample Survey was conducted in '83 and let me record my strongest protest that though a number of economists have demanded repeatedly, though a number of research fellows and scientists have demanded consistently that the National Sample Survey Findings of 1983 should be made available to the

public, even to this date the National Sample Survey findings are not made available to the public. I hope the new young Prime Minister will direct all the department concerned to collect the findings of the National Sample Survey of consumption expenditure made in 1983, so that we can discuss the proposition in the light of the latest figures that are made available. The Government is sitting tight over the findings including the persons below the poverty line. Latest figures is not available. We are only going back to some of the earlier findings that are available. Even if we take recourse to what has been said in the Five-Year Plan, we will be taking recourse to the old statistics. My friend will agree with me that the latest figures of 1983 have not been made available to this House. Parliament will know the latest picture of poverty only in the eventuality of making those figures available to us.

The *per capita* income growth from 1961 to 1978 is only 1.4 per cent per year and the poverty ratio have remained almost unchanged in this particular period and that is how the problem of poverty in this country has become extremely stupendous. Let us try to go into the causes of this poverty in the country before we go to measures and streamlining of these measures which are anti-poverty measures in the country.

The first and foremost aspect is the unequal distribution of land and other productivity assets and skills. We can very well estimate roughly that 25 per cent of the population is landless and 8 per cent of the population is unemployed in rural and urban areas. At any point of time in India about 21.5 million persons are supposed to be unemployed. Some who have got employment might lose it in the course of time, some may become unemployed and some may get employment. If we take into account the aggregate picture it is estimated that at any point of time in India 21.5 million persons are unemployed. This has also contributed to the dimensions of poverty.

Then, we have low *per capita* income growth and, therefore, there is hardly any trickling down. There are low land holdings without availability of inputs like seeds, water and fertilizers. And, here, Madam, I do not want to take much of your time, because the aggregate time that you are going to give to this discussion is nearly two hours, and obviously the time that I should take has to be commensurate with the aggregate time. I do not, therefore, want to waste time of the House, but only make a mention of a very interesting document.

I have with me 'An Economic Assessment of Poverty Eradication and Rural Unemployment Alleviation Programmes and their Prospects' prepared by the Institute of Financial Management and Research, Madras. It is a reputed organisation of social and economic scientists. They have a number of teams of workers, and they have been able to get the cooperation of R.M. Hanavar, V.M. Gumaste, K. Seetharam and Kala Rangachari. With the help of these eminent men, they have been able to compile the report. They have given various charts and figures in which we are able to find out how actually the various assets in this country are extremely meagre. I do not want to take much of your time, but would only indicate these figures. As far as these charts are concerned, they try to indicate how uneven is the distribution of assets. The distribution of income and distribution of assets is extremely bad. For instance, the chart that is given on page 3 of this report indicates that as far as durable household assets are concerned, they are only 5 per cent, live stock 6 per cent, implements and machinery 3 per cent, land 66 per cent and dwellings 20 per cent. This is the distribution of various assets. As I told you earlier, 25 per cent are landless.

Now, other features of Indian villages. In 1981, out of 5.5 lakh villages in the country, nearly 2 lakhs villages did not have a satisfactory or assured source of drinking water. Consequently, water-

borne diseases like cholera and guinea-worms were common. A recent study made by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission has shown that even where such facilities were available, the scheduled castes and other weaker sections did not benefit much from them. This is the conclusion that they have drawn.

The report further says that from this discussion, it is clear that poverty and absolute deprivation are wide spread in Indian villages. According to the Sixth Five Year Plan documents, in 1979-80, one out of every two persons was suffering from absolute poverty in rural India.

As my friend, the hon. Minister is very much enamoured about the Plan Document, I am quoting this document now. According to the Sixth Five Year Plan document, in 1979-80, one out of every two persons was suffering from absolute poverty in rural India. That means in rural India, 50 per cent of the population is living below the poverty line. This is the position. There are so many documents and so many programmes and their consequent results have been mentioned in this particular report.

I do not want to take the time of the House by going into them. But, what is the remedy? To eradicate poverty in the country, what is being done? What is the inadequacy of the existing sources and various measures that are adopted by the Government? The growth rate must go up by 6 to 7 per cent. I am referring to the aggregate growth, i.e. agricultural and industrial growth. Unless we are able to ensure in this country an aggregate growth of 6 to 7 per cent, it will not be possible for us to meet the requirements of the task of eradicating poverty in the country. Then only we can be sure that unemployment will decrease. Incidentally I may mention that in China the growth rate for the last twenty years is about 5 per cent. Even then, the problem is not completely solved. But they are able to

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eradicate poverty to a great extent. Population growth rate in this country is 2.2 per cent for the last twenty years. It has to be at least half of that. Of course, if we are able to achieve a zero growth rate of population, that will be an ideal solution. But knowing the potentialities of the people of this country, I am afraid, probably zero growth rate will not be achieved. But at least we should be able to halve this rate.

Land reforms are almost out of the agenda of various State Governments. No doubt, there are certain radical postures in certain Governments, but by and large, the problem of ceiling and effective implementation is just absent and as a result of that, you will find that the problem of eradication of poverty has become extremely difficult. In urban areas, as far as the organised sector is concerned, it is able to organise itself effectively and as a result of that the organised sector is the beneficiary of certain economic propositions. But as far as the unorganised sector is concerned, whether it is in the urban or the rural areas, it remained totally neglected and as a result of that the problem of poverty has become extremely difficult.

What is the way out? Measures are required to be streamlined. Various anti-poverty measures should be streamlined. We have the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). We have the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP). We have the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). All these programmes need to be streamlined. Look at your own experience. What are the ways in which these are being implemented? Unless every rural worker and not necessarily landless one, is included in this scheme of National Rural Employment Programme, we cannot tackle the problem effectively. I represent a constituency which is 90 to 95 per cent a rural parliamentary constituency and I can tell you this from my own experience in a rural parliamentary constituency and also in many other parts of the State which are rural areas. I can

tell you that people, whether they belong to the Ruling Party or the Opposition, almost all of them from their own experience at the present moment, have come to the conclusion that any rural worker, not necessarily the landless, should be included in the RLEGP Scheme. And the reason is the small peasant, who has just half a hectare or one hectare, works on his own land and he and even the other members who work on the land have to be included and for that a change is necessary. Then, the merger of NREP and RLEGP Schemes is absolutely necessary. At present in the implementation of these schemes, there is a restriction on the number of days that a Worker has to work. Unfortunately, the position in the rural areas is such that this particular restriction regarding the number of days for which the workers are forced to work cannot be satisfied and as a result of that they are unable to become the beneficiaries of these particular schemes. And, therefore, I further propose that this particular condition regarding the number of days of work need not be imposed.

Let us come to the Food for Work programme. This is one of the important schemes. I welcome it. When Janata Party was in power, we tried our best to implement this scheme. I am very happy to recapitulate that during the Janata regime when we implemented it during 1977-79, 5 million tonnes of foodgrains were made available to it, to be given to the workers who were working under this scheme. It succeeded to a very great extent.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA
(Robertsganj) : Not succeeded.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Yes, it succeeded. Again, the Minister will agree with me. I will quote the Planning Commission. (*Interruption*) Why do you want to exercise your right of ignorance? For the edification of the hon. Member and for confirmation from the hon Minister, I shall quote from the Evaluation Committee. The Planning Commission itself has recently appointed

an evaluation committee to evaluate the success of the Food for Work and Antyodaya programme, in their own words—I shall never forget them. I will quote what the Evaluation Committee of the Planning Commission has said. It has said that the schemes like Food for Work and Antyodaya programmes which were undertaken between 1977 and 1979 helped the poorest of the poor. This is the word that has been used by the Planning Commission's evaluation committee. These are not the words of Madhu Dandavate. Please take note of it. Therefore, I do not look at it from a partisan angle. Even when the present Government undertakes the scheme and elaborates it and extends it to a number of regions, if it succeeds I will be the first to congratulate the Government for implementing the Food for Work programme, I am only telling you that even the evaluation committee.....

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sorry again to disturb you the programme is still continuing. Only the name has changed. Instead of Food for Work, it is known as the National Rural Employment Scheme. The name has changed, but the programme is still continuing. It is the Programme Evaluation Organization which evaluates it from time to time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Madam, I have very carefully said that the Food for Work scheme has not been discarded. I made it very clear. I said that it should be extended to further areas. More foodgrains should be made available.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : It has been done on a much larger scale.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will give the hon. Minister figures also. Formerly, 5 million tonnes were made available for the Food for Work programme. Now according to available information, half a million tonnes were made available. Therefore, my constructive proposal is : go on stepping up the

supply. Fortunately, you are in a position to supply more foodgrains for the Food for Work scheme. I congratulate you : you have 21 million tonnes of foodgrains in your buffer stock. Utilize them, not only to give to the consumers and to the fair price shops, but also utilize them to give foodgrains to the various schemes that you have launched yourself and which you want to expand. All that I am suggesting is : Do not keep these schemes in cold storage. Try to tighten them up. If to-day only half a million tonnes of foodgrains are made available for the Food for work programme, more should be made available.

In IRDP and NREP schemes, there is massive corruption. I have come across this allegation from a large number of people who are involved in these programmes on the rural side. That is why I make this allegation. I can point out to you that some members of the ruling party themselves have complained and publicly written articles pointing out that there is large-scale corruption in these schemes. Articles have appeared in Maharashtra; articles have appeared in different States. I am not happy that corruption takes place. I do not want my politics to thrive on the corruption.

[Translation]

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the Janata Party regime, there the leaders had swallowed everything.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : One of the members of the ruling party is confirming what I have said. So, I am not taking any partisan attitude. It is the experience of all those people who come from rural constituencies—even the village authorities, various officers and bureaucrats are involved in a large number of corrupt practices. Therefore, this particular scheme has to be tightened up. I do not want to throw the baby

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with the bathwater, because some people are indulging in corruption. The good schemes that the government has launched, I do not want those schemes to be thrown away and, therefore, I repeat, I do not want to throw the baby with the bathwater. I only want corruption to be eradicated, because if these schemes become successful, that will be a great instrument in eradicating poverty on the rural side. In Economic journals they have made a rough estimate. Some of the economic scientists have worked out and quantified this corruption impact; and they have said that as a result of this corruption which exists in these schemes, 60 per cent of the benefits which ought to go to the poorer people are not able to reach the poorer people; that is the end impact of the corruption practices in this field and, therefore, they should be removed. There are technical defects in IRDP schemes. They should be removed by providing a proper infrastructure. You go to the officers who are involved in running the schemes, you go to the planners who support these schemes, you go to the members of the ruling party in the rural areas, they say, the schemes are good but the necessary infrastructure is absent; and therefore, if a proper infrastructure is built up, these schemes can give you better benefits.

Not more than 25 per cent of the beneficiaries of the schemes are lifted above the poverty line for years. If you take the statistics you will find as a result of these schemes and other schemes how many people are lifted above the poverty line; and you will also find that that figure is not more than 25 per cent.

Then there is a scheme of Antyodaya. This scheme tries to identify 5 poorest families in every village and tries to make them stand on their own legs by giving them the productive assets and various types of implements. I think this scheme so far has been made effective only in a limited number of regions. I am sure this scheme can be extended to almost all the

areas. Here a veteran Gandhian like Prof. Ranga is there. I am sure he will join me in making a demand that the Antyodaya Scheme and Programme is the soul of Gandhian approach to economic problems. Gandhiji once said : "Who should get priority in the economic uplift in the country? Unto the last", the last man in the society lifts on his shoulders the burden of the entire society and when that lowest man is lifted up, the entire society will get lifted and the entire society will get liberated. Therefore, I would like the present Government to see that more allocations are made for this particular scheme.

I would in the end make one appeal to the new government and the new Prime Minister. There is a certain developmental prospective, I have been reading the various statements issued on behalf of the government; I have been trying to study the economic policy and the perspective of the new Government, I only want to warn the new and young Prime Minister that in this land of Gandhi ji, don't be merely after sophisticated computerised administration in the country. No doubt computer will give you quick results, but if you only try to have the computerised sophisticated administration which will cater to the development of the top echelons in the society and hope that whatever is developed at the top echelons will percolate down according to the theory of percolation and whatever percolates down to the grass-root level will be the development of the grass-root level, reject that theory, because that theory is not Gandhiji's idea.

I would like to draw the attention of the old men in this House to a monumental book "Gandhiji—The Last Phase" written by an eminent Gandhian, Pyarelal. He has written an introduction to that book. At the close of that introduction—Prof. Ranga Pyarelal says, when the foreign dignitaries come to this country, we take them to the Gandhi Samadhi; we show them Five Star Hotels; we show them huge steel mills; and when they leave the country, they say, we have seen India, but where is

“Gandhiji’s India” ? And Pyarelal also questions, this is not the question to be asked from the government alone ; this is the question that each man owing loyalty to Gandhiji’s ideals in this country has to ask himself because we ourselves want to reorient our luxury-oriented life and therefore this aspect is also important. I would like the new Prime Minister to reject this percolation theory of development that is, have sophisticated computerised administration, which will be an elitist approach catering to the needs of the affluent and the semi-affluent classes ; allow the developmental activities to cater to the needs of affluent and semi-affluents, allow this kind of development to percolate down, and if at all that touches your life at the grass-root level, that will be the development at the grass-root level ! Reject this perspective. This cannot be the perspective of Mahatma Gandhi and I am sure if that is done. . .

MR CHAIRMAN : You have taken half-an-hour. Let me explain the position. There are eleven persons to speak on this Motion. Therefore, please conclude.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Madam Chairman, you will find that I am a disciplined Parliamentarian. I will say, bowing down to your wishes, I will conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can take some more time and conclude. Abruptly, you are concluding.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : have anticipated your remarks.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is one amendment, Shri Mool Chand Daga, you have to move your amendment.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : I beg to move :

That in the resolution,—

after “poverty line” insert—

“according to the scheduled programme because of increase in population”. (1)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resolution moved :

“That House expresses its concern over the failure of the Government to lift vast sections of the masses above the poverty line and demands concrete measures to eradicate poverty from the country”.

Now Shri Ram Pyare Panika.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Madam Chairman, I have great regards for Prof. Madhu Dandavate. He is the senior-most Member of the House and today I agree with him on many points raised by him.

First of all, regarding the figures submitted by him about percentage, Honourable Minister of Agriculture has himself corrected them and said that in the mid-term appraisal of Sixth Five Year Plan, the Government had themselves accepted it to be 42 percent. There is no difference of opinion about it. Secondly, he has mentioned the causes of poverty. I do not disagree with him in this matter too. But I disagree with the views expressed by him about the achievements of the Janata Party. He said during the course of his speech that poverty could be eradicated from this country only if the agricultural production would be 6.7 percent per year. I agree to it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you permit, I withdraw what I had said about the achievements of Janata Party.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : I want to remind him about the Janata regime, when he was the Minister of Railways. During the Janata rule, they had badly shattered the economy and

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today they expect that agricultural production should be 6.7 percent, I would like to remind him that during 1979-80, they had shattered the economy to such an extent that agricultural production declined by 17 percent and the industrial production which was 10 percent during emergency period declined to 1.4 percent. These were their achievements. The economy which was progressing day by day was shattered by them by introducing the new element of rolling plan. The industrial infrastructure being the economic base of the country was destroyed by them. Production in every sphere had declined, whether it was steel cement electricity or coal. Due to shortage of coal not only power stations were closed but also passenger and goods trains had to be cancelled.

In 1980, our late Prime Minister assumed the leadership of the country. She promised that her Government would bring prosperity in the country and social disparities would be removed and she carried on country's administration on these lines and the results had come before us during this period of four years. Only yesterday, our President made a mention about coal, cement and electricity production in his Address. Our target of electricity generation was 19 thousand Megawatts during the Sixth Plan period. Despite all odds, we could produce 14 thousand Megawatts of electricity. Per capita utilisation of electricity is the criterion for determining whether a country is developed or not. Achievement in this respect has been satisfactory. . . . (Interruptions) I want to tell you that for the people who are living below the poverty line, we introduced various programmes such as N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. Only yesterday, our President told us as to how more than 14 million people were lifted above the poverty line during these few years. I want to remind Prof. Madhu Dandavate what the condition of banks was at that time. I agree that difficulties arise when some new schemes are formulated and implemented. The nationalised banks were asked to cooperate in all these progra-

mmes. The pace at which we have advanced these programmes is before the nation. This is the reason why only those people are sitting here today on whom the proverb "Punarmushkobhav" applies. The slogan of "Ham do—Hamare do" (we are two—we should have two) was given by B.J.P. I would like to congratulate the B.J.P. for having translated this slogan into reality for themselves today. The people of India have become enlightened. The people of the country have welcomed all these steps whether it was a question of lifting the people above the poverty line or it related to agricultural production. I congratulate our new Prime Minister for following all those policies which were adopted by our late Prime Minister. I do not want to go into its details. It has been stated here that land has not been distributed properly. Is it not a fact that we have taken progressive steps for making improvements in this regard? It is correct that there are some elements in the society. . . . (interruptions). Congress has worked in this direction from the very beginning. Zamindari system and princely states were abolished and we enacted land ceiling Act. If necessary, some more stringent steps shall be taken. The B.J.P. has been against the steps for bringing about socialism from the beginning, whether it was the question of nationalisation of banks, abolition of princely states or imposition of land ceiling. I agree that family planning is the need of the hour and this is a major problem confronting the entire country. The nut-shell of this problem is that owing to growing population we are not achieving the progress to the desired extent. Is it not a fact that in 1977 people sitting on the other side misguided the entire nation by raising the slogan of bringing about total revolution under the leadership of Shri Jai Prakash Narayan and by opposing the family planning programme they came here in majority. Later on, the people were disillusioned and that was why they could not complete even two and a half years whereas they were supposed to run the Government for a full term of five years. The basic reason for their failure was their internal differences. At that time they had no programme.

Prof. Dandavate spoke about Antyoday Programme. But I would like to say that it was not a programme as such. That programme was intended to give benefit to their own workers only. If you look at the programmes of their time, such as Food for Work Programme for which they claim to have paid rupees five lakhs, you will find that the people were not benefited much by it. In this connection, the figures can be seen to ascertain as to how many persons were benefited by those programmes. How much development work was done at that time, to what extent drinking water was provided and other achievements were made and what was the number of roads constructed in the villages. Here the expenditure of rupees five lakhs is not of much importance. The main question is that after spending rupees five lakhs, to what extent construction work was taken up and how much assets were created for the country. Nothing was achieved in this respect. On the other hand, please have a look at our programmes. Under our programmes we have been working for the removal of poverty from the villages and taking steps for other developmental works also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would therefore, like to remind that now there is awakening in the country. Now, the people of the country, cannot be misguided. We have all respect for Prof. Madhu Dandavate, but all those things should be mentioned here which they had done during a period of 2½ or 3 years when they were in power and he should also see the achievements we have made in comparison with their time. In 1980, we gave a Government that worked and you had seen the results of the work done by our Government. I would like to draw your attention to the year 1982-83 when 21 crore people of our country had to face natural calamities owing to droughts, floods, cyclones, etc. of which there is no example in the entire history. But at that time we saw to it that no person die of hunger. In spite of all these difficulties, there was a considerable improvement in our economy which became stronger day by day. Is it not a fact that due to this remarkable improve-

ment in the economy, we had not taken loan of 1.4 billion S.D.R. from I.M.F. ? Does it not reflect that there was improvement in our economy and that we are working for the removal of poverty ? It is also true that unless we make available infrastructure for industries in the country, neither industries can be increased nor any progress can be made in the field of agriculture. Can anybody deny that in all these matters we are progressing continuously and achieving success ? We are fully confident that under the leadership of our new young Prime Minister, we will progressively increase our programmes. We expect that Prof. Dandavate should make some constructive suggestions before the House as he is a senior member of the House. Therefore, while expressing my thanks to Prof. Dandavate for bringing this Resolution, I am thankful to you Sir, for giving me this opportunity to take part in the debate. With this discussion, one thing has become clear to the general public as to who is right and who is wrong and with whose policies the country could make agricultural and Industrial progress and increase production.

As I have said, in spite of all the natural calamities and other set-backs, we have crossed the target of national production fixed by us during the Sixth Five Year Plan and by the end of the year we will be able to achieve more. Besides that, our foreign exchange reserves have also gone up to Rs. 6.5 thousand crores. This shows that our policies have proved effective. We are progressing continuously as a result of which the people of the country will be benefited.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Madam Chairman, while supporting the Resolution moved by my distinguished colleague, I would like to say a few words.

It is an irony that, after 37 years of Independence and self-rule, more than 32 crores of people i.e. 44 per cent of the population, are still living below the

[Shri Vadde Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

poverty line in our country, out of whom 26 crores of people are from the rural areas and about 6 crores of people from the urban areas, who do not have two meals a day, It is really shameful to find poor people fighting with the dogs for the left-over in the leaves thrown out at dinner parties in the cities and towns.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you reading it?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I am speaking for the first time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is a new-comer, who is making his maiden speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request him not to read the speech. He can refer to his notes.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : I am only taking the help of the notes. My mother tongue is Telugu. For the first time I am speaking in English.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will create a new precedent in this House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : So far as going by precedents is concerned, the Chair has given ruling a number of times that in the maiden speech more latitude will be given to the Member. But it should not be followed every time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So far as possible, we should try to avoid it.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : It is really shameful to find poor people fighting with the dogs for the left-over in the leaves thrown out at dinner parties in the cities and towns.

Though this country accounts for as

much as a quarter of the world's cattle, in spite of the functioning of several Dairy Development Corporations, we are producing only 5 per cent of the world's milk supply, According to official figures, the *per-capita* availability of milk has come down from 132 grammes in 1951 to 110 grammes in 1974, as against the planning Commission's target of 210 grammes.

The *per capita* availability of protein in the country has gone down from 2.15 ounces per day in 1951 to 1.4 ounce in 1974. Lakhs of pregnant women and children below the age of five die every year in our country for lack of sufficient nutrition. I am told that the previous Health Minister told the House on 27th February, 1975 that about 15,000 children go blind every year for want of vitamin A

It is a paradox that while the national *per capita* availability of food per day is only 450 grammes, the jail ration for A and B Class prisoners stands at 505 grammes and for C class labour prisoners 587 grammes. A prisoner who committed a great crime and is being punished is getting better staple food in jail than a free citizen in this country. While a prisoner is getting 50 grammes of edible oil and 50 grammes of sugar per day, his counterpart outside the jail is not sure of getting even 9 grammes of oil and 18 grammes of sugar per day.

Madam, I need not remind you that 70 per cent of our population are residing in the 5,75,000 villages and they consist of cultivators, tenants, agricultural labourers and village artisans, who indirectly depend upon the cultivators, for their livelihood. Even after 37 years of governance by great leaders, who spoke so much about the socialistic pattern of society and *garibi hatao*, nearly 60 per cent of the people are still illiterate and nearly 2,50,000 villages are still to be connected with any type of road. Nearly 55 per cent of the villages are still to be provided electricity. Lakhs of villages are yet to be provided with safe drinking

water. Tense of lakhs of poor people are sleeping on the pavments of metropolitan cities like Bombay and Calcutta. It will be sickening to find thousands of families residing in the RCC ring pipes in the cities.

Madam, while the poor have become poorer, the rich have become richer, the very fact that a few families are now having assets worth nearly 1,800 crores of rupees each, makes clear whom the policies of the Government have helped. No doubt while the economic disparities reached astronomical heights, Madam, it is unthinkable how with the present unemployment position with more than one crore, 80 lakh unemployed on the live register, this Government is going to provide them employment.

Madam, are not the wrong polices and priorities of the Congress (I) responsible for this sorry state of affairs? Should not the ruling party critically analyse, take stock of the situation and make changes in the policies and restructure the priorities? Madam, let us hope, at least the young Prime Minister boldly will accept the reality and lead the new path for eradication of poverty, reduction in economic disparities and social justice to all.

Madam, you will agree that it is poor people who are paying more revenues to the exchequer in the form of indirect taxes than the crorepatis. Then is it not the bounden duty of the Government of India to see that every family at least get a square meal a day? Madam, in this connection I want to bring to the notice of this House through you that our Andhra Pradesh Government headed by Shri N.T. Rama Rao is making available to poor people rice at the rate of Rs. 2/- per kilogram. Our Government feels it is our first and foremost duty to help the poorest of the poor and there should not be any single starvation death. Madam, our Government is spending 160 crores on this scheme and helping 1.4 crore poor families. I request the Government of India to take up this scheme and

implement it throughout the country and help the poorest of the poor.

Madam, if Food Corporation of India losses can be minimised and the subsidy hitherto borne in supply of rice to the urban or rural middle and upper middle class people is removed, this programme can definitely be taken up to help the poor.

Madam, I request the Government through you to remember that the Father of the Nation has told that "agriculture provides the only unfailing and perennial support to the people of this country." It is agriculture, which provides food, several raw materials for industries and also it is that sector which provides maximum employment opportunities for a fixed capital. Unfortunately, because the Government is giving only step-motherly treatment to this sector and its failure to give remunerative prices to the agricultural produce, our productivity remained much lower when compared to several countries. Added to this because the Government of India allowed the prices of industrial goods like tractors, steel, cement etc. etc, to increase day-by-day, the farmer is robbed of his meagre income and his economic position is remaining the same. But permit me to site one example, Madam. You know how the farmer puts his hard labour day-in and day out braving the vagaries of Monsoon and national calamities. Madam, let the Government tell what is the justification in permitting the price of cement per bag to be increased by about Rs 35/- in the past five years and giving only Rs. 10/- increase per tonne of sugarcane in the past five years.

Madam, the second priority should be given to cottage and small industry. For a country with seventy crore population, comparatively less land, and scarce capital, cottage and small industry can provide maximum employment opportunities for needy persons. In this connection, Madam, I may be permitted to quote Mahatama Gandhi who said :

"I am not against machinery. But I

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am against its indiscriminate multiplication. What I object is craze of machinery, not machinery as such. Men go on 'saving labour' till thousands are without work and thrown on the open streets to die of starvation. This I fight with all my might. The supreme consideration is Man. The machine should not tend to make atrophied limbs of Man."

He also said :

"With crores of human-beings going idle, India cannot afford to have large machinery which will displace the labour. It would spell their unemployment and their ruin. Our problem is how to find employment for all the crores of the people, not how to save their labour. Continuous unemployment has already induced in them a kind of laziness which is most depressing."

I request the hon. Prime Minister to keep in mind the words of Gandhi and take concrete steps to encourage cottage, small and medium industries to reduce the unemployment and provide gainful employment to millions of youth in this year of 1985. I also request him to protect this sector from the competition of heavy industry or big industry, if necessary by legislation also.

Madam, I also request our young Prime Minister to take necessary steps for making available handloom Dhotis and Sarees at cheap prices to the poorest of the poor people as *per capita* availability of cloth has come down.

Madam, still many people in Harijans and many more people in backward communities are yet to get house-sites. I request, on behalf of myself and my party, that the Government of India should allocate more funds in this regard and fulfil the dream of Shri Jawaharlal

Nehru and the historic message he gave at the midnight of August 14, 1947.

Madam, I thank you for the opportunity provided to me to speak.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswer) : Madam Chairman, I am happy that in the Eight Lok Sabha when we have started well, this Resolution has been moved by Prof. Dandavate and it is one of the important programmes which we have highlighted in the Sixth Plan; and also in the President's Address this programme has been highlighted.

Madam, this eradication of poverty has become one of the major and important programmes in the 20-point programme of our late Prime Minister and also the Government has taken it seriously, to implement this programme.

In the Sixth Plan it was assumed that in the Plan period there would be reduction in the percentage of people below the poverty line from 47 per cent to 30 per cent. And the figures of population below the poverty line in 1979-80 were revised and worked out to nearly 339 million people, and it was estimated that the percentage of poverty came down to 41.5 per cent and the total number of persons below the poverty line to 282 million in 1981-82. Thus it is estimated that between 1980 and 1982, 34 per cent of the total plan target of people to be taken above the poverty line were so taken. But here it has been further estimated by the mid-term appraisal of the Planning Commission that roughly about 57 million people can be assumed to have crossed the poverty line in the first two years of the Sixth Plan and the total target in the Sixth Five Year Plan envisaged raising nearly 102 million people above poverty line and I hope during the two years from 1982 to 1984 we must have made a little more progress so that we must have nearly achieved the target that was set in the Sixth Plan. But here because we go to the villages and we see how these programmes are being implemented, I was going through a document by some economists,

They have calculated that during all this Plan period about Rs. 20,000 crores have been invested in these programmes for eradication of poverty. I was also looking to the investment which has been made in the IRDP. In 1980-84 the investment in the IRDP was Rs. 1352.97 crores and in the National Rural Employment Programme it was Rs. 1453.22 crores and in the RLEGP it was Rs. 100 crores. And there was again another programme, Training of Rural Youth for self-employment under the 20-point programme, and various other programmes which were included in the Sixth Plan between 1980 and 1984. A vast amount of money has been invested to see that the people living below the poverty line are raised and their living standards are improved. Again the minimum needs programme was there and the special component plan for Scheduled Castes and tribal sub-plan are there. There is also a plan for the rehabilitation of bonded labourers. Again various State Governments have their own plan for eradication of poverty. In Orissa, we have the plan for the rehabilitation of the rural poor and improving the living standard of the weaker sections. But madam, if we go through all these programmes, what do we find today? The latest figure that we have indicates the percentage of people living below the poverty line :

Andhra Pradesh	—	42.18%
Assam	—	51.10%
Bihar	—	57.49%
Madhya Pradesh	—	57.73%

And so far as my State, Orissa, is concerned, it is the highest. The people living below the poverty line in Orissa come to 66.40%, I think, this is 1983 figure.

Sir, I was going through the report of the FAO Study Team which also went into the question of the condition of rural people in all these developing countries. A study made by the Food and agricultural Organisation of the U.N. indicates that in 1980 almost 700 million people in the rural areas of developing countries lived in absolute poverty. Amongst

these, 31 countries including India come under the first category where the percentage of the poor, according to the U.N. study, is above 50%.

Now, an attempt is being made in some quarters that we have a plan to eradicate poverty, say by 2,000 A.D. And we have invested so much amount in these programmes. There are two points of view which are being highly debated. One is whatever figures the Planning Commission in its mid-term appraisal is putting before the country, namely that 57 million people have been lifted above the poverty line. Another point of view is that the number is less than 57 million. So, it seems there is a controversy about this figure. I hope Prof. Madhu Dandavate had referred to figures given in Rajya Sabha last year. I think this question came up there and perhaps the then Planning Minister, Shri Chavan had to admit that there was perhaps a little discrepancy with what the Planning Commission has submitted and the actual fact that prevails in the country. But I am not going into that problem presently.

Madam, there are various points of view expressed by various economists. What happens is, sometimes it goes to the head of some economists that if they devise some method or work in such a manner, after 10 or 15 years, poverty will be eradicated. I think there are lot of economists who are thinking on this line. I hope they are not very pragmatic because poverty in India has a history thousand years old. But we are finding out this strategy. In the whole of India, more than 90% of the people, we see, are suffering from poverty, which is visible to us. Another attempt is being made in the Seventh Plan for the eradication of poverty. Again, some economists are thinking on this line that if poverty is not eradicated in this process, then what we should do is, we should evolve some kind of method by which we reduce the calorie intake of the people so that 70% are lifted above the poverty line.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
That is re-defining the poverty line.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
The Massive mandate that we got from the people is one of the biggest historic transitions in this country. It was the bitterest moment, the saddest moment, that our country was facing. The people have taken a decision that they must have a united and strong India, to see that India prospers, the people living below the poverty line get more and more benefits and that their living standard goes up.

The poverty itself has not been defined yet in many countries. Once I had the privilege of attending one Seminar where about 200 Economists of the third world countries used to discuss and define what is poverty. The more the poverty was defined, they found that it was very difficult to define poverty because there are people in those countries who think that such kind of living standards are considered to be more affluent in those countries. But in our country as minimum living standards, we think that we should have food, we have a shelter, a home, and our children get education. In that way, we are trying to define it. Let us find out and evolve a kind of scientific formula and method by which we can proceed to eradicate poverty

I am quite sure that with whatever amount of industrialisation we are having, we cannot eradicate poverty within 10 year. Supposing we make it 20 years, let us plan it in such a manner that gradually we achieve that target. So much of money we are investing in all these programmes. We have to see that all these programmes percolate to the people, reach the masses, and that these are implemented properly.

Other day, I was reading an article on poverty, planning and bureaucracy. It was a very interesting article. I find that some people have made some research and they have gone into this field. There is subsidy part in these programmes, namely, IRDP, NREP and RIEGP. I can tell you what happens there, I have gone and met many of the beneficiaries

personally. The subsidy that we are giving, the subsidy part, is taken away, is shared by the officers involved in this process. I am not voicing any kind of a view which would not be tolerated when I say that the subsidy part in these various programmes is being shared by officers involved in the implementation of the programmes. What happens is that the subsidy part is not available to the beneficiaries. The subsidy itself is taken away by the officers involved in the process and only the loan part is received by the beneficiaries and they pay interest on that. Supposing we have invested about Rs. 3000 crores during 1980-84, what I was calculating was, if 30 per cent of it goes to the middleman, really, it does not reach the beneficiary and all our programmes with all the efforts of the Planning Commission, the Ministries concerned and the Government do not really reach the people who want to take benefit from them. All our programmes are very good. But these programmes have to be implemented properly.

I would like to read out a portion of the statement which the Planning Commission had made. The Planning Commission has said that land reforms programme is one of the very important programmes to alleviate the poverty. What we have done is that only 21.96 lakh landless households which constitute hardly 10 per cent of such households have been allotted land totalling 14.70 lakh hectares. We have taken so much of land. The surplus land is still there. But yet we have not been able to distribute the entire surplus land that we have taken over under the various ceiling laws. What I would suggest here is, let us have a political will to implement the land reforms. Besides, the poverty of the allottees does not permit them to have access to supplementary input. According to the Sixth Plan :

“If the progress of land reforms has been less than satisfactory, it has not been due to flaws in policy but to indifferent implementation.”

16.45 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*].

That is main point. Let us implement whatever programme is there, whether it is the 20-Point programme, whether it is land reforms, programmes of IRDP or all our programmes which are meant for eradication of poverty. The basic point is that we shall see that all our programmes are implemented faithfully cent per cent and if that is done, I am quite sure, that within a period of one decade, we will be able to see that poverty is eradicated from this country.

16.46 hrs.

STATEMENT RE ARRESTS IN
CONNECTION WITH ACTIVITIES
DETRIMENTAL TO NATIONAL
INTERESTS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister to make a statement.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to take the House into confidence on an important development. As you know, every Government has to exercise the highest vigilance in regard to the protection of confidential information and intelligence. I reviewed and strengthened security procedures. It came to Government's notice that certain employees in sensitive positions were suspected to be indulging in activities detrimental to national interests. Some arrests have been made in the course of these investigations which are still proceeding. I am confident that hon. Members would not press me to say anything more at this stage as it might hamper these investigations.

RESOLUTION RE : MEASURES TO
ERADICATE POVERTY — *Contd.*

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI (Howrah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not support the text of the resolution of the hon. Member from the Opposition Prof. Madhu Dandavate but, I share its spirit. Prof. Madhu Dandavate is one of the learned Members present in the House and he is one of the knowledgeable persons in economic science and the economy of our country. While he speaks on such issues and subjects inside or outside the House, as students of politics and economics, we learn and try to learn more. But, unfortunately today in the House, I would say with great regret that while I share the views and I am impressed by the knowledge and wisdom of Prof. Madhu Dandavate, I do not share his conviction. He intelligently avoided certain basic issues which are responsible for poverty and made it very acute.

16.47 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*.]

Prof. Madhu Dandavate, in the last part of his speech, dealing with the resolution, tried to bring back again Mahatma Gandhi in a modest manner, highlighting and apprehending certain things about our Prime Ministers and the present Prime Minister who is functioning and has stated that the sophisticated computerised technology should not be a regular fashion in elitist view to curb the poverty line in the villages. Thus he questioned the motive of Prime Minister. With great humility and respect, I try to remind Prof. Madhu Dandavate that Mahatma Gandhi was not opposed to science and technology and, possibly Prof. Madhu Dandavate shares the view that even Gurudev Tagore had serious differences with Mahatma Gandhi during the time of Rashtriya Charka. Though many Congressmen did not like the views expressed by Tagore, ultimately it was found

[Shri priya Ranjan Das Munshi]

that Tagore was also not untrue in his convictions and it does not mean there was a confrontation between Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi. We tried to accept both in the real perspective, in their appropriate places. When we think of the present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's views on more sophisticated technology in science and other matters, I feel it is really a great fortune of the country that he holds such views because poverty really cannot be eliminated by mere figures of the Planning Commission or by the speeches and wordy battles here and there by political parties.

The essential ingredient in the economy of the whole world today is the use of the more advanced science and technology to fight poverty from grass-roots. Therefore, if Prof. Madhu Dandavate comes down a little from his unfounded elitist viewpoint, I hope he would agree with the viewpoint of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, our Prime Minister, that today's economic growth in the villages also, whether it was in the Janata regime or Congress regime, cannot just be accelerated without the use of modern science and technology. And, therefore, we do not come to oppose Mahatma Gandhi.

Well, Prof. Madhu Dandavate was quoting some phrase from a tourist who visited five-star hotel and big mills and said that he had not seen Mahatma Gandhi. I do not know who accompanied him. He should have told him at that time that Mahatma Gandhi did not live in hotels and mills. He lived and still lives in Indian civilisation which is now the richest and the strongest in the whole world. And Mahatma Gandhi will continue to live in the civilisation of this great country of ours. And Mahatma Gandhi will continue to live in that civilization.

The problem of poverty is not a matter which can be explained in the House within an hour or two. But the Mover of the Resolution avoided certain points

which I want to highlight and bring to the notice of the hon. Minister dealing with this Resolution for his consideration. Which are the agencies today for development ? The Planning Commission is the authority to guide the nation and decide the allocation. The ultimate executing authority is the State Government through its various agencies. Now let us look at these agencies. Though we have separated the judiciary from the executive, yet, the executive cannot devote his entire time for the development and growth of the country. We have an institution called Parliament and we have a text called the Constitution which gives power to State Legislatures and various other bodies. Now, in the whole country you engage officers from the Planning Commission to the district level for the development of the country. You try to find out from his calendar how much time a particular officer get to employ his entire knowledge which he obtained in his student career and in his equipment for the IAS examination, for the development programme ? He has to conduct the Parliamentary elections and by-elections. He has to conduct the Assembly elections and by-elections. He has to look after the day-to-day administrative work. He has to look after the Panchayat elections and the Zila Parishad elections. I have seen that an officer at the grass-root level devotes for the development programmes hardly seven days in a year. I sat with the officers in my district and I found that he actually get only seven days in a year for the development programme at other times he is busy passing and disposing of papers. Since our young Prime Minister in his wisdom has introduced a new Ministry for personnel administration and administrative reforms, I request the hon. Minister dealing with this Resolution to look into it and see that the development authority in the district is not burdened with any other responsibility for years and years to come so that growth and development take place in every district and block without interruption I will cite one example. This happened in the last elections. There was drinking water problem in a particular area of my constituency. The people were not getting drinking water for the

last two and a half years in spite of the fact that there is Zila Parishad, there is Panchayat Samiti. It so happened that three months before the elections the offices were asked by the Election Commission to engage themselves fully for the election work and, therefore, they could not look into the file with the result that the people of that area could not get drinking water till today. This is the basic problem which neither the Planning Commission appreciates nor do we try to investigate. The basic problem lies in the overall administrative set-up of the development programmes.

Secondly, I thank from my own heart and on behalf of my Party Prof Madhu Dandavate. He has brought out a very important point. It is a fact that during the Janata regime Food-for-Work Programme was introduced which ultimately became NREP. He has said in his speech that corruption vitiated the entire development programme. During their own regime, to less a leader than Shri P.C. Sen of West Bengal drew the attention of the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, that crores of rupees were looted in West Bengal in the name of Food-for-Work Programme. The Food-for-Work Programme became literally food for a particular Party and work for them and not for the people as such. Not only that, proceedings were instituted in court of law and people have been punished I am not mentioning the name of any Party. Shri P.C. Sen himself brought it to the notice of Shri Morarji Desai, not once but five times, but he failed to get any relief. Prof. Madhu Dandavate will appreciate that from time to time for political convenience we try to absorb everything and when time comes we choose to pick up the appropriate line, incorporate it in the next and bring forward in a Resolution. We should once again take an oath that in future we should not do these things.

About NREP, I want to draw your attention to one thing. I was trying to raise a point of order today, but I restrained myself. I thought of writing a letter to the Speaker. In the Bulletin

issued on 5th January, I have seen, the Lok Sabha Secretariat has cautioned all the Members of the House not to put any question on NREP or IRDP seeking district-level information.

This, I feel, is fantastic. How can an MP function in his constituency without knowing what is happening in regard to NREP and IRDP programmes? The IRDP programme is cent per cent financed programme of the Government of India and NREP is financed fifty-fifty. We cannot know any information about the development? This is the instruction of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. I hope the entire House will share this matter for our information in future . . .

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : It should be withdrawn.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : About poverty, some percentage and figures were quoted. According to the mid-term appraisal it is 42% and according to Mr. Reddy of the Telugu Desam it is more and according to some journals it is 50%. I am not going into that, about the controversy of figures. But the fact remains that poverty is there and it is acute. In regard to the other point which Prof. Madhu Dandavate raised, can he cite any example in any part of the world where without concentrating on checking the population growth, real development can take place? . . .

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have said that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : He cited the example of China. The method that China adopted, if our Prime Minister adopts and tries to implement it here, then, I think the Opposition will every day walk out of the House. And Congress Members also will react and reject it. Sir, I do not like to bring Soviet Union and China into the picture. I would like to forget the Soviet Siberian camp history and also the history in China. I have travelled recently

[Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munshi]

in China I have seen what that they are turning over their national units into private hands. China out of its own wisdom is now coming to the reality and President Mao's philosophy is no more in vogue same is Marx. Whether I share it or not that is not important. Had Mahatma Gandhi been alive on that day when computers were introduced, we could have easily got his reactions. Had Lenin been alive on that day when atomic energy and solar energy was introduced, we would have got his reaction. On the supposed reactions of persons who are not alive, if you want to stop the pace of growth of science and technology under the pretext that Mahatma Gandhi said this and Lenin has said this we are no more modern and we will no more be civilised. But while preserving our heritage we will keep pace with the progress of modern science and technology so that we are modern and civilised.

The development programme in the rural areas actually aims at fighting poverty and that is the aim of NREP—it is said. But I do not share this view. What is NREP programme? I have seen in the village. What do they do? They bring a thousand people to the village and tell them 'construct this road' and they give them food for three months. After 3 months, whether the road is pucca or *kachha* is not important. Mostly it is *kachha* and at the next rain it is washed away and it is absolutely devastated and the people remain unemployed. We want regular schemes and programmes by which people feel that they can get their bread. That is the most important programme and the Planning Commission out of its wisdom thought that we have bumper production, we will have bumper crops and a good buffer stock and will distribute grains to poor people. But we do not like to treat our people as beggars. We do not like to treat them as mercenaries. We want them to become partner of our civilisation in terms of bread and food. May be, the pace is slow but we want them to be speeded up. To-day I can cite an example of my State. You will be surprised—I am not

casting any aspersion on any individual—I am inviting all members of the Opposition to visit any district they like and if I am not proved right, I will withdraw from Parliament. Sir, in the name of poverty, relief is being distributed and grant is being distributed not in terms of poverty but in terms of political motivation programme of C.P.I. (M) (*Interruptions*).

DR. SARADISH ROY : This is not true. We challenge it. . . .

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : I have invited the Opposition and I can tell you that I will withdraw from Lok Sabha if I am proved incorrect. . . .

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : I am taking up the challenge. . . .

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please. . . . Let him speak,

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Sir, their own Minister—the Minister for Jails and Prisons was Minister for Panchayatraj and Development in the last Government has said. . . . (*Interruptions*) He publicly stated and I have got the press reports that due to corruption justice is not being done at the grassroots of this programme. The name of this Minister is Shri Debarata Bannerjee. He belongs to RSP. (*Interruption*) Sir, proceedings are in the court. I am not joking. I am not telling lies. Because of these reasons they are losing the grip. (*Interruptions*).

Sir, Mr. Choubey is trying to say that a Leftist State can indulge in corruption if his opponents also do so. I share his profound Leftist wisdom.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : I am concluding. About this Resolution, as I said, I share the spirit and not the text. I oppose the text. I would humbly submit through you to the mover of the Resolution and the Minister that now that we have come to the House—whether from this side or that side—with the mandate of the people and that our young Prime Minister not only on account of the mandate of the people but out of his own vision has given the highest emphasis against poverty and that the Planning Commission is on way for the next Plan appraisal programme, the development aspect should not be linked up with the day-to-day administrative activities of the executive heads. People in the zila parishads and panchayat samities whether belonging to my party or other party who are indulging in corruption should be dealt with under the severest laws enacted by Parliament, because they are trying to earn their bread out of the blood of the poor people. This is my submission. Then only we can fight the poverty effectively

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Prof. Dandavate which is very important in so far as the poor sections of people of our country are concerned. At the outset I would like to challenge the very definition of 'poverty line'. In the Sixth Plan document it has been defined as follows :

“The concept of poverty adopted in the Sixth Plan is related primarily to a level of per capita expenditure needed to satisfy a calorie requirement per day calculated for a given year (1973-74). For the rural sector it has been placed at Rs. 49.9 per capita, per month corresponding to a requirement of 2400 calories per person per day and Rs. 56.64 per month for the urban sector corresponding to a requirement of 2100 calories per day.”

I do not want to go into the details

here but at the outset I challenge the very definition of 'poverty line' because it has been assumed that in the villages one has to work hard. 2400 calories are not sufficient for a hard-working person. The minimum calories that are required for a hard-working person are 3500. So, I say, the very definition is defective.

Now, so far as urban areas are concerned it has been put at 2100 calories per person per day. In the urban areas also there are hard-working persons and so far as hard-working persons are concerned the calories requirement is 3500. Therefore, I say, the very definition of 'poverty line' is not correct. It has to be revised.

Another aspect is that so far as poverty line is concerned only food requirements is taken into consideration to define poverty. If we take into consideration other problems such as housing, clothing, education facilities and medical facilities then the persons living below the poverty line in our country will be more than 80 per cent. All these factors should be taken into consideration if poverty is to be eradicated.

Not only should the poor man be enabled to get two square meals a day, but we have to cater to his needs regarding housing, clothing, education, medical facilities etc. These requirements should also be taken into account.

Sir, it has been argued that the measures taken by the Government to eradicate poverty have lifted them above the poverty line, such as IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and other programmes. There are so many such programmes where thousands of crores of rupees are spent till now in the name of the poor. But how have these programmes helped the poor people really? I will give you only one glaring example. So far as IRDP is concerned. Much has been said about corruption under various schemes. I will give you one example. This is from my own constituency and this happened

[Shri D.B. Patil]

when I was campaigning for the election. Nine advasi families were given one she buffalo each. When actually they milked the animal there, it was three litres at a time. When they brought the animal home, the milk was hardly half a litre or one litre at a time. When I asked them what subsidy they are getting, they told me that they did not know anything about it. They only said that the animal was given to them and the milk that they are supposed to get would be six litres per day. But in actual fact, they were getting hardly two litres milk per day. The problem before them was how to maintain these animals and to feed them and how to maintain their families. This was their problem. This sort of deception was practised upon them. It was a real burden for them to maintain these animals. This was the case. It is very glaring example of corruption.

Sir, it has been argued that along with these schemes, Food for Work scheme is also being implemented. So far as Maharashtra is concerned, our experience is that this Food-for-work scheme is not being implemented in Maharashtra. Mr. Chairman, you might remember that, because you come from Maharashtra. We, in the opposition, all the while were demanding the implementation of the Food-for-work programme but the Government of Maharashtra was adamant about it and rejected our proposal that this Food-for-work programme should be started in Maharashtra, for lifting up of persons living below poverty line in Maharashtra. This Food-for-work programme was not taken up at all in Maharashtra. This is the position.

In the name of various schemes, crores of rupees have been spent. But what is the actual achievement? I will quote only one example. I am quoting from the Economic and Political Weekly dated April 14, 1984. This is from page 635 there. Table II shows 'Monthly Per Capita Household Expenditure'. This is at the 1960-61 price level. In 1960-61 the figure was 21.53 in rural area. In 1981-82 it was 23.22. The annual rise

was only 0.36%. This is the position about the rural area. Now I will tell you the position about the urban area. In 1960-61, the household per capita expenditure was Rs. 29.61 and in 1981-82 it was Rs. 31.81. It hardly works out to 0.32% increase per annum. If this is the position, it is very difficult to expect that the poor and the downtrodden living under the poverty-line will be lifted above the poverty-line. Unless and until drastic steps are taken to eradicate poverty, we cannot solve this problem. Necessary immediate steps should be taken to see that there is increase in their income.

In regard to the guarantee of employment to these poor people—so far as the illiterates and other downtrodden are concerned—the Government should take urgent steps to provide employment to everyone of them. In Maharashtra, as you know, there is a scheme called employment guarantee scheme. It has been accepted in principle by the Government of India. But it has not been actually implemented in India. It is the legal obligation on the part of the Government of Maharashtra to provide work to every illiterate and those who seek employment in the villages. As a matter of right, they can demand job for themselves. Until and unless these schemes are implemented throughout the country, the problem will remain and the poverty among the people cannot be removed.

Then, Sir, there is the question of redistribution of the benefits arising out of the growth in the country in various fields. So far as this is concerned, the experience is that the rich are becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer. It is because of that the distribution of the benefits arising out of growth has not been properly done.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to suggest that so far as upliftment of poor and downtrodden are concerned, there should be proper public distribution system of essential commodities. It has been much advertised by the

government that through the public distribution system, all essential commodities would be supplied to the poor, But according to my knowledge, even the small quota of 10 kg. of rice fixed by the Government per person per month is not given to the poor in the villages. They can hardly get 1 kg. of rice or bajra per month through the public distribution system. I would, therefore, suggest that one of the means for upliftment of the poor and bring them above the poverty line is that the public distribution system should be strengthened in the sense that many more items of essential commodities should be distributed through this system in a large-scale and in sufficient quantity at subsidised rate. If the Government implements all these schemes and puts them into practice, a great deal of corruption will be removed so that the benefits can be reaped by the poor who are really in need of such help.

Lastly, I would suggest that until and unless employment is guaranteed to the poor, down-trodden and all these seeking employment, we cannot wipe out poverty completely. The only solution for this is that necessary amendment to the existing law to this effect should be brought forward before this House so that employment is guaranteed to the poor and down-trodden and we are able to find a permanent solution to this great problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri M.C. Daga.

DR SARADISH ROY : You have to call from this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am following the order in which the names are given here.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : That is not the procedure. You have to call a Member from this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let Shri Daga speak ; I will call a Member from side thereafter.

SHRI K D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : In fact, it should be four from this side and one from their side.

DR. SARADISH ROY : It is not proper. Kindly call a Member from this side.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Daga.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Resolution has been brought here at a verry opportune time and there should be a thorough discussion on it.

The question is whether the figures in respect of removal of poverty from the country given by the Government are genuine or those given by the economists. How to verify this fact ? I want to know whether the figures about poverty given by the experts in planning are correct or those mentioned by the stalwarts in the economic field.

I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of people who are living below the poverty line in India today and what is the basis of the figures given by him ? What is the criteria for judging a man to be poor ?

It appears from the figures given by the Planning Commission, pertaining to the 12 year period from 1960-61 to 1972-73, that the number of people living below the poverty line had remained the same. It means that the figures given by the Government indicate that the poverty line remained unchanged during 12 years period from 1961-62 to 1972-73.

He had ordered a survey in eight districts of Tamil Nadu and stated that 40 per cent of the people living below the poverty line had come above it. According to the Survey conducted by National Sample Survey, only one per cent of the people living in all the 194 Blocks in

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

Gujarat were above the poverty line. We want to know the scientific formula on the basis of which you consider people above the poverty line.

(Interruptions)

We want poverty to be removed. Poverty is a curse for the country and so is the lack of thinking in this regard. We must give thought to the problem of poverty. Poverty is a curse which we must fight against.

The survey conducted in Tamil Nadu indicates that 40 per cent of the people living below the poverty line have come above it, but in Gujarat only one per cent could come above it.

Sir, I would like to know the number of people who have come above the poverty line during the years 1982-83 and 1983-84. You said that you were able to lift 5 to 10 crores of people above the poverty line during 1981-82, whereas your economists say that only 7.7 million people crossed the poverty line.

[English]

There is an article entitled 'Reduction in Poverty' by Prof. Raj Krishna, and he said that for the first two years, 7.7 million and not 57 million crossed the poverty line.

[Translation]

The assistance that you give to the poor people living in villages does not reach them. The Bank officers and block officers say that such and such assistance was given, but actually it does not reach them.

Today, my question No. 9 was on this subject that your loan liability is increasing. The amount of this loan is now very high. When I wanted to know the amount of that loan, you informed that

you had to pay Rs. 418.4 crores as interest on a loan of Rs. 23,268 crores. I want to know what has been the return from the items for which you have taken loan. If you take all these things into account, you will find the extent of loss you have incurred. I would request you to judge this loss from your own figures. We have made enough investment and borrowed continuously but our return has not been in conformity with our borrowings.

[English]

What is the return on each item whether it be coal, electricity, aluminium or steel?

[Translation]

Block Development officers, Bank Officers and Police Officers eat up all this money. The poor do not get the benefits of the efforts made to remove poverty. It is the middlemen who derive benefits from these efforts and swallow all the money. The amount intended to be spent for the betterment of the poor is not spent on them. The Government should conduct a national sample survey or ascertain by some other scientific method as to whether the poor have actually crossed the poverty line.

Recently, there was an article in the anniversary issue of "The wheels" about the officials working in the Planning Commission. In that Article, they have given an appraisal, which I would like to place before you as to how they work and how they function. I want to draw your attention to that Article and tell you about their thinking and how they cover up their mistakes. It says:

[English]

"The planning process itself has become more or less routine, stale and a prisoner of its own premises and wishful thinking, unable to cope with the changing realities. There is no specific

unit in the Planning Commission or elsewhere in the Government having the responsibility for the objective of price stability, though this features quite prominently in every five-year plan."

[*Translation*]

I would request you to kindly note as to what the Planning Commission is doing. I want to know from you whether the Planning Commission has ever achieved its target in any plan they have formulated so far. Fourth Plan Take any plan First Plan, Second Plan, Third Plan, Fifth Plan and Sixth Plan, the Planning Commission could not achieve its targets. Today, in villages, there is no drinking water even after 37 years of independence and even today the number of people living below the poverty line is increasing. So, on what basis you say that you are lifting the people above the poverty line ?

The decision of the Government regarding prices, hoarding etc. is appreciable in that the Government have decided to provide clean administration. The Government have decided to encourage the honest and the dedicated and to punish the dishonest and the corrupt. This decision is also welcome. People will get benefits of the plans only when such an action is taken. Otherwise, you have not been able to achieve even 30 per cent target in the scheduled areas programmes which you have chalked out under NREP, NRDP, and other such programmes. If you want, I can give figures. The Government should, therefore, ensure that the implementation of the programmes is according to the schedule.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before I call the next speaker, I want to point out that the time allotted to the Resolution is over. Is it the pleasure of the House that it should be extended ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : It should be extended by three hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall extend it by one hour. Today, we shall sit upto 6 O'clock. We shall give the rest of the time on the next occasion.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA (Birbhum): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the resolution moved by Prof. Madhu Dandavate. In this connection, I hope that all hon. members agree that we have accepted rather a low level of living to define the poverty line and the poor. The norm used to define the poverty line does not indicate that it is not a minimum standard of living ; it is rather a means of bare living.

There are instances and evidence to show that there is an uneven distribution of income, uneven distribution of land, industrial assets and there exists inequality in our society. I would like to quote from the government reports and the report of the Reserve Bank. In this connection, I would like to mention that in 1977-78, the bottom 50 per cent consumed 29 per cent of all goods and services in the country while the top 30 per cent consumed 52 per cent. The bottom 10 per cent consumed 3.5 per cent while the top 10 per cent consumed 26 per cent of goods and services in the country. According to the report of the Reserve Bank, the bottom 10 per cent rural society owned 0.1 per cent of rural assets in 1961 and the same in 1971. The top 30 per cent increased their already large share from 79 per cent of rural assets in 1961 to 82 per cent in 1971. It is also reported that small and marginal farmers who constitute 73 per cent of the farmers cultivate only 23 per cent of land while large farmers who constitute 3 per cent of farmers cultivate 26 per cent of all land. This inequality in property and land ownership leads to some being richer and others having nothing else to depend on for their income except the sale of their la-

[Shri Gadadhar Saha]

bour which is at low level regardless of enacted laws. This inequality feeds and enlarges the area of poverty.

Now I would like to quote from report with regard to the share of national income. The share of national income that comes to workers who belong to lower 40-60 per cent of society has stagnated over three decades and has recently declined. It is demonstrated in consumption expenditure. The facts behind it are serious social, personal inequality—inequality in income, inequality in ownership of land, industrial assets and housing which leads to some being rich and others poor. The cases of poverty are, uneven distribution of land, uneven distribution of income, uneven distribution of consumption goods and services, of ownership of land, industrial assets and the accumulation of growing black money, illegal sector of economy etc.

According to a British economist, in 1953-54 black money was estimated at Rs. 600 crores. According to the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee, the Wanchoo Committee, it rose to Rs. 1,400 crores in 1968-69. In 1978-79 it was Rs. 46,867 crores. It means that the illegal economy has risen from 6 per cent in 1953-54 to 50 per cent of our national income today. Illegal economy is generating new income, new wealth at a higher and higher rate for the privileged few and increasing poverty for the majority of the people. The few who have it conceal wealth by investing it in illegal, semi-illegal ways, in shares, properties, gold, silver, spending it on travel, high fees for schooling, five-star culture, charity, donations, and election financing. All this involves transferring money from the poor to the rich and thus widening—the circle of poor people in our country.

The fight against poverty has two dimensions. The first dimension is relief programme for the poor, and the second dimension is elimination of the root causes of poverty. The first task is to relieve the poor from the consequences of

inadequate food, under-nourishment, mal-nutrition, lack of housing, unprotected drinking water, inadequate clothing, ill health, illiteracy, lack of educational facilities and economic imbalances. This relief programme includes the Minimum Needs Programme and IRDP, NREP and NRLEGP, etc.

For the Sixth Five Year Plan during 1980-85 Rs. 5,000 crores have been provided for implementation of some important schemes for relieving the poor from the consequences of these things and I think it is too inadequate to achieve the targets that are fixed for the relief programme. In this connection, I would like to point out the weaknesses that are there in the programme and its implementation.

A review at the official level in November, 1981 established that the programme of dispersal of institutional credit in support of this programme was not satisfactory and the operational agencies at all levels ought to strengthen the machinery for the achievement of the targets.

A study by a Bangalore team of investigators shows that in terms of total credit, advances by banks to rural areas declined from 8 per cent in 1970 to 4.88 per cent in 1980. Out of this reduced level, a big portion of the credit has gone to the rich farmer to purchase tractors, pump sets, motors and other capital equipment. It is the denial of institutional credit that perpetuates the level of rural poverty. And this is the weakness in eradicating this problem.

The root cause of rural poverty is that there is no proper distribution of land and there is concentration of wealth and land assets in a few hands. This is the problem that we are facing in our countryside. In areas of land distribution there are political and administrative impediments and legal hurdles. Because of these impediments and hurdles, the State Governments which are responsible

for the implementation of these schemes, are facing difficulties in their proper implementation. On behalf of the West Bengal Government we would like to mention that the lacunae that there are in the existing ceiling laws, have been removed in the Second Land Amendment Bill, 1981. This has been sent to the Central Government for Presidential assent. There is legitimate ground and new scope for finding and vesting more surplus land. We request that presidential assent be given immediately to this amending Bill.

I would like to mention that to be effective any anti-poverty programme with land reforms as the major component has to be multi-dimensional in its design and impact, for increase in GNP was accompanied in our country with increase in both relative and absolute levels of poverty and destitution for growing number of people. Benefits of economic growth did not trickle down as predicted. They were siphoned off somewhere up in the line leaving more people hungry, shelterless, illiterate, ill-fed, diseased and destitute than 30 years ago. So, the main features of the land reform programme as formulated and implemented in West Bengal, include quick recording of names of *Bargadars* or sharecroppers through 'Operation *Barga*', distribution of already available ceiling surplus and vest land among landless labourers, drive to detect more ceiling surplus land, giving substantial institutional credit to the poor peasants and artisans, assigning permanent title for homestead purpose to all landless workers, artisans, fishermen, etc., providing source of irrigation, financial assistance in the form of subsidy and abrogation of old revenue system. In this connection, I want to draw the attention of this hon. House to the Directive Principles of State Policy :

“The State shall direct its policy towards securing that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.”

We all know that this concentration of more wealth and more assets is in violation of this Principle of State Policy and the policy announced by the late Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

The nation today is in the grip of crisis. The cherished democratic values of our freedom struggle are under assault and the assertive trend of concentration of wealth and power in a few hands and the assertive trend of centralisation of power have resulted in the disturbing signs of alienation in some parts of the country. This trend has to be halted. We are all aware of the external threats and dangers to national security. So, what we want now is a strong Centre and, at the same time, strong States, for, without strong States, no programme, whatever the target may be, for lifting the poor above the poverty line can materialise at all, for there are some poor backward states, some zero growth States, problem States in India. In this connection, I want to give some suggestions.

Seventy per cent of the total resources raised in the public domain are retained by the Union Government and only thirty per cent is available to the twenty-two States. This kind of distribution of financial resources is without parallel for a federal polity. This should be basically changed.

The more elastic sources of tax revenue are reserved for the Centre. The States are not allowed any share of the proceeds of the corporation tax which these days exceeds those from the income-tax. The Centre refuses to share with the States the yield from the surcharge on income-tax. These are the sources of erosion of the resources of the State Governments. This should be changed and more power should be given to the States for implementation of the developmental schemes and for reconstruction of society.

One more suggestion I want to make.

One suggestion for lifting the poor above the poverty line is to give more

[Shri Gadadhar Saha]

money to the States for implementation of the anti-poverty programme. Now while raising resources to finance the scheme, the Central Government raises resources mainly from the poor by way of indirect taxation. Both this policy and the price policy, which is the source of creation of income and distribution of income, should be changed. Our suggestion is that, till as the price policy is basically changed the Union Government should assume the responsibility of supplying 15 to 20 of the major foodgrains, industrial raw materials and essential commodities all over the country at reasonable prices. The concept of national unity loses much of its lustre if the essential articles are not equally accessible in all the States, or if some of them are available at uniform prices in some places but not in others. The Centre should see to it that all these deficiencies and imbalances are corrected.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Sir, there is no doubt that a large number of our people are still living below the poverty line. A major part of our rural and urban areas is devoid of basic amenities of life, which must be provided there.

But the way in which a crisis has been projected and it has been tried to show that the steps taken by the Government to remove poverty have failed, that, I think, is not proper.

The removal of poverty is our national resolve and without its fulfilment, we would not be able to streamline our administration and meet our national requirements. I think the Government is determined to take action in this regard. Keeping all these things in view, the Government have adopted various measures in this direction since the First Five Year Plan.

It can be said that we have not been able to achieve the targets fixed for deve-

lopment through Plans to the full extent. But it does not mean that there has been no development through the Plans. If it were so, the situation in India would not have been such as is prevalent today and the changes taken place in India since 1947 would not have been there. Previously, we were not able to produce even a single industrial item of our daily necessity in our country, but now our country occupies seventh place among the advanced industrial countries. Today we have got enormous technical personnel. We are increasing our national income and we can change the living standards of the people all over the country.

In his message to the nation also, our Prime Minister has referred to our national resolve. I think if we get cooperation from all sides, we can achieve this gigantic task. Besides implementing big programmes, I am happy to say that on the one side we are planning to undertake manned space flight, on the other side we are making efforts to uplift the standard of living of the people living in *Jhuggi jhompries*. It is being ascertained from them as to what type of help they want from the Government for their upliftment.

IRDP is a very good programme. During the Sixth Five Year Plan period a substantial amount has been spent on this Programme and I think efforts are being made to benefit about three thousand families in each Block through this Programme. But here I would like to point out that our machinery lacks enthusiasm and commitment required for the implementation of the Programme. Due to lack of this enthusiasm in the implementing machinery, the required results are not achieved. Those who are in a position to take advantage and meet their personal ends have certainly taken advantage of this Programme, but the common man who is not in a position to take advantage of the situation and who is not being helped properly by anyone has not been benefited. The banks have given loans to the people whether they are harijans living in the

villages, farmers, artisans, but a large amount of this loan has gone in the hands of other people also. Mr. Daga has rightly complained and we, all the elected representatives, also feel that a large portion of the money spent under IRDP is going in the hands of officers and we have no agency to ensure its proper monitoring. There is no machinery to ascertain whether the intended beneficiaries of the scheme are really getting the benefits therefrom or not. To ensure this, we have associated the *Gram Predhans* also with this scheme and established agencies at the district level, but the *Gram Pradhan* and the agency at the district level entrusted with monitoring work have not been vested with enough powers so as to contribute in the successful implementation of the schemes. It is requested that if Government want the desired results to be achieved during the Seventh Plan, they should set up such monitoring committees at district and block levels as could take decisions about defaulters and make those officials work efficiently who are not performing their duties properly, so that the intended beneficiaries may get the benefits

Our NREP Programme in itself is a very practical one. It has helped a lot in providing employment in rural areas and a number of new works have been

undertaken in the villages through RLEGP programme, giving employment to many people, but the amount given as wages is so meagre and insufficient that they find it difficult to make their both ends meet. So, the State Governments may be asked to revise the Minimum Wages Act. A worker must be given at least Rs. 11 to 12 per day and if he does not get this much then, I think, he is not earning sufficiently to make his both ends meet. A large number of youths are working under this scheme. If we cannot provide jobs to them and if even here we do not give them adequate wages, they would not work earnestly and we would also not be able to harness our manpower for rural development.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rawat, you can continue on the next occasion.

The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on 21st instant at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, January 21, 1985 [Magha, 1, 1906 (Saka).