

our opposition to this text. At the same time, I would like to point out that unlike the Conference on Disarmament which takes decision by consensus, the UN General Assembly has its own rules of procedure. Nevertheless, we have a position of principle which will be made known in this forum too.

Madam, many countries with whom we have close bilateral relations have adopted a position on this issue which is different from our stands. We have, through our dialogue, tried to explain the rationale for our position. We believe that agreement on all issues is not a pre-requisite for close bilateral relations but mutual respect for each other's vital national concerns is. We are committed to strengthening our relations with all countries and remain confident that our differences on this issue will not affect our bilateral ties.

16.48½ hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1996-97 GENERAL
DISCUSSION - CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall resume the discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Virendra Kumar Singh

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Madam Chairman, at the outset I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram for presenting poor-oriented, farmers-oriented, labour oriented, equality oriented Budget ... (Interruptions) I know there will be interruption. When new Members stand to speak, the interruption takes place. But when hon. Joshiji was speaking, I don't think there was any interruption but I think there will be interruptions... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : (Lucknow) : There will be no interruption.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the new Member speak, please donot interrupt.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : This Budget is poor oriented because the provision of Rs. 1263 crores in the budget for poverty eradication has been increased to Rs. 2195 crores. Similarly, there was a provision of Rs. 8000 crores in the earlier budget for rural employment which has now been increased to Rs 10,500 crores. The opposition parties have termed it as anti-farmers and anti - labourers budget. This is wrong

criticism. If you criticise, let it be so. It is your duty to criticize

16.58 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

It is said that all the amount in the budget is spent in repaying loan and no means of new income has been given. I would like to know why have you not given any suggestion. You talk of elimination of unemployment, corruption, price rise, illiteracy but the opposition has not given any concrete programme in this respect. They simply criticize. Of course this should be there but they should give some programme also so that people do not think it is a anti-farmers budget.

When we have given Subsidy to all people to buy 30 thousand tractors, it became anti-farmers. When we have increased the allocation for rural employment to the labour them it became anti-labourers. We have allotted an additional sum of Rs. 2500 to develop rural infrastructure. For infrastructure industries, life insurance has been strengthened.

17.00 hrs.

One more thing has been said about the budget that it is a copy of the budget presented by Dr. Manmohan Singh. But it is not so because, Dr. Manmohan Singh's budget was based on low income rate for generating more revenue whereas Shri P. Chidambaram did not find it proper to do away with corporate surcharge. In addition to it he has proposed 12 percent alternative tax on corporate sector. Inflation will be controlled upto 6-7 percent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can resume a little later. Now, it is five O'clock.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Amarnath Yatra

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Sir, with you kind permission, I would like to make the following Statement as the hon. Home Minister has still not reached Delhi from Jammu. As you have directed, I am making the Statement. Apart from this, any further details will be available to the House after the hon. Home Minister comes back. I think, tomorrow. It may not be possible today.

Sir, the Amarnath Yatra this year has been struck by tragedy because of unprecedented bad weather, heavy rain, snow, landslides and flooding. According to