Monday, February 22, 1988 Phalguna 3, 1909 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Tenth Session (Eighth Lok Sabha)

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h, Ch. (Phillaur)

Shri (Bombay, North West)

ll Singh, Shri (Bulandshahr)

II, Shri Narsıng (Bidar)

ad Singh, Shri (Hamırpur)

D. Narayana (Anantapur)

Katuri Narayana (Narasar-

G. (Shillong)

Т

Gopal K. (Daman & Diu)

Tanti, Shri Bhadreswar (Kaliabor)

U

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Tariq Anwar, Shri (Katihar)

Tewary, Prof. K.K. (Buxar)

Thakkar, Shrimati Usha (Kutch)

Thakur, Shri C.P. (Patna)

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Y

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Yadav, Shri R.N. (Parbhani)

Yadav, Shri Ram Singh (Alwar)

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Yogesh, Shri Yogeshwar Prasad (Chatra)

Z

Zainal Abedin, Shri (Jangipur)

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Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Welfare	Smt. Sumati Oraon

LOK SABHA

The Speaker

Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar

The Deputy-Speaker

Shri M. Thambi Dura

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Shrimati Basavarajeswari

Shri Zainul Basher

Shri Sharad Dighe

Shri Vakkom Purushothaman

Shri Somnath Rath

Shri N. Venkata Ratnam

Secretary-General

Dr. Subhash C. Kasyap

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol. XXXV-First day of the Tenth Session of Eighth Lok Sabha-No. 1

LOK SABHA

Monday, February 22, 1988/Phalguna 3, 1909 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at fifty-five minutes past Twelve of the clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

Secretary-General: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1988.

President's Address

Honourable Members,

It is a privilege fc r me to address you for the first time as President. I welcome you to this session of Parliament. I particularly felicitate the new members, who for the first time, include a representative from the newly constituted constituency of Daman and Diu. I give my good wishes to the people of Goa, which has attained statehood.

2. A few weeks ago, we were deprived of the presence of a great soul. A link with the stirring days of the freedom struggle is no more. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was a symbol of the spirit of non-violence and secularism. His life was a saga of unsurpassed courage and sacrifice. I also pay tribute to the other colleagues who have left us, including the former Prime Minister, Shri Charan Singh, and Shri M.G. Ramachandran, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who through his farsightedness worked for and strengthened national unity.

3. Our vision of India is of a land whose unity and integrity are invulnerable to external threats or internal weaknesses;

- where the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our Constitution, are fully realised;
- where social justice prevails, with equality of opportunity for every human being;
- where science and technology have helped to wipe out poverty and disease;
- where economic development does not exhaust the bounties of nature, but creates wealth in harmony with it;
- where industrialisation and modernization are fused with moral and spiritual values;
- where all religions and cultures

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flourish in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation.

We want an India whose interaction with the nations of the world is dedicated to peace and international cooperation, and a new world order based on equality, freedom and justice.

In the last 40 years we have progressed along this path, illumined by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. We shall adhere to it, come what may, with the determination and courage instilled in us by Indira Gandhi.

4. The struggle for independence was the precursor to the struggle for self-reliant progress, the struggle for social emancipation, the struggle to recover for India her traditional, historic place in the vanguard of human civilization. Our achievements have been notable. More notable still has been the consistency of our endeavour, the sincerity of our effort, the dedication and hard work of our people. Our primary goal has been the rapid amelioration of poverty and its eradication. The key to the alleviation of poverty lies in a rapid and sustained expansion of employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas. Our strategy has been to combine direct intervention in favour of the poorer segments of society through assetcreation and employment-creation anti-poverty programmes, with faster and more diversified growth, underpinned by a massive programme of quality education. We seek to realize the full potential of our unmatched human resources while harmonizing the country's educational profile with the growth requirements and employment needs of our economy. We have moved purposefully towards the achievement of our aims. The pace of progress has markedly quickened in the last seven years. The Eighth Plan must provide for even faster growth, the maximisation of employment opportunities, and the vigorous reduction of regional disparities. We need both a higher rate of growth and a composition of growth which matches the basic needs of our people and the evolving requirements of our economy and society.

5. We have pursued growth within the framework of two crucial parametres: the freedom of our country and the freedom of our people. To this end, we have built strong institutions to guarantee the democratic rights of our citizens and to overcome the many challenges to our independence, integrity and nationhood. Efforts have been mounted, from outside and within, to subvert, suborn and undermine our democratic political system. Our ever-vigilant people have thwarted all such efforts.

6. The failure of the rains has tested the resilience of our economy and the strength of our purpose. Our farming community, and indeed the nation as a whole, has responded to this serious economic challenge in a most heroic manner. The people are cooperating magnificently with the Government. The nation's economic performance is a tribute to the soundness and strength of our development strategy.

7. With a determined and concerted national effort, the challenge of terrorism is being met in Punjab and elsewhere. Following President's Rule in Punjab, the lawenforcing agencies have harnessed the resurgent will of the people of Punjab and mounted a determined campaign against misquided anti-national elements. The foremost task is to crush terrorism and isolate the secessionists. The terrorists have lately stepped up their depredations. They have to contend with the high morale, regenerated professionalism and strict vigilance of our security forces. They also have to contend with the people's refusal to be browbeaten or cowed. There can and will be no compromise over the nation's integrity and unity. In the search for a non-violent political solution

6 **President's Address**

of the problem within the framework of the Constitution. Government stands ready for a dialogue with all those who eschew violence. The nation mourns the loss of innocent lives. We salute those who have laid down their lives in the cause of national unity.

In Tripura, the extremists stepped up 8. their campaign of terror. The escalated violence and mounting loss of innocent human lives left Government with no option but to declare Tripura as a disturbed area. We are determined to put down violence there.

9. We are unflinching in our determination to root out communlism, fundamentalism and other fissiparous tendencies. Committees of the National Integration Council have been active in devising measures for the promotion of communal harmony. The Centre and the States must make sustained efforts to implement the Fifteen Point Programme for the welfare of the minorities.

10. We are committed to the elimination of the consequences of centuries of ostracism, discrimination and oppression We have reorganised the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and strengthened the office of the Commissioner. The importance we attach to the welfare and development of these disadvantaged sections of our society is reflected in the Seventh Plan outlay of over Rs. 14000 crores in their favour. It is a matter of particular satisfaction that coverage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the IRDP has reached 41 per cent, far exceeding the target of 30 per cent.

During the year elections were held in 11. Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura.

The provisions of Article 356 of the 12.

Constitution were invoked in Tamil Nadu in view of the situation that developed there in January. Elections in the State are proposed to be held at an early date.

13. The Commission on Centre-State relations which was set up under the chairmanship of Shri Justice R.S. Sarkaria has submitted its report. The views of Parliament. States and members of the public will be taken into account before arriving at decisions.

14. The National Policy on Education is our pledge to the coming generations and our gauge to the future. Quality education for all is the key to national development. A programme of action for the implementation of the Policy was presented to Parliament in 1986. Major steps were taken during the year in pursuance of the Policy. Our concern for primary education is paramount. Operation "Blackboard" was launched to improve the quality of instruction and the infrastructure in primary schools. Particular attention is being paid to the educationally backward States. The massive programme for training 5 lakh teachers annually has been continued. A national core curriculum is being developed to impart an awareness of our heritage and a sense of national cohesion. The number of Navodaya Vidyalayas has risen to 206. An analysis of admission tests to these schools for 1986 shows that 41 per cent of the selected children belong to families below the poverty line, 77 per cent come from rural areas, and the percentage of children from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is much higher than their percentage in the total population. The scheme for free secondary stage education for girls is now being implemented in all States. A comprehensive scheme has then drawn up for the vocationalisation of education. Government are working on a number of measures to enhance the quality of higher education and technical education.

15. The promotion of the small family norm is a high national priority. Last year we recorded 20 million acceptors of contraceptive coverage: the highest level ever achieved. The problems of family welfare and health are interlinked. They are, therefore, being tackled through an integrated set of measures. Immunisation programmes have accelerated over the last two years.

The emancipation of women from all 16. forms of prejudice, discrimination and abuse, deprivation and oppression is a national duty and a national task. Their full and equal participation in the nation's life is a national imperative. Government have prepared a perspective plan up to the year 2000 to deal with the problems of women. Government have also reconstituted the National Committee on Women to review and advise on policies and programmes for women. A National Commission has been established to look into the problems of women in the unorganised sector. Its report is expected shortly.

17. Following the barbaric incident at Deorala, the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, was passed. Government are determined to root out this evil practice. These efforts should be backed by the widest possible mobilisation of public opinion.

18. A very significant feature of our changing society is the transformation taking place in the country's demographic profile. As a people, we are growing younger. Therefore, meeting the needs of our youth and fitting them for their role in the nation's ife are matters of high priority. The Nehru Yuvak Kendras have been galvanised into a high level of activity. Intellectual and physical discipline, and a sense of enterprise and adventure, are being instilled in lakhs of our boys and girls through the NSS, the Bharat Scouts and Guides and the National Cadet Corps. The Sports Authority of India has done commendable work in affording oppor-

tunity to the athletic prowess of our youth.

19. Harmonious industrial relations were a significant feature of the year. We compliment both labour and managements on their constructive attitudes. We want to promote a participatory management culture in industry. Government intend to bring forward a comprehensive Bill on industrial relations and a Bill for major changes in the Employees' Provident Fund Act.

While segments of our workforce 20. have organized themselves to secure and safeguard their rights, the overwhelming majority of our working people are unorganized and, therefore, exploited. Data about their conditions of work is inadequate and action to ameliorate their lot unsatisfactory. We are deeply concerned about their welfare and progress. We are committed to the improvement of their conditions. We have, therefore, appointed the National Commission on Rural Labour. We have also framed a National Policy on Child Labour. Voluntary agencies are being associated in the identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour

21. The Twenty Point Programme has infused new hope in the countryside. It accounts for 30 per cent of the total Plan outlay for the current year. IRDP, NREP and RLEGP are our major instruments in the attack on rural poverty. In the last seven years, IRDP has assisted 23.4 million families belonging to weaker sections and other backward groups below the poverty line. Women now constitute 16 per cent of the beneficiaries. During the period April 1987— January 1988, NREP and RLEGP generated 471 million mandays of employment.

22. Water for the first time has been recognized as a vital national asset. The new National Water Policy derives from the national consensus on this point. This paves the way for effective planned development and efficient utilization of our national water resources.

23. The Ganga Action Plan has caught the nation's imagination. It is in full swing in 25 towns and cities. the protection of the environment has emerged as a major national priority. Environmental standards have been notified for 24 priority industries. Parliament has already amended the law on air pollution. Stringent legislative action is planned to protect our forests and prevent the pollution of water.

24. Government undertook legislation in the winter session of Parliament to establish a National Housing Bank. One of its major tasks will be to finance housing for the weaker sections. In this session, Government will bring forward a National Housing Policy for providing dwellings for the unsheltered millions.

25. A major item of the Twenty Point Programme is the development of a more reponsive administration, especially in its interface with the weaker sections. A series of workshops of District Collectors on the subject of responsive administration is being held. The machinery for the redressal of public grievances is being strengthened. Special programmes are being organised to train officials of the District Planning Cells.

26. Plans to provide speedy and inexpensive justice for the under-privileged made headway. A committee, with the Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief, has been entrusted with the implementation of legal aid schemes.

27. A new impetus was given last year to the drive against smuggling, foreign exchange racketeering and drug trafficking. The Central Economic Intelligence Bureau is coming down hard on syndicates of smugglers and racketeers. 28. The menace of drugs is assuming worrying proportions. If we are not careful, the flower of our youth could be endangered, the physical and moral fibre of the nation could be sapped. We are determined to fight this evil. The Narcotics Control Bureau made major seizures of drugs during the year. Programmes have been launched for the de-addiction and rehabilitation of the unfortunate victims of drug abuse.

29. We are consciously directing science and technology to the removal of poverty, particularly in rural India. This is the aim of our five technology missions. The tasks assigned to these five missions are : to provide potable water to all villages in the country; to immunise 20 million pregnant women and 18 million infants against vaccine-preventable diseases; to impart functional literacy to 30 million adults; to augment the production of oilseeds and edible oil; and to provide increased access to telecommunication services. These missions have formulated their operational plans for 1988-89 and 1989-90. The plans are being closely monitored and carefully evaluated.

30. Government have adopted the approach of integrated energy for rural areas. Natural and perennial sources of energy like solar, wind, biomass, mini-hydel sources and improved chulhas are being popularised.

31. Oil exploration and exploitation are being intensified. Refining capacity will be furthe, augmented. A Centre for High Technology has been established to acquire, develop and adapt modern technologies in refineries. The first section of the HBJ pipeline was completed during the year.

32. Significant strides have been made in electronics. India has emerged as one of the few countries with its own technology for manufacturing electronic exchanges. Software exports are shaping up as a major new **FEBRUARY 22, 1988**

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area of growth.

33. In nuclear science, we are among the few with a mastery of the complete nuclear fuel cycle for the production of nuclear power. A'landmark in this area has been the designing of 500 MWe capacity reactors. The Nuclear Power Corporation has been established to enhance the nuclear power programme.

34. August 1987 was a landmark in our effort to develop capabilities in seabed mining. The Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority registered India's claim for a mine site in the Indian Ocean for exploration and development It is a matter of pride that India is the first country to be granted such a claim by the Authority.

35. The first Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, designed and developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is being launched next month by a Soviet launcher. The second flight of the augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle with the SROSS-II satellite will be launched in April. This satellite will carry a joint ISRO-West German payload. In June, our communication satellite INSAT-IC will be launched on the French Ariane launcher.

36. Our economy has demonstrated its resilience in the face of one of the worst climatic setbacks in memory, namely, the widespread drought in most parts of the country and the floods in the eastern region. We have stood up well to the challenge and warded off a crisis because the development strategy followed by Indira Gandhi, and the new initiatives of the past three years, have imparted an intrinsic strength to our economy. We will ensure the restoration of momentum in agricultural growth as soon as normalcy returns to climatic conditions.

37 About 45 million hectares of land spread over 269 districts in 15 States and 6

Union Territories was affected by the drought. In many areas, it was the second successive year of failure of rains; in some, the third or the fourth. A shortfall of 7 to 10 per cent in foodgrains production, as compared to the 1986-87 level, is apprehended. A comprehensive strategy was evolved to combat the impact of the drought. Central relief assistance was expeditiously provided to the States for employment, drinking water and the supply of fodder. The flow of essential commodities through the Public Distribution System was greatly expanded. A package of debt relief and additional credit assistance was made available to farmers. For those affected for three or more years, this included a moratorium on principal and interest payments. A strategy for maximising rabi production has been adopted.

38. We have always believed that the nation can be strong only if the farmer and farming are strengthened. Our quest for selfreliance in foodgrains has served us well. We built substantial buffer stocks. These have helped us tide over difficult situations In recent years, rice productivity has increased in the Eastern States covered by the Special Rice Production Programme, Government are making determined efforts to ensure that foodgrains output reaches 175 million tonnes by the end of the Seventh Plan. Emphasis will be placed on increasing the productivity of dry land farming. A Task Force has been set up to work out the details of the strategy. A recent innovation is agricultural planning on the basis of agro-climatic zones.

39. The funds needed for drought relief greatly exceeded the amount originally budgeted. It became necessary to take fiscal counter-measures to check inflationary pressures. A temporary surcharge was introduced on Income Tax, Wealth Tax, Corporation Tax and Customs Duty. Strict economy was enforced in public expenditure. The Reserve Bank also took measures to mop up excess liquidity in the banking system and tighten selective controls. Inflationary pressures have been much less than in earlier droughts. In 1970-80 the Wholesale Price Index had risen by over 21 per cent. In contrast, the increase upto the third week of January 1988 has been only 9.8 per cent.

40. The performance of the industrial sector has been commendable. It reflects the success of Government policies in stimulating investment and production, and promoting technological upgradation. A special tribute is due to our industrial workers who responded well to the call for raising productivity. Since 1984-85, industry has grown at a rate between 8.5 to 9 per cent per annum. The momentum continued into 1987-88 with the general index of industrial production showing a growth of 10.2 per cent in April-November 1987. For the year as a whole, it is likely to exceed 8 per cent as the effects of the drought become evident in the non-agricultural sectors. The small-scale sector has contributed significantly to the rapid growth of industry in this period. A National Equity Fund has been established to provide financial support to small-scale manufacturing units. The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1987 became operational last May.

41. The infrastructure, which is almost exclusively in the public sector, has performed very well. This segment of the economy had shown healthy growth in 1986-87, with power generation expanding by 10.2 per cent, coal by 7.5 per cent and railway freight by 7.4 per cent. All these continued to show their strong performance in the current year. Power generation in April—December 1987 was 7.6 per cent higher than the previous year, despite a substantial decrease in hydel generation due to drought. Thermal power generation grew by 16.1 per cent. The Plant Load Factor in April—December 1987 has averaged 55 per cent, compared with 52.2 per cent during the same period in the previous year. The growth rate in coal in the first 9 months of 1987-88 was 10.2 per cent. Railway freight expanded by 5.4 per cent.

42. The public sector occupies the commanding heights of the national economy. It safeguards the economic independence of India. It must and will continue to play this pivotal role in our development strategy of building socialism. For this very reason, Government have stressed the need for improving its efficiency and financial viability. We are giving the public sector greater operational autonomy through Memoranda of Understanding.

43. The balance-of-payments position has been managed successfully despite a difficult external situation. Government's efforts at promoting exports have yielded results. Exports have shown a healthy growth of 24.7 per cent in value terms in the first nine months of the year, while the increase in imports has been kept at 13.5 per cent. The trade deficit over April—December 1987 was lower than the deficit in the same period last year. Government will keep the balance-of-payments position under close watch.

44. Central Sector Plan outlays have been ahead of Seventh Plan targets. While this is gratifying, we have to pay much closer attention to the achievement of physical targets. The Mid-Term Review of the Seventh Plan has been completed by the Planning Commission and will shortly be presented to the National Development Council and Parliament.

45. From the earliest times, the Indian mind has transcended "narrow domestic walls" and seen all of humanity as one large family. Ours is a millennial heritage of tolerance and compassion, of the self-confident assimilation and synthesis of all that is best,

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from wherever it comes. Our struggle for freedom was guided by the ancient principles of truth, of non-violence and of humanity as one. The basic tenets of our foreign policy derive from this integrated and deeply entrenched world-view. The philosophy and practice of Non-alignment is modern India's outstanding contribution to contemporary international relations. It was a philosophy conceived and elaborated by those great men of vision, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. First a minority view, deprecated and even derided, it has grown to embrace two-thirds of the international community, profoundly influencing thinking people everywhere, crucially contributing to the shaping of a new world order. Our foreign policy has safeguarded our sovereignty, promoted our national interests and made a vital contribution to the building of a just, equitable and democratic world order. We believe in the peaceful resolution of international disputes. We seek the enlargement of our friendship and cooperation will all countries. We are committed to the promotion of peaceful co-existence and nuclear disarmament.

46. While defence strategists remained mired in obsolete concepts of deterrence, in a world threatened with extinction by nuclear weapons, on the very morrow of Hiroshima, Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru grasped the catastrophic implications of the advent of nuclear weapons. The elimination of these weapons became a principal plank of independent India's foreign policy. Throughout the last forty years, India has worked steadfastly for a non-violent wr 'd without nuclear weapons. The Suchation Initiative, in which Indira Gandhi played a leading part, contributed significantly to the resumption of the deadlocked disarmament negotiations. The Initiative has mobilised opinion world-wide in favour of nuclear disarmament. It has helped set the stage for the agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union signed in Washington last

December on the elimination of land-based intermediate and short-range missiles. While welcoming this agreement as a historic first step towards nuclear disarmament, we have emphasised the need to ensure rapid progress towards further and substantial reduction in nuclear arsenals, and the induction of all nuclear-weapon powers into the process. The Stockholm Summit of the Six-Nation Initiative last month spelt out the steps which need to be taken in the wake of the INF Treaty with a view to ensuring the global elimination of all nuclear weapons within a specified period of time.

47. Our future is also threatened by the growing degradation of the environment. We must ensure environmentally sustainable development. We support international efforts to realise this objective. We hosted a meeting of the World Commission on Environment and Development. The Prime Minister addressed the United Nations during the special debate on the Commission's Report.

In July 1987, we concluded the his-48. toric Indo-Sri Lanka agreement which has been welcomed in Tamil Nadu and all other parts of India as the harbinger of peace in Sri Lanka and justice for the Tamil minority in that country. The agreement has been internationally acclaimed as an act of the highest statesmanship. The provisions of the agreement meet all the legitimate aspirations of the Sri Lanka Tamil minority while ensuring the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. The agreement paves the way for durable peace and stability in that country. It meets important security concerns of ours and strengthens Non-alignment in our region. As provided for in the agreement, and in response to the urgent request of President Jayawardene, the Indian Peace Keeping Force was sent to Sri Lanka. They have done an outstanding job in the most difficult circumstances. We pay tribute to our gallant soldiers. To those who have made the supreme

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sacrifice, We pledge that their sacrifice shall not be in vain. We are firmly resolved to secure the full implementation of all provisions of the agreement. We are giving further momentum to the processes envisaged under it. We are ensuring that the objective of achieving a durable solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka is realized in full measure.

49. Regional cooperation in South Asia is an important dimension of our foreigh policy and of growing significance in our region. Under our Chairmanship, regional cooperation was consolidated and several major initiatives were promoted. The third Summit at Kathmandu carried forward the process. We must realise the immense untapped potential for South Asian cooperation.

50. The peoples of India and Pakistan share much in common. We wish the people of Pakistan well. We want to promote trust and friendship through greater interaction between our peoples. We hope the Government of Pakistan will reciprocate our sentiments and help create the atmosphere for enduring peace and friendship. Unfortunately, our efforts in this direction have been hampered, and many of our initiatives thwarted. Pakistan continues its clandestine efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. They also continue to assist terrorist and secessionist elements in India. Is this the path of friendship and cooperation? My Government still believe that reason and good sense will prevail and the Pakistan Government will make a fresh assessment of its policy towards India.

51. We attach importance to building friendly relations with China. Outstanding issues have to be resolved in an amicable manner, consistent with our national interest. It is important to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border.

52. We support the continuing efforts of

the Secretary General of the United Nations on Afghanistan. There are signs of positive movement, although hurdles are being put in the way of a settlement. We welcome the announcement made by General Secretary Gorbachev regarding the withdrawal of Soviet troops in accordance with the stipulated schedule. We hope the forthcoming proximity talks at Geneva will lead to a final settlement. We have been in touch with the parties concerned. We will work together with them to ensure the status of Afghanistan as a sovereign, independent and nonaligned country.

53. The travails of the Kampuchear people have caused us much distress. We have followed with sympathy and deep interest the efferts of the Kampucheans to rebuild their country, protect their independence and sovereignty, and safeguard their nonaligned status. We are helping in the peace process. We have contributed towards bringing together those who must jointly work out a solution to the Kampuchean question. We shall continue our efforts in cooperation with the parties concerned.

We have been deeply sympathetic to 54. the cause of the Palestinian people since the days of our freedom movement. The partition of India and the partition of Palestine took place in the same year. We have stood by the Palestinian people through their trials and tribulations and the terrible suffering they have undergone. We deeply deplore the brutal repression of Palestinians by Israeli forces in the Occupied Territories. There can be no solution that ignores the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. They must have a State of their own in their homeland. To find a lasting solution, an International Peace Conference should be immediately convened, with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and others concerned.

55. The Iran-Iraq war is a matter of great

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sorrow. It has led to an increasingly volatile situation in our neighbourhood and the proliferatic n of external military presences in the region. We shall continue our work with others in the arduous search for peace.

Apartheid is a blot on civilization, 56. repugnant to our commitment to the unity of the human family. Since Mahatma Gandhi's early experiments with truth in South Africa, the elimination of racial discrimination has been an integral part of our freedom struggle and as yet an unfulfilled mission of our foreign policy. Apartheid survives because of the economic and military sustenance which Pretoria receives from a few rich and powerful countries. The only way of ending this abomination without too much bloodshed is through comprehensive, mandatory sanctions under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter. We have striven for this at the UN, Non-aligned and in Commonwealth forums. All Commonwealth countries, with one exception, agreed at the Vancouver Summit last October to intensify their sanctions against apartheid. The AFRICA Fund, which we conceived of as a practical measure of support, has received a gratifying response from countries all over the world.

57. The moves in Fiji to deprive people of their rights solely on a racial basis have caused deep resentment. Fiji's constitutional arrangements must ensure fair and just representation in Parliament for all communities.

58. We welcome the agreement signed in Guatemala by leaders of five Central American countries. We earnestly hope the agreement will lead to a just and lasting settlement ensuring the security, sovereignty and independence of all States of the region.

59. There has been substantial progress in our bilateral relations with the United States of America, particularly in the technological and economic fields. The Prime Minister had wide-ranging talks with the US President. We continue to impress upon the United States the seriousness of our corcern about the supply of armaments to Pakistan notwithstanding that country's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons.

India's relations with the Soviet Union 60. have always been warm and friendly. The Delhi Declaration of November 1986 affirmed the common commitment of both countries to non-violence and peaceful coexistence. In the last three years, we have enlarged and enriched the content of our relationship. There has been an unprecedented increase in high-level visits, an unparalleled expansion of trade, and new dimensions and new vistas added in areas such as science and technology, further expanding our already wide-ranging cooperation. The mutual goodwill of our peoples has found spectacular expression in the Festivals held in the two countries, During the year, the Prime Minister of India visited the Soviet Union and the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union visited India

61. Honourable Members, with the united endeavour of the nation we can meet with confidence the challenges that confront us and accomplish the tasks that lie ahead. We shall be faithful to the ideals and goals of our Republic. We shall place the national good above any sectional interest. I wish you all success in your endeavours in the year before us.

JAI HIND

12.56 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES AND RESOLUTION ON THE DEMISE OF KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

[English]

we meet today after an interval of more than two months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the demise of Khan Abdul Ghaffar (than; Shri M.G. Ramachandran; former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu; two sitting Members and eleven of our former colleagues namely, Chaudhary Rahim Khan, Sarvashri A.G. Subburaman; David Munzni; Sofi Mohd. Akber; P. Ramamurti; Sonubhau Baswant; S.M. Banerjee; Hargovind Verma; Shyamaprasana Bhattacharyya; Ramavtar Shastri; C.D. Pande; Upendra Nath Barman; and Karpoori Thakur.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, endearingly called Badshah Khan or Bacha Khan by millions of his fellow Pathans passed away at Peshawar (Pakistan) on 20 January, 1988 at the age of 97 years. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom, he was aptly called Frontier Gandhi by our own countrymen.

The popularity he won, the influence and power he exercised over people have seldom been equalled by men who have kept themselves as seduously away from the limelight, as he did.

Like many other of his time, he came under the spell of writings of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan and Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and opted to join the freedom struggle. In 1919, when Gandhiji started agitation against the Rowlatt Bill, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan took active part in it and was put behind the bars for six months.

In 1921, he started a national school in his native village, Utmanzai. The British Government regarded his efforts to start more such schools as subversion and sent him to prison for three years. In 1924, he settled down to social reforms amongst the Pathans through the school established by him. It turned out a number of fine men who later formed the nucleus of the celebrated Khudai Khitmatgars or the 'Red Shirts' who had profound faith in Gandhiji's creed of nonviolence.

In 1946, he was elected to the Constituent Assembly of un-divided India and on partition his membership was transferred to the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. He abhorred the idea of partition of India. He delivered a speech in the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan for which he was arrested and sentenced to three years' imprisonment on charge of sedition.

An apostle of peace and non-violence and a crusader for liberty and justice, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan continued to struggle even in his old age for what he considered the rightful claims of his people. A close associate of Gandhiii for over 27 years, he endeared himself to millions of our countrymen. He personified Gandhiji's ideals andthroughout his long life, he remained unassuming in manners and ascetic in habits. By him simple life and devout actions, he epitomised the humanist way of life in all its aspects. A true servant of God, he was against the practice of untouchability in any form and campaigned for the emancipation of women and equal respect for all religions.

13.00 hrs.

He had a stint in journalism too. As early in 1928 he started a monthly called 'Pakhtoon' which became the mouthpiece of Khudai Khidmatgars - a nonviolent and nonpolitical movement. Again in 1938, he started 'Das Roza' which lasted till 1945 when it was finally closed down. Through journalism, he infused the ideals of freedom among the people.

A Titan of our freedom struggle, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan spent nearly 36 years of his precious life in various jails for the sake of his ideals. Amnesty international chose him the 'Prisoner of the year' in 1962, for having spent a long period of his life in various

prisons of the sub-continent both before and after partition. He was awarded the 'Nehru Peace Prize' in 1969. Last year he was honoured with the 'Bharat Ratna'. the highest award of the land.

With his passing away India has lost a good friend, one of the stalwarts of our freedom struggle and the world a messiah of peace in this strife-torn-world. We pay our tributes to this great leader whose memory will fill our hearts for ever.

Shri M.G. Ramachandran, popularly and affectionately called M.G.R., died in harness as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at Madras on 24th December, 1987, at the age of 71 years.

A seasoned politician, Shri M.G. Ramachandran was first elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Council in 1962 but resigned from its membership in 1964. He was again elected to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1967 and remained its member till his death. He became the Chief Minister of the State in 1977 and adorned that Chair for over a decade.

An able administrator, Shri M.G. Ramachandran made far-reaching reforms in the State Administration. He abolished the **Revenue** Board and the system of village officers. He introduced a massive free midday meal scheme to benefit poor children and destitutes. The scheme received wide approbation. It was during his Chief Ministership that the Telugu-Ganga project to provide drinking water to the city of Madras was put to shape. By introducing many other welfare schemes, he endeared himself to the rural poor and down-trodden.

Shri M.G. Ramachandran was a man of the masses and he held an enormous sway over them. A veteran patriot, he stood for the unity and integrity of the country. He was the co-architect of the historic Indo-Sri Lanka of Khan Abdul

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Accord to end the ethnic trouble in the island nation. 'Bharat Ratna', the highest award of the land, was posthumously conferred on him for his services to the people.

With the passing away of Shri M.G. Ramachandran, the nation has become poorer. The country has lost a great statesman and patriot and the State of Tamil Nadu an ardent champion of the down-trodden. We pay our respectful homage to this great departed leader.

Chaudhary Rahim Khan was a sitting member of this House from Faridabad constituency of Haryana. Earlier he had been a member of Haryana Legislative Assembly during 1967-72, 1972-74 and again 1982-84. He had also served as a member of Council of Ministers in the State of Haryana and held various important portfolios.

An agriculturist, political and social worker, he was associated with several cooperative marketing societies and other social and educational institutions in various capacities. He served in the Indian army and rendered valuable service in Burma during the second world war for which he was awarded a war medal.

Chaudhary Rahim Khan passed away at New Delhi on 18 December, 1987 at the age of 65 years.

Shri A.G. Subburaman was a sitting member of this House representing Madurai constituency of Tamil Nadu. Earlier, he had been a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha.

A businessman by profession and a social worker, he worked for the uplift of the weaker section of society.

He evinced special interest in the development of handloom and powerloom textile units in his home State.

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He took keen interest in sports activities and had been serving as President of Tamil Nadu Football Federation since 1983.

Shri Subburaman passed away at New Delhi on 7 February, 1988 at the age of 58 years.

Shri David Munzni was a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Lohardaga constituency of Bihar.

A political and social worker, Shri Munzni worked for the welfare of the downtrodden. He was associated with several social organisations and advocated the cause of industrial labour. A widely travelled person, he represented India in the World Conference of Moral Re-Armament at Caux in Montreaux in 1950.

Shri David Munzni passed away at Delhi on 3 December, 1987 at the age of 63 years.

Shri Sofi Mohd. Akber was a member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57 from the State of Jammu & Kashmir. Earlier, he had been a member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly during 1941-46.

A social worker, Shri Sofi Mohd. Akber took active part in the spread of co-operative movement. He was associated with several social organisations in various capacities.

Shri Sofi Mohd. Akber passed away at sopole on 14 December, 1987 at the age of 84 years.

Shri P. Ramamurti was a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Madurai constituency of the erstwhile State of Madras. He had been a member of Rajya Sabha for two terms in 1960 and 1977. Earlier he was a member of the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1952-57.

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A seasoned parliamentarian, Shri Ramamurti made valuable contribution to the debates particularly in matters relating to welfare of the working class. He was always heard with respect. He served as Leader of the Opposition in the Madras Legislative Assembly during 1953-57.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Ramamurti was drawn into freedom struggle while he was still a student and suffered imprisonment for several years.

A well known trade unionist, political and social worker, he was responsible for organising industrial workers in the then State of Madras and held prominent positions in the trade union movement. He was also associated with Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras for several years.

Shri P. Ramamurti passed away at Madras on 15 December, 1987 at the age of 79 years.

Shri Sonubhau Baswant was a member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Bhiwandi constituency of Maharashtra. Earlier, he had been a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67.

An agriculturist, Shri Baswant also took active part in trade union activities and held prominent positions in trade union organisations. A well known social worker, he worked for the development of cooperation and agriculture.

Shri Baswant passed away at Bombay on 16 December, 1987 at the age of 73 years.

Shri S.M. Banerjee was a member of Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 representing Kanpur constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of Second, Third and Fourth Lok Sabha during 1957-62, 1962-67 and 1967-70 respectively.

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A dynamic trade unionist and brilliant parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contribution to the debates particularly on matters affecting workers' interests. He lost no opportunity to ventilate the grievances of the working class inside and outside the House. He took active part in trade union movement and was associated with several trade union organisations in various capacities.

A widely travelled person, Shri Banerjee took keen interest in classical music, fine arts and sports.

Shri Banerjee passed away at New Delhi on 25 th December, 1987 at the age of 68 years.

Shri Hargovind Verma was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 representing Sitapur constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Later, in 1980 he was elected to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

A well known social worker, Shri Verma worked for village uplift. He was associated with several social and educational organisations in various capacities.

Shri Verma passed away under tragic circumstances at Sitapur on 15 January, 1988 at the age of 51 years.

Shri Shyamaprasanna Bhattacharyya was a member of the Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 and 1977-79, representing Uluberia constituency of West Bengal. Earlier, he had been a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly during 1957-62.

An active political worker, he was assoclated with Sree Sangha, a revolutionary party of West Bengal.

He evinced keen interest in the uplift of

agriculturists and served on many peasants' organisations in various capacities.

Shri Bhattacharya passed away at Andul in Howrah district, West Bengal on 16 January, 1988, at the age of 83 years.

Shri Ramavatar Shastri was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84 representing Patna constituency of Bihar. Earlier, he had been a member of the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 and 1971-76 respectively.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Shastri suffered imprisonment for several years for his participation in the freedom movement. A dedicated social worker, he worked for the uplift of the down-trodden. A political worker and a trade unionist, he served several trade union organisations in various capacities.

A journalist by profession, he was the author of several articles on Socio-political subjects. A widely travelled person, he served on the Executive Committee of Indo-GDR Friendship Association for several years.

An active parliamentarian, he took keen interest in the proceedings of the House and made valuable contributions to the debates. He served on the Committee on Estimates during 1969-70. He also served on various Joint and Select Committees of Parliament.

Shri Ramavatar Shastri passed away at Patna on 26 January, 1988 at the age of 68 years.

Shri C.D. Pande was a member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during 1952-62 representing Naini Tal constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Provisional Parliament during 1950-52.

A well known social worker, Shri Pande took keen interest in the establishment of

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educational institutions and served them in various capacities. He was Private Secre-' tary to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh during 1937-39.

Shri C.D. Pande passed away at New Delhi on 25th January, 1988 at the age of 82 years.

Shri Upendranath Barman was a member of the First and Second Lok Sabha during 1952-62 representing Cooch Behar constituency of West Bengal. Earlier, he had been a member of the Constituent Assembly and Provisional Parliament during 1947-50 and 1950-52 respectively. He had also been a member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly during 1936-45.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Barman was associated with several educational institutions in various capacities. An able parliamentarian, he served as the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and Committee on Petitions. He also served on the Panel of Chairman in Lok Sabha. He held office as Cabinet Minister in the then Government of Bengal during 1941-43.

A widely travelled person, he was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Commonwealth Conference held at London in October, 1948. He was also leader of the Indian Delegation to International Rice Conference in Rangoon in 1950.

Shri Barman passed away at Jalpaiguri on 7th February, 1988 at the age of 89 years.

Shri Karpoori Thakur was elected to the Sixth Lok Sabha from Samastipur constituency of Bihar in 1977 and remained its member for a brief period till 24th December, 1977 when he resigned his seat to head the Council of Ministers in the State of Bihar. Earlier, he had been a member of the State Assembly from 1952 and played a prominent role in his home State. He served the State as Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Education and Finance in 1967 and as Chief Minister during 1970-71. He was a sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly of Bihar at the time of his death.

A veteran freedom fighter, he took an active part in the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942 and was imprisoned for a long period. A dedicated social worker throughout his political life, he fought incessantly against corruption and the exploitation of the poor. He championed the cause of the downtrodden and the weaker sections of the society. He took active part in Bhoodan, Gramdan and Sarvodaya Movements. He also evinced keen interest in Khadi and Village Industries development.

An active trade unionist, he served as Chairman of various trade union organisations for several years. An educationist, he was the founder of several educational institutions and served them in various capacities. A widely travelled person, he was India's delegate to the International Union of Socialist Youth Convention held at Vienna and was also a member of the delegation to Yugoslavia. Shri Karpoori Thakur had special interests in music, particularly, in classical music.

Shri Thakur passed away at Patna on 17th February, 1988 at the age of 69 years. His demise has left a void which would be difficult to fill.

With the permission of the House, may I move a special resolution?

I now place before the House the following resolution which the House may adopt unanimously :-

> "The Lok Sabha expresses its profound sorrow at the passing away of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, popularly known as Fron-

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of Khan Abdul 32 Ghaffar Khan

tier Gandhi or 'Badshah Khan'. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan was a Titan among the legions who fought for the country's liberation from foreign voke. He shared with Mahatma Gandhi an unshakeable faith in truth and non-violence. A true servant of God. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan started a unique movement cailed 'Khudai Khidmatgars'. Unswerving in his patriotism, he abhorred the idea of vivi-section of the country. With his passing away, we have lost one of the greatest stalwarts of our freedom struggle and a 'Messiah of Peace' in this strifetorn world. Above all a truly noble soul, his name will always adorn the pages of our history. The like of him are rarely seen on earth in flesh and blood.

This House conveys its deep

condolences to Khan Wali Khan and other members of the family as well as to millions of his admirers and followers in the Indian sub-continent."

I think the House agrees with the resolution unanimously.

Now, the Members may stand in silence for a short while.

The Members then stood in silence for **a** short while

MR. SPEAKER: The House will new adjourn to meet again at 11 O'cleck, on 23rd February, 1988.

13.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 23, 1988/Phalguna 4, 1909 (Saka)