

14.05 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S  
ADDRESS*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item no. 19—Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Shri Sharad Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before he starts, I would like to make a request to Government. This is the birth centenary year of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. It has not been mentioned in the President's Address. The Government themselves should include this line.

Secondly, this is the first time—please see paragraph 52—that one line has been omitted ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When it is discussed, you may mention it. At the time of discussion you will get a chance and then only you will speak.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The President has not read one line ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please say this afterwards.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It has never so happened since the time of Rajendra Prasad.

*[English]*

SHRI BASAVARAJ RAYAREDDI (Koppal) : You can speak on the President's Address ...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am leaving today. That is why I raised this issue...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following motion :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :—

"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 20 February, 1997".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while addressing the joint session of the Parliament the Hon'ble President has presented before the country the broad outlines of the economic and political policies to be followed by the Government in coming days. This year, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary *i.e.* the Golden Jubilee of our independence. We are also celebrating the centenary function this year. We have run this country by means of democracy for 50 years. Before dwelling on the points mentioned in the Address of our Hon'ble President I would like to let the House know that it is an indicator of the direction in which this Government intends to move in the future.

Sir it is my humble submission that we should be informed as to what have been our achievements during the last 50 years. This is the time to make an analysis of our activities. This is the time to have a deep introspection of ourselves as to where we stand today? What is our position in today's world? Where does stand our country today at the international level? This is the time to see as to what is the position of our country as compared to other countries of the world in the matter of industrial growth, scientific development, science and technology, and in the matter of common man's education.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the country has certainly progressed during the last 50 years. Now we are having scientists and technologists in a very large number, having vast infrastructure to provide basic facilities in the entire nation. But we feel pained when we make a comparative study of the condition of the people of various parts of our country. We should analyse our achievements during the last 50 years. There are people known as 'Banihar' majority of whom work on daily wage basis. They constituted 32 percent of the population at the time of our independence and at present also they constitute 32 percent of the population. We are running this Government for the last eight months. The efforts which we made during this period will be dwelt upon by me later. We have made a lot of development in the field of science, education and various other fields.

14.11 hrs.

*[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]*

We have come far ahead. It was only yesterday that we successfully launched the 'Prithivi' missile On the basis of our own capabilities. We have launched missiles earlier also. We have made progress in various fields ranging from space science to basic science. But today the need is to give a sympathetic look at the condition of our those people who are labouring hard to give us production and to enrich our country. Their condition require our attention. With the growing age of our independence, their life is becoming more difficult, they are feeling helpless, gradually going below the poverty line. In the whole world, we are at the top in unemployment, illiteracy and illness. I would say that

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

Mahatma Gandhi was the most prominent leader among the freedom fighters who had visualised on India in which his dreams would be materialised. Why our President has today given an indication of our political, economic and social condition in the coming days. Why the objectives have been set? Unless we think over the above problems it would be meaningless to talk about these objectives.

Today we are completing the 50th year of our independence. There is large management experts and manpower in our country consisting of working class, persons engaged in manufacturing and production activities, literates and illiterates. People do not get a job in this country. Labour creates capital in every country and in the whole world but there is no work in this country for the persons who wants to do labour work. They must get a job. They should be made strong. If unemployment increases in this country, the poverty will also increase simultaneously. There are 32 percent people who do not get adequate food. They are in no position to live upto their real age. In case the God has granted them a life of 70 years, they are dying at the age of just 50 because, they are not getting food in adequate quantity. If a man works hard but does not get adequate food to eat, his age starts reducing. He dies much before his time.

Mahatma ji had said that whatever Government comes to power after independence, they must give top priority to providing strength to the nation. They must be honest and sincere. He said that he was not a great economist but still he would say that his knowledge and his experience is more realistic and up-to-date than any renowned economist. So, I was saying that if you walk a mile in India, you will find a Banihar. 'Banihar' is a person who works on daily wages. the person who is working on daily wages and living in a small way, needs our attention and we must bring some change in his life, then only we can claim that we people, speaking from Delhi, Ahemdabad and Patna, are saying right. And if no change comes in his life, we should start a satyagrah and sacrifice our lives to change the Government to bring in some improvement in the life of a Banihar.

I want to let you know that this kind of situation is there in the country. This also needs consideration. We have also made progress. I do not want to blame anyone. Today there are 50 lakh people in our country. Who are drinking mineral water costing Rs. 12 per bottle. This is not an insignificant amount. There are still 23 crore people in India who either fetch water from very far distances or do not get potable water. We must discuss this issue also. His Excellency, the President of India, has read out his Address which is just a statement of the United Front. On the one hand, there are people who are drinking mineral water costing Rs. 12 per bottle and on the other there are children who do not get milk which is far cheaper than mineral water. Still the rates of milk vary from Rs. 7 to 10 per kg. in urban areas. Water is costlier than milk. I do not mean that mineral water or pure water should not be available in this country.

Untill the majority of people go on facing shortage of water on one hand and there are such people on the other hand, who can afford Rs. 12 per bottle for mineral water, this country will never become stronger. That country will nowhere receive honour and respect.

On the matter of CTBT, we stood together unitedly and took an unanimous decision, though we were left alone but we succeeded in safeguarding our interest and pride. After that we failed to mobilise the required support for getting the membership of Security Council. You can criticise our Government. You can blame us. We do also accept our faults. But this country is allowing its 32 percent people to live below the poverty line, to live a life of helplessness, hardships and difficulties and has been depriving them of human dignity for the last many thousands years, which is why it is prevented from entering the Security Council inspite of the fact that it has got biggest population in the whole world. When the Prime Minister of this country visits USA, he is given negligible coverage by the print media as well as by the visual media. At the moment our Prime Minister is Shri H.D. Deve Gowda but earlier to him Shri Narasimha Rao was our Prime Minister and when he was on his visit to America, the American print media and visual media, both, had given him very little coverage that too on the fourth page which was felt very badly by some of our young friends who reside in America. When a Chinese Minister of External Affairs goes to America, the whole country is shaken. At present China is producing 32 times more mica than us. In respect of the production of iron this ratio is 1 : 32. India and China, both, achieved independence almost simultaneously and at that point of time both countries were almost at par with each other. But the people of China fought the battle under the leadership of Mao and shaped their country as per their own dreams. We also fought the battle under the leadership of Mahatma ji and desired to build a country of our own dreams but somewhere at some stage we made mistakes and derailed from our path and our dream never came true, rather our dreams have now changed.

You are talking about foreign capital investment today but I assert that after independence itself we had adopted mixed economy. We had been spending foreign capital earlier also but that investments was on our infrastructure. Russia was heading on the path shown by Karl Marx and trying to build up a new society with the help of poor and it was providing assistance to the whole world. We set-up a number of factories in joint venture with Russia. But in today's global market, how are we going to sustain ourselves. Unless we are strong enough, we can not survive in the Global market. But we have created a big gap between rich and poor and this gap is like a gap between the sky and the earth. Be it a social matter or economic matter—all the main inequalities persist only on these two counts. They are socially and economically inequal. These two are the twin inequalities which is not going to vanish easily from our society. These are two sides of the same coin. I have already

told as to what were the objectives of our freedom struggle. Towards the twilight of his life, Mahatma ji had dreamt of bringing change in our society and with this objective he had signed Poona pact with Baba Saheb Ambedkar. He was not alone to sign the Poona Pact. People worked on it unitedly during our freedom struggle. Another thing was that Mahatma ji never went to attend a marriage ceremonised within the same caste. He used to go to attend the intercaste marriages only. It was his firm belief that unless caste system and discrimination on the basis of caste and creed is abolished from our society, we are going to achieve nothing. Apartheid is understood by the whole world but caste discrimination is such an evil and illness of our society which is never discussed seriously and sincerely in our country. People who do speak against the caste system, are found involved spreading casteist feelings. No other hypocrisy can be greater than the hypocrisy of casteism. In the whole world, exploitation is linked with the economic exploitation but in our country there are social exploitation, caste exploitation, cultural exploitation, intellectual exploitation and exploitation in the name of honour and respect and only after these kinds of exploitation comes the economic exploitation. If we do see our caste system in its heirarchical order, we will find that only that strata of our society is the most poor who belongs to the lowest caste. I would say that poverty and caste are twin things. They go hand in hand. It is not only my view. It was said by Mahatmaji, Dr. Lohia, Saint Kabir, Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Phoolay but they all were insulted. Ours is a very peculiar society and it does not accept the good and true people. When they pass away, we build-up a statue in their memories. Therefore, I request you that we still have to go a long way from where we are now. I do not say that we have achieved nothing during the last 50 years. I am not speaking on our achievements but on our social evils. And I am speaking on evils because praises are always sung and evils are highlighted very rarely. People who claim themselves to be the leader of our culture I ask them whether they have laured our country by demolishing the Babri Masjid ? If you see in right perspective...

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : That was merely a structure, not Babri-Masjid.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : You have correctly stated that it was just an edifice. Wars are not won by demolishing graveyards or old monuments. The history is made by waging war with those still alive. If they had been successful in defeating Babar, it would have been a achievement worth reckoning.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Prayers were being offered to Ram, Lakshman and Janaki at that place and infact are still being offered.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member. What is our psyche ? Shri Bal Thackeray is the live example of that very mentality.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Names of such persons should not be mentioned here who are not present here.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am not mentioning his name in order to criticise him.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has mentioned names of 25 such people in his speech who are not present here.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Shri Tripathi, please listen to me first and then you will have no objection. Recently, Michael Jackson show was organised in Mumbai. Shri Bal Thackeray extends one hand towards Shri Advani and the other to hold Michael Jackson's hands. Whether this is the culture of our country ? Those who study in Public Schools being run by us and depend on mineral water are the ones who try to follow simultaneously the Eastern culture as well as the Western culture symbolised by Michael Jackson. Our psyche is plagued with all such dilemmas. We are very proud of the abilities of our ancestors. When I will go outside, I will definitely mention as to what have been the achievements of our ancestors. However I would like to mention in the House that this rotunda has been constructed by the artisans of Rajasthan and it is something unique. It is all made of R.C.C. Now take such systems as the T.V., the V.C.R., R.C.C., electricity systems, mike system or the multiple voice system. Our population figures stand at 90 crore. Our creativity has died. We are lagging behind in the matter of cultivating talents. Our scientists are considered to be highly competent throughout the world. A scientist gets conducive atmosphere on the basis of level of his competence. He can attain higher position due to his competence and capabilities. If that scientist goes over to U.S.A., he gets a Noble prize and when he chooses to stay in this country, he is unable to achieve much. What are the reasons therefor? The reason behind it is our social set up where even when one contributes 90% labour and toils hard to earn money. Even then and even after 50 years of independence, such a person is not allowed to move ahead. Even if he moves ahead he does so by dint of his hard work. He achieves that position by his own diligence. Take the case of either Late Shri Karpuri Thakur or Chowdhary Charan Singh or Baba Ambedkar, each one of them reached respective position by dint of his hard work. All the members present in the House, whether they belong to the Ruling or the Opposition Party, have reached to this level by working hard. The country does not let them progress further. The freedom fighters had cast their votes and with this, the composition of this House underwent a metamorphosis. Now the poor farmers and labourers and those belonging to Scheduled Castes have come forth.

Mt. Chairman, Sir, it is not known who belongs to the Scheduled Caste and who is untouchable. Such is our plight. How do we improve it? Our Constitution provides for a federal structure. In this federal Constitution, for the very first time Janta Dal is heading the United Front Government.

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

Ours is a national party undoubtedly, however, the power that is enjoyed by a national party and the power that the Congress party had during the regime of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the power enjoyed by Janata Dal during the regime of National Front and Left Front, is not being enjoyed today by Janata Dal. In this House comprising of 540 members, the strength of Janata Dal members is only 45. We are not living in a fool's paradise. We are heading the Government. Mr. Chairman Sir, we have a federal structure, our Constitution provides for a federal structure. For the very first time, such a Government has been formed which has a federal structure ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Anybody who want to put questions can ask questions, but they should not comment like this.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if they ask questions, we will give a reply.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : They are not raising any question, they are making comments.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : He is right. It would be better if I give a reply.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): It is better to hold a debate than to give a reply.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The Regional parties that form part of the United Front Government are very powerful. For the very first time, a federal Government has been formed. It is a federal Government under the federal constitution. The Congress Party had got a thumping majority. In 1977, we had got a thumping majority. This time though the Government is working under the leadership of Shri Deve Gowda, however, he is not powerful in his own right. He heads a constituent faction of the United Front and our Government is running with the support of the Congress Party. Last time when the National Front and the Left Front had formed a Government, the Bhartiya Janata Party members were extending their support, but you have crossed all the limits. There could have been a dispute over the 'temple-mosque' issue, however, if someone demolishes the temple of Bajrang Bali with pomp and show, we will feel bad about it. Although we do not offer prayers in the evening to Lord Bajrang Bali, however if anybody were to demolish the temple in such a manner, we will definitely feel bad. We may not be going to temple but we do believe in God. However, with all this trumpeting and fanfare, you are driving 20 percent population with their backs to the wall, if you compell them to fight for their existence, the country can not remain safe. It will be ruined. As there was no other

alternative, hence such an arrangement was made. This is an arrangement warranted by this crisis. Such a situation had arisen earlier during emergency and this time we have such type of Government. Now what have we done in these eight months? How we have worked to make India strong in these eight months. I am not saying that we have been able to achieve our goal. We are too small in stature. As I stated earlier that we are not that much powerful. 14 parties have come together to form United Front, Congress Party which is a bigger party is lending support to us. Our regime and our Government will tread very carefully and if it does not tread carefully, it would not run for long. Our situation is much like a valnerable tongue lying in confines of 32 teeth. Our Government is a unique Government throughout the world. But then this country itself is unique and wonderful. There is an adage that the ruler behaves like his subjects. Nothing else has changed much in the democracy, still, we have the same situation, the ruler behaving like their subjects. What I mean to say is that there are several languages and several religions, however, we are not prepared to discuss all such problems and instead say that there is unity in diversity whereas it is not true.

Sir, this morning when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was delivering his speech, he himself stated as to how these problems have aggravated. Such problems grow in every country but I can state this with certainty that we have been ailing for thousands of years but still have not been able to overcome this problem. Today, the sons of poor farmers are also a part of the House. We regret that we are not being able to ensure the emrengence of truth on this land. Mahatmaji had stated that so long as there is no improvement in agriculture, the country will not be developed. In these 50 years the Congress Party has provided irrigation facility for every field and generated power from water. The daily income of a farm labourer is Rs. 70-80. The labourers working in the factories located at Bhilai-Rourkela get only Rs. 15-20 per day. This payment is also irregular. The life of a poor man in this country is changed only when irrigation facility is provided for every field. 70-75% population lives in villages and if their standard of life does not improve, the market of India would not go up and if the markets won't go up, the industries would not be set up. In India wherever irrigation facilities have been provided, whether in Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka and from wherever a farmer leader has emerged, that is definitely an area having adequate water supply. Agitations are launched in Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh on the issue of power and people are also killed therein. But why are the tribals of Bustar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa not able to do anything. First you should make them capable enough. Why were the atrocities not committed in Punjab and Haryana? It is because adequate water is available there. Now whether this facility has been provided by Britishers or the Congress Party, but the end result is that the area was developed.

Sir, I am reminded of Late Shri Pratap Singh Kairon. In the five year plan, everyone asked for funds to set up

factories. Late Shri Pratap Singh Kairon who was a member of Congress Party sought funds for irrigational facilities in the first as well as the second five year plan. Today the economic situation of Punjab is very sound. You might be aware that the biggest crisis this country is facing is that of Petrol. Only 50% requirements are being met. This crisis has been created because of the prevalent set up where drinking water is sold at Rs. 12. We do not have any democratic solution for this problem. We do not have this much power even. If we try to address this problem, our Government will be toppled. That is why I am telling you that wherever adequate water has been provided, there the area has developed.

What I mean to say is that your intentions may not be fulfilled ...(*Interruptions*) Our Government has been toppled thrice and we have definitely become much wise after undergoing such experiences. As I was telling you that wherever water was made available, standard of life of daily wagers also got improved. Gandhi ji had also said that the lives of the poor must change. Hence we have prepared the budget accordingly and have paid attention to this very aspect in these eight months. We held a conference of Inter-State Council and held the meetings of Development Council and Planning Commission. I would like to say that our Government is running with the co-operation of Regional parties. We have prepared a seven point programme. All those points that I am mentioning here have been incorporated as primary objects. The Government has paid attention towards the rural poor who work hard without making any discrimination on the basis of caste. For the first time, our Government has spent Rs. 900 crore in order to provide water for all such people.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Rajasthan has been allocated Rs. 2 crore for water. Your Government has done a grave injustice to this State. You have allocated Rs. 125 crore for Andhra Pradesh—the State from where Shri Narasimha Rao hails and whose support is vital for you. Then you have allocated Rs. 95 crore for Karnataka. Which is the home State of the Prime Minister. Even Tamilnadu has been given Rs. 98 crore, however, as the opposition party is in power in Rajasthan, you have allocated only Rs. 2 crore for Rajasthan. This is so shameful. You would be ashamed of the discriminatory attitude of this Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, his anger is very much justified. I am pleased that at least Joshiji has raised demand for water. Earlier he used to utter only such words as Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shri Ram. ...(*Interruptions*)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : A project costing Rs. 45 crore is lying pending with your Government, however, your Government is not at all concerned about it.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I have welcomed your concern. We will increase the allocation from two crore to ...(*Interruptions*)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Rs. 900 crore has been distributed and our State has got only Rs. 2 crore out of that.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, no commentary like this. Let the Member reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : All over the world probably no other place has so many names for water as are there in Rajasthan. Water was made available to Ganganagar by Ganga Canal as a result of which one third of the total crop produced in Rajasthan is produced in Ganganagar alone. Whatever you want to say about Rajasthan you can say when your turn comes. You should fight for your rights because no other part of India is so much craving for water as Rajasthan. Then nowhere in the world have so many names been given to water as are there in Rajasthan. We have earmarked Rs. 900 crore for irrigation. It is possible that the kind of perception that should have been there is the matter of disbursal of funds, is missing. We will try to introduce that perception in our outlook. Those who are part of the Government are sitting here. The Ministers are present here and listening intently. The 75% population which resides in the villages comprises of the largest section of buyers in the market. If standard of their lives is improved the market will also be improved. If the situation of the market is improved, more industries will be set up. If more industries are set up, more employment opportunities are generated.

We held a meeting of Inter-State Council which did not have a single meeting for past several years. We got the papers prepared by Planning Commission and also got a Report prepared. The thrust of that report was how the lives of hardworking but poor people of the country could be improved. We made provisions for laying of metalled roads in villages and supplied water and electricity. We made a provision for construction of 'Pucca' houses for poor 'Girijans'. We spent Rs. 2216 crore on all these items. Now 75% money has been disbursed to State Governments 25% of the funds will be disbursed after reviewing the schemes. There is an outlay of Rs. 250 crore for this purpose.

There is no unemployment in villages. The villages of India are being ruined. There is no work there and people are starving. The cities are thriving and expanding. The large residential areas have come up on agricultural land. All the villages have been swallowed and the number of residential colonies is increasing. Delhi has expanded in virtually all the directions. The villagers leave their land and migrate to find employment. People leave their land out of compulsion. Those who leave their motherland are constrained to leave behind their pride also in order to live here. Today no one is concerned about him. For the very

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

first time Rs. 250 crore have been allocated for them. This is not a very big amount. Money is required for meeting the basic amenities such as roads, water, power etc. Our Government paid attention to slums because we know that these are the people who lived in villages earlier and are now settled in cities. They came and settled here leaving their own land because of unemployment and drying of fields. The present Government has a very clear cut policy about the setting up of new industries. Our Government wishes to lead the country to self-sufficiency. In these fifty years of independence, we have achieved self-sufficiency in the case of availability of basic facilities. We would like to strengthen the position of self sufficiency. We do not wish to see our national pride being trampled by any body. We have formulated an industrial policy so that no one can trample our national pride.

During last eight months, the rate of foreign capital investment was six percent whereas increase in consumer goods was also six percent. We have given more funds for our infrastructure like roads, power and telephones.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our target is to achieve growth rate at 7 percent, industrial production at 10-12 percent and agricultural production at 2 to 4 percent we have maximum water resources, which is our valuable wealth our country is so fortunate that we have the maximum water resources, the highest mountain and river having fast and maximum flow. Though we have ruined our forests. We have the vast green ganges plain where one can install a tubewell merely for Rs. 5000 and a well can be operated by lifting the water this way. Thus we have enormous wealth of water resources. We have acute shortage of petro-oil and therefore we have invited foreign investors and scientists to help us in extracting crude oil because our oil pool deficit has increased to Rs. 15000 crores.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are affected and by the Article 356 of the Constitution and a solution has been given in the Sarkaria Commission report. In the meeting of Inter-State Council a specific decision was taken in this regard and constituted a high level committee. Power is on the concurrent list, and we have fixed a target of 250 megawatt power generation by various States. In view of the rapid industrialization and globalisation in our country, we should become self-sufficient in the field of power generation. For strengthening the country we have to provide water and electricity to poor for their upliftment. Our country faces problems of flood and drought. The country would become self-sufficient if we can generate hydro electricity.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know the additional quantum of power generated during the last eight months regime of the present Government ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I am not yeilding. Oil extraction is not my work and you may ask about it from the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have authorise State Governments to issue license for generation of power upto 250 megawatt. We have tried our best for better management of water resources to deal with the problems of floods and draught. In the morning there was a question regarding the linking of rivers. Our Party has economic social orientation programme. The poor people, come from a special class are scheduled castes and most of the scheduled castes and people belonging to minorities communities are craftsman, whether they live in Mirzapur or Varanasi. After agriculture, craftsmanship like carpentry etc. is the second largest industry of India. Rajasthan has the largest number of stone carving artists. 30 percent of our foreign capital are earned through handicrafts. Our craftsmanship is valued in international market. We are linking handicrafts with self-employment scheme for strengthening craftsmanship. 90 percent population of minority communities are engaged in this trade. They are not asking employment. India would have not been enslaved if our handicrafts were in sound position. Mahatma Gandhi, himself became an artisan. Kabir was one of the eminent poet. He too was an artisan. The literature written by Kabir is still relevant because he himself had worked hard. Thousands of other poets also written poems but did not work, therefore their creation do not have that effect. The Finance Corporation for Backward Classes, Finance Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Finance Corporation for Minorities should be provided adequate funds. Our Government is trying to accord equal social status to these institutions and provide adequate finance because the second largest workforce comes from these sections of society. Mostly artisans belong to backward classes or minority communities.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Have you distributed this fund equally or discriminated as have been done is case of water.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sir we have to do justification in this regard as you are using glasses for weak eyesight. I mean to say that special attention has to be paid towards minorities and dalits, which is the backward section of our society.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : You have allotted Rs. 2 crore and Rs. 90 crore of the south States in view of it I would like to know whether even the poor people of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been given this benefit or not ...*(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : The second aim of the Government is to strengthen the basic infrastructure whether it is relating to Air Force, telecommunication services, road or rail facility. Special attention has been paid towards the backward areas from view point of rail and road facility. North-east and Kashmir have been provided special packages just a little while ago I was listening to the Member who have raised Kashmir issue here I also admit that terrorism has weaken the economy of the State and

unemployment has increased the deteriorating situation further. Kashmir is an integral and important part of our country. We have provided basic facilities like rail, roads and electricity in backward areas. We have tried to bear the major portions of expenditure incurred on these projects for development of backward areas. We will try to do so in future also. Caste system and social discrimination have been a major problems for our country. During past 50 years various measures have been taken to solve this problem. Special attention has been paid towards backward classes and financial assistance has been provided for their upliftment. For the past fifty years the problem of middlemen and corruption has increased and marred the development of the country.

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

Sir, I have mentioned that around 50 lakh people of our country drink mineral water which cost Rs. 12 per bottle. These people have looted the country. This House tries its best and taken several measures to check corruption. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were also a member of the previous Lok Sabha. Public of this country does not know about the actual figure of money involved in various scams like security scam, sugar scam, urea scam etc. Public of our country has been enlightened under the democratic system. In this drive against corruption the true and honest politicians are being victimised. One can taken it that when bulls fight, crops suffer but it should not be that only wise and honest persons suffer. We intend to bring Lokpal Bill in this House for creating an efficient judiciary which will be able to pinpoint truth from falsehood. I seek cooperation and support of hon. Prime Minister and all the member of Parliament on this Bill because we all are affected. This country would have made much progress, had the middlemen not looted it. It should be stopped now. We are trying to bring Lokpal Bill or any other Bill if needed to curb the increasing corruption. This issue should be debated comprehensively. We have a vast market which is equal to the market of Britain, France and half of the Germany collectively, population of our country is quite large. Economic condition of people have improved during past five year plans which have expanded our market. Recently we have been advised for liberalisation of economy and free sale of goods.

In context of the free sale of goods I would like to say that our people should also be given right to sell their labour. There should be no restriction on migration. Right to migrate from one country to another and Visas should be granted free of cost for the poor people like those living in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Then there will be no danger of free market.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I would like to say that strengthening the country is need of the hour because the prevailing corruption and disturbance created by middlemen has weaken the country. At present these elements are in such a strong position that the whole system is affected.

We have three institutions to run the Government smoothly. If required a special session of Parliament should be convened to pass the Lokpal Bill. We should show in the House the clear picture and impact of corruption prevailing in the country so that people could consider its gravity. I would like to make a suggestion here that a survey commission should be set up conducting a survey regarding functioning of judiciary, executive and legislature, who are responsible for running the country. The accounts of the people of these three aspects of life, i.e. judiciary, from district judge to the judge of Supreme Court, M.L.A.s, M.P.s and Ministers from legislature and gazetted officers from executive living in capital towns should be surveyed for the last 25 years ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about the present system, lawyers have not done that ...*(Interruptions)* I am saying that a survey should be conducted regarding houses not property of gazetted officers, I.A.S. I.P.S. and officers of PSUs living in capitals of various States like Lucknow, Patna, Bhopal, Jaipur, Delhi etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking about survey of houses and immovable properties and not the movable property. In place of conducting any inquiry, the survey report should be presented in this House. This survey report will reveal the present position and functioning of Legislature, Executive and Judiciary as X-ray reveals the diseases of a person. Such a step would make the Lokpal Bill more effective.

We are politicians and will speak about Murli Manohar Joshiji or Mulayam Singhji. There is transparency in legislature as politicians are accountable to public and have to seek vote after five years. A ten days session should be convened for debate on Lokpal Bill to make it flawless and efficient. Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last 25 years I have seen that the 70-80 percent population of rickshaw-pullers, tonga-owners and farmers, who cast their votes are ruling this country. The poor person like Shri Karpoori Thakur would not had become Chief Minister twice of a State, if democratic system were not in the country. At present under the democratic system poor and backward people are awakening. I fear that the people, who earlier did not cast their votes would not become more aggressive in future to cripple our democracy.

Mr Chairman, Sir, I am not saying that we are not guilty and we should not get punishment. But the poor people who were deprived of their rights for thousands of years should be given their dues. They should not be compelled to take steps against the present democratic system. The issue of creating a new social set up, new pattern of education should be decided after ten days debate on the subject.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this country, a weak Government works as the best Government. You might be knowing that when Indira Government became the weakest Government, she undertook many reforms like nationalisation of banks and abolishment of privypurses.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : But she had also Imposed emergency.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Emergency was imposed when her Government was strong Government. If the country is ruled by a weak Government, the poor people will be benefited more. We are not a big danger to you. You may withdraw your support whenever you like. We are having the least power addiction. We know that out of 545 members we are having only 45 but, even then, we are in Power. We know our limit. We have to deliver goods because we have to build up our strength. Without self interest you can not help others; devote yourself to ultimate good.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : At least you have remembered the God.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : When a person like you is sitting here, it is obvious to remember the God. I want to submit that Lok Pal Bill must be brought in the House and passed unanimously. This subject is being discussed in the House for the last 50 years. Many people are sitting here who have discussed and struggled a lot against corruption, who have spoken much against corruption but with no result. The person who is guilty, manage to escape. He also manages to save himself even inside this August House. I can say with force that it takes a long time to settle cases in courts. Bofors is still in the initial stage, no concrete result has come out of it ...*(Interruptions)* You have said very correct thing. Shameless are after all shameless persons. Democracy sans popular observance does not succeed ...*(Interruptions)* A Government is popular only until it has got a clean public image. It would be better if you look into yourself as to who are shameless ...*(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the end, I would like to clear a few more things. This House is discussing our foreign policy so much but it would be meaningful only when it is implemented. We might have won one-two battles against Pakistan but when we came face to face with China, it proved a set back to us. The country which is not internally strong enough and whose 32 per cent population are bound to live below poverty line, the foreign policy of that country goes unheard in the world. That country does not command and honour or position in the world. Today America is commanding bossism almost in the entire world. A new beginning has started with their joining hands with Europe. Our Government is just eight months old. Now we have identified and felt our weakness. Our foreign policy is not sound enough. The reasons therefor is that economic and social condition of our people belonging to downtrodden class is not good enough. They have got no respect and honour in our society. They are labour class, and living in the worst condition. But we have made some efforts in this regard.

Another effort, we can make is to provide strength to our friendship with our neighbouring countries. We were having dispute with Bangladesh for the last 25 years over

the sharing of Ganga water. Most of the havoc and devastation is caused by the rivers in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and all these rivers come from Nepal. Mr. Chairman you belong to Bihar. You must be knowing that all the rivers flowing from Nepal are causing great havoc in Bihar. From the water of those rivers we can generate power not only for ourselves but can also export it. The Mahakali Treaty which we have signed in respect of the rivers, will be producing good results in the coming times. If we want to tap the water resources of our country fully, then we have to improve our relations, our ties amicably with Nepal. We have to make it more strong. It would be very good and very true relationship with Nepal. This country will emerge stronger only when India and Nepal join hands with each other. So far we have not tapped that potential to the optimum level. For the 50 years we have been asking for help from other countries but could not utilize the assets we possessed. I can say with authority that if any world war takes place in the 21st century it would be for water. Water crisis will be the biggest crisis. Water is going to be the biggest asset, biggest power. Our Indian land, our mother India has given us great asset of water. Recently elections were held in Pakistan. There was no such an issue in the elections as to what would be the relations of Pakistan with India but the present Pakistani Premier, hon'ble Sharief Saheb said that he would improve relations with India. Elections were also held in POK. But the people all over the world said that elections in POK were not free and fair. Shri Nawaz Sharief has expressed his desire to hold dialogues with India. We do welcome his gesture. If there can be any most effective measures and initial steps to make the country strong and remove poverty from India, it would be in joining hands with Nepal and Pakistan. Whatever he has said, we are ready to discuss that within the parameters of Shimla Agreement. We are ready to build-up a friendly relationship with Pakistan. We are spending huge money on the purchase of arms and ammunitions. Today India & Pak, both are concerned about their security arrangement. The newly elected Prime Minister of Pakistan who is back to power with two-third majority, has expressed his desire to hold dialogues with india which the United Front Government welcomes. Whatever we say, must be materialised.

On the issue of CTBT, the people of this country, all political parties of this country stood together and expressed their solidarity which, in return, earned them national pride. It was achieved not through our contribution but the contribution made by crores of our people and all political parties. We are out of race for a berth in Security Council, we least bother about it. If we become a permanent member of the Security Council, it would be with national honour and self-respect. We did not surrender on the issue of CTBT and it was a great achievement for us.

My submission is that India ave the dreams and desires of Choudhary Charan Singh, Shri Karpuri Thakur, Shri Jai

Prakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. Mahatmaji used to say that India lives in the villages. This is the resolution of our party that if we want to make India strong, we should begin the process by making our villages strong. And if want to provide strength to our villages, then we have to begin it by providing the employment opportunities to our 70 per cent people living in the rural areas. If you want to provide strength to our artisans, you have to begin it by providing more facilities to the 12 per cent Indians who are earning through self-employment. Only through providing strength to these people we can achieve self-reliance and self-independence. The leader of the United Front, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda dreams of strengthening our villages because he himself belongs to rural area. Even for this, people make fun of him. But after Shri Chandra Shekhar, he is the only Prime Minister who has not changed his dress style. He did not change his style even while unfurling the tricolour. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had also never changed his dress style. These are few people who never compromised with their culture and national pride. I do not say that Shri Deve Gowda ji a renown economist but he has got a vast rural experience. This Government is in the office for the last eight months and has spelt out its future planning before you and I can say assertively that in the coming Budget for the next financial year also you will find the same things which have been mentioned in the President Address. I have taken so much of time, therefore, I would like to wind-up but before that I would again say that India has achieved a lot of things, we have become self-reliant in many fields but at the same time all these achievements become meaningless when we see a big gap between the rich and the poor. When we find inequalities prevailing in our society. It is virtually deforming the face of our achievements.

The only aim of this Government is to provide strength to the weaker section of our society. As far as the security of this country is concerned, our Government is fully aware of it—be it a matter of internal security or external security. There would be no Budgetary cut or compromise as far as our national security is concerned. We are ready to defend our borders in all circumstances. This has been and this will remain our endeavour to build-up a new India, a new society. We may succeed or fail in achieving our aims but it is evident that intentions and policies of United Front Government are very clear. Our leader is also a son of the soil.

Some days ago, hon'ble Shri Joshiji was saying that P.M. is usually found asleep and advised him to keep his ears and eyes open while someone is speaking. You said very correct thing. One should be very quick and alert. But merely the strength of your ears and eyes are not going to work. The whole country is required to be very strong. Every part of the body is required to be very strong. Likewise every part of the nation is required to be very strong. At that time law and order position there was as perfect and sound as Joshi ji's health, that it why he unfurled the National Flag in Kashmir and that too under the protection of the army.

However we got the National flag unfurled by the local people in Kashmir without the help of the army.

In the end, I would like to say that the percentage of votes cast in Kashmir is indicative of the fact that Pakistan could not cry foul and say that the polls had been rigged. You should admit at least this much or do you not admit even this much ? 70% voters have cast their votes in Punjab ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. Today Sardar Beant Singh is no more and Shri Badal is not present here. Shri Badal formed a coalition with you only recently whereas we have been with him for last twenty years.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Then why did they desert you ?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Actually what happened was that 'Kalmemi' came and seduced them. What could we have done. 70% people cast their votes during Punjab elections.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Even the security deposit of your party's candidate was forfeited in the area where the Prime Minister himself had gone for canvassing.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Yes, I have already stated that our party is not in a very strong position.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Even the Muslim families have started migrating from the state after the Kashmir elections. What steps does the Government propose to take in this regard ? Please also mention the post election scenario.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Sure, I would like to mention the name of Late Shri Beant Singh in the context of Punjab. Several candidates have won. When the state was in turmoil, the deposits of candidates of our party were indeed forfeited but Choudhary Balbir Singh did not run away forsaking his motherland. He did not leave Punjab, instead he laid down his life there itself. The members of the Left Party, the members of your party as well were there. They too did not leave their motherland, Punjab. They embraced death but some people left the state.

I had said that proper discussion is not held on the issue of caste system. It is an evil. All of us try to derive benefit out of it but do not try to get rid of it, once and for all. It eat us up and ruins us also but it has enveloped our beings in such a manner that we do not try to find a way out. Late Shri Beant Singh was such a person who created such an atmosphere that he won last time, only with a margin of 12-13 percent votes. He laid down his life but was successful in making 70 per cent people fearless enough to cast their votes. I am saying all this today so that whenever a step is taken to build the nation, Joshi ji should not put all his energy in making criticism but should also admire that person. Late Shri Beant Singh is not with us in this House or this country. He has sacrificed his life but has created such an atmosphere wherein you have been able

[Shri Sharad Yadav]

to win a number of seats and 70 percent people were able to cast votes. He has made sacrifices for it.

The Government of United Front is the Government of the poor, the villagers, the labourers and the farmers. I would not raise the issue of fertilizers. It is the duty of the Government and the administration to strengthen the nation and if this Government continues to function, we would definitely strengthen India. We will try to strengthen those who work hard to enrich the country and only then the country would be strengthened. We have reached this position in a grand manner. Though our position is not strong enough still we will step down in a grand manner and not with our heads bowed. We have arrived in a grand manner; we will step down in a grand manner and we will reign in a grand manner. We will favour the poor, support them. It does not matter whether anyone lends support to us for one day or two days. People say that our Government is functioning on daily wages basis but we will keep on supporting the poor and will follow this path in a steadfast manner.

With these words, I thank you very much and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul) : Mr. Chairman Sir, on behalf of the Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar) Party, I am happy to second the Motion moved by honourable Shri Sharad Yadav.

Sir, the strong India and prosperous Tamil Nadu is the motto of our party. This is the century year of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the proud son of India who called Mahatma Gandhi as the Father of the Nation. He was the real hero of this century and he was the symbol of courage and patriotism. He organised the Indian Army to fight against the Britishers. The nation salutes his memory.

Sir, this is also the golden jubilee year of our Independence. The past five decades have been a very significant period in the history of our nation. India has become self-sufficient in production of foodgrains. There have been revolutionary changes in the field of industry. We can be proud of our achievements in science and technology. Yet, nearly 400 millions of our people are still illiterate. Fifty per cent of our people are poor and 40 per cent are living below the poverty line. One lakh and seventy five thousand villages do not have drinking water facilities; 80 per cent of our students are dropouts by the time they reach eighth standard.

Sir, the United Front was formed at this juncture, at this crucial period after the 1996 elections. That election has given a clear mandate for the formulation of a secular, liberal and democratic coalition Government and the United Front represents the diversity of India and for the first time in the annals of our political history, regional parties in large number have joined the Cabinet.

As envisaged in the Common Minimum Programme, the United Front Government is committed to giving a stable Government at the Centre.

The President's Address is a clear pointer to the fact that under a democratic federal polity, coalition Government could be stable. This, I consider as a major milestone in the achievements of our United Front Government. I am proud and happy to say that this Government has given political stability to the nation in the past eight months, since it assumed Office. This is not a small achievement when thirteen different Parties with their own views cobble together in the United Front, after the General Elections, to form the Government and also run it without any major problem. I would only recall the Greek saying that it is a harmonious blend of opposing principles. Whether it is tackling polity or dealing with major foreign policies and issues, political stability is absolutely essential. In fact, our Government under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda has proved all prophets of doom, wrong. On the other hand, he has proved that coalition Governments could work and deliver the goods to the people whatever the limitations are.

Sir, the time has come to understand that the nation has entered into a coalition era and better it is that we are prepared to live with it. There is no use now to keep on criticising the Government because it is a coalition Government. The other aspect of stability, which I consider is that there was no major law and order or any such problem in the last eight months. Barring a few incidents, by and large, the country was peaceful. Is it not a major achievement? The sacred mission of any Government is to protect the interests of the weaker sections and the minorities. We have instilled confidence in their minds and that is one of the reasons as to why the nation is having a peaceful time.

Sir, the successful conduct of elections in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab is another feather in the cap of this Government. After so many years, an elected Government is now in charge of the administration in Jammu & Kashmir. I can narrate many more things about the stability but let me come to the other substantial issues.

Sir, the Common Minimum Programme, the scripture of our Government, has pledged to the removal of poverty. I consider the major initiative taken so far is the announcement of our Prime Minister today to this august House to supply foodgrains at half the price to the people living below the poverty line. This would cover a massive 32 per cent of our population. I would put it this way—the programme is the biggest ever undertaken by any country in the world in the history of mankind. So, our objective is to see a smile on the face of the poor and the hungry. This astounding achievement is going to be performed by the 'humble farmer' who is steering the nation as the Prime Minister.

Sir, as mentioned in the President's Address, the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Mid-day meal

scheme, which originated in Tamil Nadu and our national leader Shri Kamraj pioneered it, are going to cover the entire country by April, 1997. Feeding the poor and the hungry is the greatest service to God. This Government is committed to these noble causes. Some of the achievements made by this Government in such a short period of eight months are amazing.

A time-bound programme has been taken up to provide safe drinking water, primary health care for every group of 500 persons and compulsory primary education to all. The Action Plan provides for giving all the seven basic minimum services to improve the quality of life of the poor by the next three years, that is, before the end of this century.

The idea is, at least when we enter the next millennium all our people should have access to the basic minimum services. What we could not achieve in fifty years of independence, this Government plans to implement on a war-footing. For this, the outlay for reduction of poverty is going to be doubled in the Ninth Plan. The allocation will be increased from Rs. 30,000 crore in the current plan to Rs. 60,000 crore. The benefit will reach mostly to the people living in rural areas.

The other major commitment of the Common Minimum Programme is to guarantee social justice.

The flow of funds for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minorities has been increased substantially.

Further, the United Front Government is also committed to bring a Bill to reserve one-third of the membership both in Parliament and Legislature for women. Let me say something frankly. As per its promise, the Government has already brought a Bill in this regard. My appeal to all the hon. Members is to rise above party lines and sit together to see that this Bill is passed in this Session itself.

India was the champion of the cause of the oppressed all over the world. We fought against apartheid, colonialism, imperialism, etc. We were the leaders of the Non-aligned movement. It is my wish that India should once again give leadership to the world by—being the greatest democracy of the world—fighting for the cause of women. We should set an example to the world by providing one-third reservation, both in Parliament and legislature, to women.

If you see the world statistics, the representation of women in the Lower House is 12 per cent and it is 9.8 per cent in the Upper House. If you take Asia as an example, the average representation of women in both the Houses combined together is 13.1 per cent but in India the women's representation is just 7.2 per cent. Our esteemed Leader, the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has paved the way by giving one-third representation to women in Panchayats and Nagar Palikas. We should now carry on

the same spirit and fulfil his vision by giving one-third reservation to women in Parliament and Legislature.

I now come to the Foreign Policy. Our President has rightly pointed out that we have established a new era of friendship with our neighbouring countries. Our Government has signed a historic treaty in December on the long-term sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh. This problem was hanging fire for many decades. With one stroke of pen our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda and the Bangladesh Prime Minister Smt. Sheikh Hasina, the illustrious daughter of Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman, solved this long standing problem. Now, there is an atmosphere of goodwill between the two nations. I consider it as a fulfilment of the sacrifice made by our 'javans' and officers in the 1971 conflict, and also the fulfilment of the vision of Madam Indira Gandhi who made a supreme sacrifice for the nation.

When it is possible to share the river water between two countries, why is it not possible to share the Cauvery water between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka? We have got leaders like Mr. G.K. Moopnar, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Karunanidhi and the hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Deve Gowda. When such a congenial atmosphere is prevailing, it is the right time to solve the Cauvery water dispute justly. This will help the people of Tamil Nadu to a great extent and in turn the entire nation.

So also, Sir, the Indo-Nepal relations have gained a new dimension with the conclusion of Mahakali Treaty. This is going to open tremendous possibility for bilateral economic cooperation, especially in the power sector. India needs power and Nepal has the water resources to produce power. If these two countries cooperate, there will be a sea-change in the life of the people living on both sides.

The other important milestone of success of Government's foreign policy, as referred to in the President's Address, is the visit of Chinese President Mr. Jiang Zemin to our nation. We definitely miss the Chinese patriot Deng Zhia Peng who passed away recently. I recall the meeting between our great leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the departed Chinese leader. It paved the way for the relationship of two countries which ended the bitterness and distress which prevailed since the conflict with China in 1961. The *Panch Sheel* spirit enunciated by the Light of Asia Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Chou-En Lai took a setback because of this conflict. But I am very happy and proud to see that this Government carried out the new initiative and signed an agreement on confidence-building measures with China. If this can lead to substantial troop reduction along the Line of Actual Control, our country can save a lot of expenditure which can be utilised for welfare measures.

As referred to by the President in his address, there is a lot of optimism now on resumption of a dialogue between India and Pakistan. The new Prime Minister of Pakistan

[Shri NSV Chitthan]

Mr. Nawaz Sharief has given positive signals for early resumption of talks. Our Prime Minister has offered our readiness for a dialogue in his message to the new Pakistan Prime Minister. So, it appears, it will be only a matter of time before talks begin between the two States. This definitely is a major break through for the Government's foreign policy. So, we are at peace with all our neighbouring countries now.

This Government has also played a major role as Chairman of SAARC to remove trade barriers within the region. Soon there will be a free trade zone in SAARC. Our relationship with Russia is good. Even the Leader of the Opposition has congratulated the other day openly on the floor of this House regarding the purchase of Russian aircraft for our Air Force. The pragmatic foreign policy followed by this Government is paying rich dividends.

The Indian economy is firmly set now on a high growth path. The assessments show that at least seven per cent growth during the Ninth Plan period is feasible. The visit of our Prime Minister to Davos and his interaction at the World Business Forum has given a new impetus to foreign investments. I am happy to see that maximum investments are coming in infrastructure area. I want to point out that India played a very significant role in tapping resources for infrastructure not only in India but for the entire Asia and Pacific region. On 28th October, 1996 yet another major initiative was taken to address the problem. Without developing infrastructure, development cannot be sustained. To meet India's infrastructure needs we have to go a long way and the Government is set on the right path and so, the new Infrastructure Development Finance Company has been formed to finance various projects.

Inflation is still in single digit. We have comfortable foreign exchange reserves now with about 19.5 million US dollars. Briefly stating, the economic reforms are continuing for faster economic growth. This Government has created a conducive environment for investment. Recently, this Government has decided to allow private investment in power transmission. A comprehensive policy has been announced to attract private investment to develop ports also. The Government is set to make basic telecom services operational.

The only cause of concern is the mounting Oil Pool Deficit at Rs. 15,500 crore, as mentioned in the President's Address. The only way to check this problem is to generate enough resources to cover the current loss and go for fresh investments to step up exploration and production.

A serious problem is still affecting the public life. I am now talking about corruption in public life. If the integrity and probity in public life are not maintained, the very foundation of democracy will crumble. Because of some

greedy politicians, everyone in public life is looked at with tainted image in public eyes. We have to reverse this trend.

In this eight months rule of the United Front Government, not a single case of corruption has cropped up against any of the Ministers. The hon. Prime Minister has boldly declared the other day that he will drop any Minister immediately if there is any substantial corruption charge. To eradicate the evil, the Government has already introduced the Lok Pal Bill in the Lok Sabha. The Prime Minister is also very keen to pass this Bill during this Session. This will effectively check the menace of corruption. For the first time, a Bill is brought to cover all. A more comprehensive Bill for Electoral Reforms is also on the anvil.

These facts speak that this Government has carried out its commitment effectively but quietly. We know that only slogans would not solve the problems of the country. Though the Government is walking on a tight rope, it has proved to the audience that it has mastered the art of balance.

The main opposition party, the BJP, and its leaders have now only one point in their agenda of activities. From the day the Government came to power, they have been talking from morning to night that this tight rope walker will fall and this Government will collapse. I can understand their agony as their Government collapsed within 13 days like a pack of cards. So they have been saying that the Government is unstable ...*(Interruptions)*

COL. RAO RAM SINGH (Mahendergarh) : I am on a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat, he is on a point of order.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : This is a debate on the President's Address. With due respect to our hon. Member, Shri N.S.V. Chitthan, normally, speeches are not read out in the House during the debate ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

*[English]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The hon. Member has to take permission from the Chair if he has to read from the written speech. This is the rule ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the hon. Member is taking the help of the notes.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : The Government is not only stable but also slowly mastering the art of governance of coalition rule. The instability is only in the minds of the BJP. They have not been able to pen down the Government on any substantial issue ...*(Interruptions)* Shouting and disrupting proceedings will not help them. If they want to continue these tactics, it is up to them. But as far as we are concerned, we are determined to carry out our task and

mission to feed the hungry, to clothe the poor and to provide shelter to the shelterless. No amount of disruption will deter us from pursuing our goal. Wiping out the tears from the eyes of the poor is the main agenda of the United Front Government. This is our theme and song. This is what is reflected in the President's Address.

Therefore, I second the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :—

'That the Member 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 20th February, 1997.'

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 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I have listened to the speeches delivered by two members speaking in favour of the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address very carefully. I have studied the Address of the President. In my view, this is an insipid address and does not awaken any hopes in the hearts of people of India.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Last time, the Presidential Address was much better ... (Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Yes, that was much better. If you go through the comments made in the newspapers, you will come to know that the Presidential Address delivered during the Prime Ministership of Shri Vajpayee was much better in comparison. I have got the newspaper cuttings which mention this fact. If your outlook and psyche is warped, then I have no cure for it. This is an aimless document.

Ordinarily, there is a mention of the policies of the Government and the programmes proposed to be launched in forthcoming years in the Presidential Address. This is a document meant to apprise the Parliament and the country. However, there is no mention about any new programmes

proposed to be launched during the next year. It details the achievement made during last eight months. Everyone is aware as to what happened during last eight months; how the country headed towards its own ruin, how the economic position of the country worsened and how the law and order position is deteriorating. Everyone knows that.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : The Government does not know about it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Government does not know about a lot of things. It keeps on sleeping. It has to be awakened ... (Interruptions) We were trying to awaken it. We would like you to help us in awakening it. If you start, raising voice from Andaman and Nicobar, it will reach Bangalore via Chennai. So you should raise your voice ... (Interruptions) We have been raising our voice from the very beginning provided you pay attention to it. You won't listen to us because you have put cotton wool in your ears. Please try to listen to what we have to say and try to take a right path. You need not feel agitated. Please listen intently. You should listen intently to what have been your activities. You should try to understand it and mull over it and then you should speak out. This is an aimless document. I have been very surprised to note that in my view it has happened for the very first time in the history of Indian Parliament that a line—the last line was deleted from the presidential Address at the very last moment. I would like to thank Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev for that.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : The proof reader committed this mistake.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Whatever has happened appears to be the result of pressure exerted by you. Our friends trying to advocate this weak Government have left. These are the activities of a weak Government. The lines which were not read out are as follows :

[English]

"In the past our inability to come to grips with these challenges was responsible for our failures."

[Translation]

This line has been deleted. It means that they consider your term as a failure. You are supporting them. This is the direction of Presidential Address which is clear in this line. You are supporting that Government which considers your term to be a failure. It was our inability that we could not come to grips with the challenges. The country could not be saved from these failures. You are supporting them. I am not aware whether you failed in the last five years or whether they have failed in the last eight months. Probably the two failed parties are supporting each other. I would expect this much at least that you should mull over the fact as to what kind of Presidential Address has been delivered and what is being said, how the situation is being presented through

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the Presidential Address and how a line was deleted out of it. This is a very common thing. The Presidential Address is a document of the Government policies and programmes. After going through it, one can not find any programmes earmarked for this year. What does the Government intend to do ? We did this last year and prior to us, our father did this.

But what do you want to do ? You must have done something in these eight months but what do you want to do this year. You should tell us about some new programmes proposed to be launched this year. You have not mentioned it anywhere.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRIMATI RITA VERMA *in the Chair*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : We have improved the P.D.S.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I shall explain about the working of P.D.S. also in a shortwhile. The question right now is that when the Presidential Address was drafted, it must have been studied carefully and approved by the Cabinet before submitting it to the President. I am anxious to know as to what was the reasons that this line had to be deleted ? Under whose pressure it was deleted ? Whether the pressure was put by World Trade Organisation or by Sontosh Mohan Dev. From which quarter was it ordered that this line should be deleted. Now the question is that after the Cabinet has gone through the speech, after it has been submitted to the President and after it has been printed this kind of rectification is made therein. It tells upon the mode of functioning of the Government and reveals as to how this Government is working. Today they say something and tomorrow they deny that. One person would say some thing and the other one would refute that. This tendency is visible in the statements made by your Ministers. Everyday we notice such things that a Minister issues a statement and the next day some other Minister contradicts him and issues a statement opposing him. The Minister of Home Affairs says something and the Government does not accept it. The Home Minister makes an appointment in the meeting of Cabinet Committees. On Appointment and then he gets into trouble. I do not know whether the statement made today in the afternoon about Uttar Pradesh that

[English]

It is heading towards a disaster, chaos, destruction and anarchy.

[Translation]

Is the opinion of the entire cabinet or not or whether it would be amended later on or whether it would be said that two-three words should be deleted from the statement given in the afternoon. If Uttar Pradesh is truly heading towards anarchy, chaos and destruction, who is responsible for it ? Why it has not been mentioned in the Presidential Address?

I have been noticing that even as the Minister of Home Affairs feels so strongly about the deteriorated situation in Uttar Pradesh, why was it not mentioned in the Presidential Address ? Such kind of situation is prevalent there, that people are being killed, the development activities have come to a standstill; five members of a family supporting B.J.P. were killed in Hamirpur. Shri Dwivedi, Pandit ji were killed; and the murders of political leaders are being committed. What has been stated in the Presidential Address about improving the situation, what programmes are proposed to be taken up and what measures are proposed to be adopted ? I do not want to go into details because when discussion would take place on the situation in Uttar Pradesh, then only I would like to tell you about the situation in Uttar Pradesh. The President himself and this Government is responsible for managing the administrative affairs of Uttar Pradesh. There is no mention in the Address about how the Government propose to discharge its responsibility and by when the Government will be formed there. There is also no mention about the developmental activities proposed to be taken up in the state.

How will you improve the fast deteriorating position of education in Uttar Pradesh? Several Ministers have studied in the same university in which I studied. The Minister sitting right in front of me has been a student of that university. The High Court has quashed the appointment of Vice-Chancellor made in that university.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Out of the fear of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Shri Mulayam Singh has not been a student of that university. Shri V.P. Singh has had that honour. In fact he has been my classmate. Shri Janeshwar Mishra and Shri Chandra Shekhar have studied there. Shri Arjun Singh, Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari have been students there. It would be better if you go there once. If you come over there we will let you play football with us and help you gain better education. What I was saying was that the High Court has quashed that appointment. On what basis was he given the post of Vice-Chancellor ? He has been an astrologer to a former Minister and also to the present Minister of Defence. Now the Governor is not appointing any other Vice-Chancellor in his place and trying somehow to get some such orders from any quarter to re-appoint that person. This is the situation in the University today. It was being said about the Aligarh Muslim University that it is also lying closed. Banaras Hindu University is facing the same situation. What have you done 'o Uttar Pradesh ? Throughout the Address, nowhere a mention has been made about improving the situation in Uttar Pradesh. 15 crore people of the state constitute 1/6 of the total population of India. This is the state where a large number of poor people are living. You call yourself the sympathiser and the friend of the poor but you could have made some mention about these poor people. Do you have any consideration for the poor people in Uttar Pradesh or

see poverty only in Bihar, the state which is infact involved in embezzlment of thousands and crores of rupees in the Fodder scam. A mention has been made in the report of Comptroller and Auditor General about the fodder scam of Bihar. However, there is no mention in the Presidential Address about the action proposed to be taken by your Government in this regard ? What kind of document has been presented ? There is no mention in it about reforms proposed to be carried out in the country. You keep referring to the poor but I did not find the word 'poor' mentioned in this Address. Which poor are you talking about ? Those who are drawing a salary of one and a half crore rupees per annum in Multinational Companies. Are they poor ? All your policies go in favour of such people. I will tell you how you are worsening the living conditions of the poor and how you have increased the poverty in this country ? Such a thing has happend for the very first time when the Government of this country has admitted that at least 33 crore people are below poverty line in this country. When the country became independent, its population figure stood at 33 crores. Some of these people were poor, some belonged to middle class and some of them were rich. But you pushed all of them below the poverty line. Hence you are supporting them.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I had said this and at that time you were here with us.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If you have said such a thing, it is commendable indeed, But why are you taking the support of those who pushed the country in a state of poverty ? You should admit that you allowed the poverty to thrive in these 50 years. Why do you want to take the support of those who have made this country poor ? You should tell them that they have pushed the country towards the poverty and that they have made the entire country poor. If you sympathise with the plight of the poor, you should ask them to get out....(Interruptions) Do not speak about us please introspect and then say something about yourself. You are pro-poor.

What is the condition of the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh ? What is the condition of the farmers growing wheat ? At what rate, wheat is being procured from them ? What remunerative price has been paid by the Government to the farmers ? If we have heard any announcement made in favour of farmers, it has been made in Punjab where Akali Dal and Bhartiya Janata Party have formed a Government. There an announcement has been made about providing free electricity and water to the farmers. What have you done ? What do you want to give to the farmers? You have not said anything about the small and poor farmers, nor have you made any mention about ensuring remunerative price to the farmers for the crops.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Now we have done it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : You have not mentioned it in the Presidential Address. My point is as to

where, on which page and in which line have you made a mention about the poor in the Presidential Address in favour of which you delivered a two hour long speech.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Read between the lines. ...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : That is blank.

[Translation]

If I read between the lines, I find them blank. I can not see anything there. You have not made a mention about the small and the marginal farmers in the Presidential Address. There is no mention about the atrocities committed on dalits and especially dalit women and how the Government propose to stop that ...(Interruptions) I have listened to you. Whether any measures have been proposed in the Address about preventing the atrocities on dalit women? In the morning I had mentioned the number of incidents of atrocities on dalit women that took place in Uttar Pradesh in the month of January only. I can relate the figures pertaining to the entire country. I can tell you as to what is happening in Bihar and in Karnataka. Please pay attention to the fact that your Government calls itself the sympathiser of the poor and makes tall claims about the social justice ...(Interruptions) I will tell you about that also. We would like to know about the measures taken by the Government in this regard. No such mention has been made in the Address. There is no mention in the Address about whether the Government propose to provide 33% reservation for women. You have very cleverly mentioned that the Government has tabled such a bill in the Parliament. You have tabled a bill in this regard in the Parliament but what is your policy in this regard. Whether you would provide 33% reservation or not ? What is your stand ? Whether your Government is interested in giving even 3% reservation or not ? From the manner in which have mentioned it, I can make out only this that you are against providing reservation for women in the Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies. If you are in favour of this bill and want to provide 33% reservation, why was it not clearly stated that you would be providing 33% reservation. The Prime Minister should come forward and announce that the Government is ready to provide 33% reservation. The Government has laid a misleading and ambiguous document which does not reveal your stance, your policy or direction. No such mention has been made. Now it is for you to decide where you really stand. Again and again, I am telling that this Presidential Address is quite insipid and ambiguous. It is like describing incorporeal Brahma. Nothing tangible has been given into it. Such vague and general descriptions cannot be considered in politics. Something concrete should have been pointed out in it explicitly.

In the address no mention has been made about the incidents of Tripura. Our colleague from Tripura is also

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present here. He belongs to Silchar which is near Tripura. Sontosh Mohan Devji, I would like to ask you whether you support this Motion of thanks or not ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You please listen to my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This reveals his intentions. I would like to know that in view of the nature of atrocities committed in Tripura, would you support this Government and support the Motion of thanks on the Presidential Address. People are being killed in Tripura but I would like to know as to how these murders can be stopped. What is happening in Assam ? How you are going to solve the Bodo problem. Nothing has been mentioned regarding growing insurgency in North-Eastern region. Demographic changes are taking place there. ISI bases have been set up there. Different types of foreign made arm including A.K. 47 are being found with people. How this all can be stopped. You have stated that the country will be defended. Every one says that but how the country would be defended ? It has not been mentioned. Recently Pakistani aircrafts crossed over Indian sky and fled back but our radars could not trace them. How you will defend this country ? You have given an assurance that incidents like Purulia will not recur. Have you read the speech of ex-Chief of Navy regarding the condition of Navy. Have you given any assurance as to how Navy, Air Force and Army would be strengthened ? Are you going to buy weapon or develop atom bomb in order to strengthen them.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : What, atom bomb.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Yes, atom bomb. I am in favour of Hydrogen bomb also.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Alright you can use them.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : We will not use, but develop these. How the security of the country would be strengthened when 75-80 percent of budget allocation is spent on salaries, pension is a separate issue. How the growing smuggling will be curbed whether the coastal guards are being provided for it ? Earlier in Presidential Addresses such plans and stages of their implementation were used to be mentioned such as how much barbed wiring would be done, which arms would be purchased? But in this Address, nothing has been mentioned as to whether the Pakistan occupied Kashmir would be freed or not ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : A resolution has been moved for it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This resolution has been passed in the mentioned time and again and threatenings are given that Pak occupied Kashmir should be handed over to Pakistan. Such statements are being made by one constituent fraction of United Front Party that fraction also forms a part of your United Front ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : It is mentioned in this Press cutting : "All these points can be discussed.—Gowda"

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : What is this ? Please tell clearly as to what do you intend to do. Would you like to retain every inch of Kashmir in India or not ? Recently an ambassador of some country has stated that India should withdraw its claim on Siachin glacier—who is he to say so. Why it has been not mentioned in the Presidential Address that any comment of any hegimonic western country will not be tolerated especially in matters of sovereignty of the country. There is no mention of it as to how the country's security will be strengthened.

Hon. Prime Minister has said that minor adjustments can be made regarding Kashmir—whether the Siachin glacier or Pak-occupied Kashmir would be handed over to Pakistan what kind of adjustments do you intend to make. You have emphasized that the country would be protected but how, I can not understand that whether any talks would be held with China for returning the land grabbed by it. I am unable to understand that how the various parts of the country will be protected ? What is the use of such hollow talks ? Yadavji, you are an engineer. You have emphasized the need to strengthen infrastructure but there should be a mention of some concrete plans in this regard.

I have read the complete Presidential Address and listen to your statement carefully. But except for hollowness and euphimism there is nothing in it ...*(Interruptions)* You are well aware of the law and order situation in Bihar. A number of scams are taking place and corruption is increasing but it has not been mentioned in it.

Just now my colleauge was saying that it is the Birth centenary year of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, but it has not been mentioned in Presidential Address. I do not know as to whether your Government is aware of the fact that two great poets—Surya Kant Tripathi 'Nirala' and Raghupati Sahai 'Firaq Gorakhpuri' had been in this country. They should be honoured ...*(Interruptions)* your neighbours and supporters are also saying so. I do not know as to what you are trying to do in birth centenary year of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Will you change the name of Sena Bhavan as Netaji Bhavan or change the name of Military Academy to Netaji Academy or Netaji chair will be set up in universitles, Defence studies and International studies ? In the same way I would like to know as to what steps will be taken so that people of this country could read literature created by Surya Kant Tripathi 'Nirala' and Firaq Gorakhpuri. It seems that this Government has nothing to do with literature and music. Your Government claims to be supporter of the poor. You call yourself as Messiah of the poor but these two poets were also the messiahs of the poor. The literature of

these two poets reflects the sufferings of the poor. I do not know as to whom you consider poor. Whether from your point of view Shri Somnath Chatterjee or Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is poor. I do not know as to which type of poor are favoured by your Government. I do not know as to where this Government is leading the country.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : May I just add one point ? Even after naming the Calcutta Airport as Netaji Airport they did not adequately celebrate Netaji's Birthday.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Your supporters are saying so. On the one hand this Government is celebrating the birth centenary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose but on the other hand it is not mentioned in Presidential Address. This should have been mentioned in it.

With regret, I would like to say that this Government has forgotten those great personalities who had made great sacrifices for independence and all-over development of the country. Though this Government claims that it pays respect to those leaders who laid their lives for the country but your sentiment for Netaji have been revealed in this Address. Names of several dedicated freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country have not been mentioned in this Presidential Address then how this year can be termed as the year of Birth centenary of Netaji.

Madam Chairperson, as I have mentioned earlier also, this Presidential Address is insipid shallow and lacks direction. Nothing concrete has been mentioned in it. It is really pitiable that hon. President has to read a speech of such a Government. It is injustice to the dignity of Parliament. Throughout my various terms as an M.P. I never came across such speech. You have been Member of Parliament for long 25 years. I have not been so much fortunate as to be an M.P. for 25 years.

You have mentioned about poverty and Kashmir. I have read this address very carefully, but nowhere it has been mentioned as to what the Government propose for resettlement of the Kashmiri refugees. Nowhere it has been mentioned in this Address as to what and how to you propose to send these people back to their state ?

Just now Shri Chaman Lal Ji has told that a number of Muslim residents of Kashmir, who consider India as their own country, as their own motherland and who consider Kashmir as an integral part of India and who have participated in your election process—which you are terming as a great success—are now being forced to leave Kashmir. They will take refuge in Jammu and other parts of the country. Earlier also they were forced to leave the Kashmir. Now they are fleeing Kashmir. The Address fails to mention about the security measures required to be given to the

fleeing Kashmiris. There is no mention in the Address about the measures to be taken to check the fresh exodus currently going on there. As far as resettlement of the Kashmiris, who have already left, is concerned, we may discuss it later but to check the fresh exodus is the need of the hour.

Madam, Chairperson, what is the condition of Kashmiris today ? You were under the impression that fire in Kashmir has subsided but it has not subsided rather it was smouldering and now it is on the brink of the disaster. I am very sorry to state that the President has made no mention about Kashmir in his Address. I want to know as to what policies are being followed by the Government in respect of Kashmir ? Whether it is the policy of minor adjustment ? If so, what are the details thereof ? Who is going to stay in Kashmir because we do not know as to what minor adjustment you are going to make.

[English]

What is this minor adjustment ? Adjustment of the minority. Those who are minority in Kashmir they will be adjusted somewhere.

[Translation]

What do you mean by minor adjustment, I do not understand.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Today you are in your fantastic mood.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Obviously I am in great mood because a person like you is sitting in front of me.

You claim that you have great sympathy for the poor. I do not understand that in which direction you are steering the country. The Address fails to mention anything about the famine situation in Orissa. Are you aware of the situation in India? You are producing 200 kg of foodgrains per head per year. In their Famine Code drafted in 1860, the Britishers had said that if we are producing 200 kg of foodgrains per head per year, it would just suffice to meet a famine like situation. If we are producing this much foodgrains, we may face a famine like situation. But if it comes down to 195 kg, then the country may fall in the grip of famine. It means that you are on just famine conditions. In case our production comes down by 20-25 million tonne in a year, it means we would be facing famine in our country. I am saying that there is famine like situation in Orissa and people are dying of hunger. They are being gunned down. But you, have having sympathetic feelings for the poor are ruling here. You are shouting here and claiming to be the sympathisers of the poor. What kind of sympathy do you have for the poor, what steps do you propose for poverty eradication. These things finds no place in the President's Address.

There is no mention in the Address about the measures to be taken to boost our foodgrains production. How do you propose to get two fold or one and a half fold increase in

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our foodgrains production. You are importing the foodgrains but you have said nothing in the Address as to when are you going to stop the import of foodgrains. Hardly we had reached a situation when import of foodgrains was stopped but you started it again. Here I want to let you know that this import is under compulsion but after six months you will have to import compulsorily because as per the conditions of the W.T.O. and GATT agreement, we are bound to import three percent of our total requirements compulsorily. Am I right, Nirmal Dada ? Whether it is not so Shri Santosh Mohan Dev Saheb ? I am asking it from the supporters of this Government.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : They initiated it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : They initiated it and you are supporting it. The whole trouble is this. You should say; 'you have initiated such things and you get out'. You tell them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You tell them that you will no more extend your support to this Government.

[English]

They initiated it. I know it. I opposed them ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

You kick them out and tell them that they are no more required. You have put India in such a trouble.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You may please note the language. You may say : 'Please get out'. You do not say 'Get out'. That is not correct.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I would not say like this. I am saying to you : Please remain sitting here. You make them get out ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I have no objection on it. The entire address is marked with contradictions as a result of our co-existence. After that you will resort to compulsory imports that too on multi international prices. You will continue making payments to Indian farmers at the rate of Rs. 3.85 and Rs. 4.15 but you will be importing it at the rate of Rs. 6, Rs. 7 and Rs. 8. When you will sell it ? Will you sell it through R.P.D.S.? Who will bear the loss—me or you or somebody else ? The poor people of India will bear the loss with whom you are having your so called sympathy. Looking at the way you are inviting the multinational companies, I want to know as to whether they are having any sympathy for the poor ? Almost all factories are on the verge of their closure. The

Pay Commission have recommended that no further recruitment should be made in certain services due to which three and half lakh people are likely to be rendered jobless. What alternative arrangements you have made for these people ? No where it has been mentioned in it. You claim yourself to be the messiah of the poor but how do you propose to save these three and a half lakh people from going jobless ? Where is it mentioned ?

[English]

You have forgotten them.

[Translation]

They are not the poor lots. They include peons as well as Daftaris also. Whether they will allow you to remain in power, I doubt it...*(Interruptions)* Why don't you join that party ? I have no objection on it. If you join that party then I have no objection at all. You may join the party and carry on your fight within that party. But your stance is not clear in this matter. I am sorry to say that you will also support an intellectual. I fail to understand as to what is happening inside the country ? What do you intend to do ? You speak about unemployment. What kind of job opportunities are you creating ? It has been mentioned in it that you will fulfill the backlog vacancies. What steps the Government propose to take to remove the unemployment ? Whenever I visit different parts of India, I receive maximum number of applications in respect of three things—non-availability of drinking water, unemployment, problem of admission in schools and non-availability of medicines in hospitals. Maximum number of applications I receive in respect of these three problems ...*(Interruptions)* This is the case with everyone. That is what I am saying. Due to these reasons I can not support the President Address and Motion of Thanks on the President Address. I oppose it as it does not provide any remedy to these basic problems. There is no mention about any remedial measures to alleviate the problems of poverty, unemployment and starvation. The Address fails to mention anything to ease the social tension in our country. How can you remove them since you yourself have created all these problems. You are stoking ethnic violence in the country. I was listening your philosophy when you were on your legs. But are you aware of the consequences of your philosophy ? To what extent you hold yourselves, particularly your party, responsible for creating social tension in the name of caste discrimination. How do you propose to remove this evil from our society ? Our constitution envisages a casteless society but there are people like you who are bent upon giving caste system a permanent place in our society. They are giving a constitutional status to caste system. What is this ? This way neither you can lead the country ahead nor make it prosperous. At the same time, you can not keep the country in dark. I fail to appreciate as to what are you doing ? ...*(Interruptions)* I may tell you that you have created one more kind of situation. You are making a 'takeover code' and because of this all Indian industrialists, entrepreneur,

be they small or big, are harbouring apprehension in their minds. They are apprehending that the smallest foreign capitalist be capable enough to keep the biggest Indian industry in his pocket. Have you ever thought that in case only three multinational companies join hands with one another, they can buy the whole India. Their total income is far more than our annual production ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I think it is only one. Saying three will not be correct. The Budget of the General Motors is bigger than that of the other two combined.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is your Budget. I say that if only three multinationals join hands with one another, their total normal production will accede our GDP and they will be capable to keep India in their pocket whenever they wish to do so. Your Finance Minister goes there and delivers a speech requesting them that Sir, once you had come and reigned there for almost 200 years. Now you kindly come again and stay over there for another 200 years.

[English]

Here is the market; here is the profit.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He was accused of saying so. That was in continuation of the Finance Minister of the thirteen-day Ministry. This is a policy statement...(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It was not in continuation of that. It was in continuation of what the former Commerce Minister used to do and what he is doing as present Finance Minister.

[Translation]

This is what you intend to do. I was looking to it that somewhere in this Address it would be mentioned that India will not compromise with its honour, it will not become a market for foreign companies. You have talked of self-reliance. What kind of self-reliance do you want ? Self-reliance of the choice of your Finance Minister ? You have made no mention of the mistakes which he has been making. We have suffered a loss of thousands of crores of rupees due to reversal to the MODVAT. That is a long story. We will discuss it later. But the irony is that you are also supporting them and misleading the country by claiming that you are the messiah of the poor. Is the President Address and the Government's policies are in the interest of the poor ? You have made no mention as to what are the requirements of our farmers and agriculture sector and how much more investment is required to be made in this field. Are you ready to increase the plan investment in agriculture sector ? The party which is supporting your Government, has been reducing agricultural investment continuously in

the last three Five Year Plans. Have you made any mention about any measures for increasing the agricultural investment and restructuring thereof ? I do not find any mention in this regard. It could be in your mind but it is not known to your minister, your cabinet ...(*Interruptions*) It was reduced in the last Budget presented by Shri Chidambaram ...(*Interruptions*) It will not increase even if you are saying so. I can give it in writing. The production of foodgrain, rice and wheat has come down. What are you saying ? Irrigation water in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Assam is not available at all. There is no hope for increase in investment. You can increase the agricultural investment only when you are able to save something. Last year you had paid 1 lakh and 28 thousand crores of rupees as interest. This year probably you will be paying Rs. 1 lakh and 50 thousands crore as interest. You will get some more loan. Then you will say :—

[English]

Multinationals are your friends and BJP is your enemy ...(*Interruptions*) This is what you will say.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Since you are in opposition, you are saying like this.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : This is what you are doing.

[Translation]

No Such question can arise. What measures you are going to take to curb the increasing number of private armies like 'Bhoomi Senas' or 'castiest armies' in the country. On the whole I do not find any solace for development, economic progress and for the poor and youth of the country.

Hon. Prime Minister has made a long statement on Science and Technology. It was not the first but sixteenth test firing of 'Prithvi' missile. But there is not a bit of contribution of this Government in this development but the former Government had made investment in this regard. Its credit goes to former Government. Former Government also committed injustice to scientists of the country. Allocations were not raised for science and technology in the four budgets presented by Shri Manmohan Singh. We fought on this issue in the Committee for Science and Technology and then budget allocations for it was raised. This Government have not taken the issue of Science and Technology seriously and considered it a coquettishness of rich people. You have considered Science and Technology as intellectual luxury of elite classes. But now a days it is equally essential for poor also. The Presidential Address has not included this subject at all. What are you going to do in this matter. How many centres of excellence in field of Science and Technology will be set up. I would like to know as to whether more funds will be allocated for scientific laboratories. You are an engineer and knows importance of technology. Sometimes you do compare Aryabhata with Upnishadas. I hope that such things will not be repeated

[Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi]

in the field of engineering. Sharadji, would have dismayed for not including the issue of science and technology if he had gone through it. Are you ready to set up center of excellence in each state especially where infrastructure had already been provided for it. Are you ready to make an announcement that every scientific laboratory would be provided with facilities of international standard. Are you ready to scrutinize all the publications relating to science and research work conducted on this subject to find out the number of publications equivalent to international standards? In proportion to the number of science graduates in the country, are you ready to provide facilities for publishing of research papers. Which type of science and technology is being considered by this Government. In context of Agricultural Science, are you ready to say that Agricultural Science centres will be set up in each of the developmental block.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : It is being set up in every district headquarter.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It is being set up in every district headquarter. Just now Minister of Agriculture has sent information in this regard. I am not sure that it will be set up or not ? But I would like to know whether this Government is contemplating to take some concrete steps in this regard ?

The issue of potable water has been mentioned in it. This issue was debated for full one day in Rajya Sabha. I have written a letter to hon. Minister of Water Resources to this effect and i got a reply that work on it has been started. Later on I came to know that prior to my letter ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : This work has been taken up since long.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It has been taken up since earlier. You are making this statement in line with the Presidential Address. You have taken up this work after receiving my letter. You had gone to my constituency for a good work but did not informed me about it even for the sake of courtesy. You play politics even in the matters of development. Can I hope that you will launch a programme in phased manner for providing potable water. In how many villages the facility of potable water will be provided ? 1.25 lakhs habitations lack drinking water facility. Hon. Minister himself has admitted that water table is going low. How water management will be made more efficient to improve the water table. On the one hand, 14 million hectare water for irrigation facility in the country is lying unutilized and on the other hand 70 percent farmers have no irrigation facility. Whether the Government propose to utilize that water to solve the farmers problem. Hon. Prime Minister and Finance Minister have been allocating Rs. 900 crore for big dams, whereas irrigation potential worth Rs. 84 thousand crores is lying unutilized. All these important issues have not been mentioned in the Presidential Address then what for we thank them or support the motion of thanks.

I am very sorry to say that citizens of this country will be disappointed after reading this Presidential Address. One will come to know that how a weak document of a weak Government, weakens a person of sound health.

[English]

It is a document of weakness, it is a document of darkness and it is a document of dispondency.

[Translation]

It is document of despondency darkness, lacks aims and direction for the country. I am very sorry to say that i can not support it. I oppose this motion of thanks.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : 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 imposing ban on cow slaughter in the country”.  
(4)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete policy to check 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 about the liberation of Pak occupied Kashmir.” (6)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formulation of any policy to check the increasing criminalisation of politics.” (7)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any concrete programme to check the increasing terrorists activities and disruptive activities in the North-Eastern areas of the country.” (8)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the State funding of elections so as to check the use of black money in the elections.” (9)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any special scheme to check the increasing price of sugar and other consumable items.” (10)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to improve the worsening law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh.” (11)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to alleviate the problems faced by the sugarcane growers from the sugar mills.” (12)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the creation of a separate Uttaranchal State by amalgamating eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh.” (13)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the early sanctioning of the pending projects of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.” (14)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about enhancing the wages of agricultural labourers.” (15)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the constitution of a popular Government in Uttar Pradesh.” (16)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the address about getting an enquiry conducted into the recent Ghaziabad firing incident wherein the police opened fire on farmers and two farmers were killed. (17)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention, in the Address about any time bound plan formulated in order to

improve the law and order situation in North-Eastern region.” (18)

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : 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 schemes for development and expansion of the small scale industries in the rural areas.” (22)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the requirement of power generation by the sugar mills.” (23)

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : 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 effective measures to be taken to contain the deteriorating law and order situation in the State of Uttar Pradesh.” (32)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for implementation of developmental work in Uttar Pradesh.” (33)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the concrete steps being taken to check the growing corruption in the country.” (34)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about making drinking water available in the far flung areas of the country.” (35)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to check the increasing problem of child labour in the industries, hazardous to health”. (36)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

“but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to be taken to enhance the investment in the agricultural sector.” (37)

[Prof. Om Pal Singh 'Nidar']

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the difficulties being faced by the sugarcane growers due to the non-payment of their sugarcane prices by the sugar mill owners in Uttar Pradesh." (38)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address fails to give any assurance about granting statehood status to the Uttranchal region of Uttar Pradesh." (39)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address does not mention about legal provision to lift the ban on the centuries old right of residents of Uttranchal to get wood, slate, stones etc. from the forest." (40)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the early installation of a popular Government in Uttar Pradesh." (41)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for imposition of ban on the open sale of liquor in Uttranchal region." (42)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the effective implementation of Hill Area Service Sub Cadre 1992 for the Uttranchal region of Uttar Pradesh." (43)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the upliftment of ban on developmental work imposed under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and to provide effective concessions in this regard." (44)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of reservation in Government services, in higher technical education to the residents

of Uttranchal region on the basis of social and educational backwardness." (45)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formulation of any special Central scheme to solve the problem of acute shortage of drinking water in the Uttranchal region." (46)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the provision of special central assistance to Uttranchal region as provided to other states of Himalayan region." (47)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about taking appropriate measures to contain increasing prices of essential commodities in the country." (48)

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 setting up of Industries based on the local raw material in Uttranchal region." (49)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the establishment of Sugar Mills, Medical College as announced by the Prime Minister of India in October, 1996, in Uttranchal region." (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 construction work of Dhauli Ganga Project of National Hydro Electricity Corporation (N.H.P.C.) to be carried out by the local entrepreneurs." (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 steps to be taken to regularise thousands of labourers working in Public Works Department, Water Corporation, Forest Corporation, Kumayuan and Garhwal Mandal Department Corporation etc. of Uttranchal region." (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 steps to be taken for the regular supply of

foodgrains under Public Distribution System in Uttaranchal region." (53)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about launching of new developmental schemes for the rapid development of Uttaranchal region." (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 regularisation of extra Departmental Employees of Border Road Organisation and Postal Department." (55)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about installation of new relay tower and Station of Akashwani and Doordarshan and expansion of Telephone and STD facility in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh." (56)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving final shape to the Agreement made with the Nepal Government for the Construction of Panchshwar Dam in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh immediately." (57)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : 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 deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh where one of its legislators was recently killed and a number of murders and kidnapping cases taking place in various parts of the State." (97)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for the restoration of democratic set-up in Uttar Pradesh." (98)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken for curbing the spiralling prices of essential commodities affecting all sections of society in the country particularly the common man." (99)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the rise in the prices of wheat and sugar supplied through Public Distribution System." (100)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any reference about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and his sacrifice made for the independence of the country, in this centenary year of his birth." (101)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's inability to control the fiscal deficit and the rising inflation." (102)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's failure to measure upto its own commitments of establishing a pro-poor regime, made in its Common Minimum Programme." (103)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the nexus between the bureaucrats, politicians and criminals in the light of revelations made in the Vohara Committee report and the C.B.I." (104)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the bank frauds and losses in the public sector nationalised banks." (105)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about details relating to the Bofor's pay-offs case on the basis of Swiss Bank documents received from the Swiss authorities." (161)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : 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 solving Housing, unemployment, water and electricity problems of the Union territory of Chandigarh." (106)

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving statehood and legislative assembly to the Union territory of Chandigarh." (107)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about stopping the misuse of article 356 of the Constitution of India in Uttar Pradesh and other States of India." (108)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the creation of a separate State of "Uttarakhand" as promised by the Prime Minister few months back." (109)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about judicial reforms, filling of vacancy of judges in High Courts and Supreme Court so as to clear the backlog of lakhs of cases pending disposal in various courts of India." (110)

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : 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 deteriorating conditions of 4 lakh Kashmiri migrants." (111)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address for settling the victims of insurgency in Kashmir particularly in Doda and Udhampur Districts of Jammu region." (112)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about any Central assistance to improve the conditions of backward people living in far flung areas of Paddar, Dachan, Marwa, Bani Mohar and Doodu Basantgarh of Doda, Udhampur and Kathua Districts of Jammu and Kashmir." (113)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about giving subsistence allowance to the unemployed

youths of the country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir." (114)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about one rank one pension for the ex-servicemen in the country." (115)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about creation of regional councils in the three regions of Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh." (116)

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : I beg to move :—

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention about the steps to be taken to resolve the border dispute between India and China." (127)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the plight of migrants from the Kashmir Valley, mostly Hindus, who have been residing in camps in Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country for the last 6-7 years." (128)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention about the problems faced by sugarcane growers, particularly in Uttar Pradesh who are not being paid remunerative prices for the sugarcane supplied to the sugar mills." (129)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the deterioration in law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh and to check murder of several political leaders, officials and innocent persons particularly those belonging to weaker sections of society." (130)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the adverse effect on economy, demographic composition, ethnic clashes and threat to national security due to illegal immigrants." (131)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the extent of revenue deficit, increasing fiscal deficit,

adverse balance of trade, growing foreign debt, mounting interest obligations and slowing down on industrial growth in the country." (132)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the pressure on India by developed countries in the World Trade Organisation to agree to unrestricted free trade as also to issues relating to child labour, labour standards etc. which affect the sovereign rights of our country." (133)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formation of responsible Government in the State of Uttar Pradesh." (134)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the formation of separate states for Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Vidarbha regions." (135)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that there is no reference in Address about the progress of investigations being made to identify the recipients in the Bofors pay-off deal." (162)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : 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 progress of the Jain Commission of Enquiry into the assassination of a former Prime Minister." (163)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Madam Chairperson, during tenure of this Government for the first time Presidential Address is being debated in this House. Bhartiya Janata Party should be thanked that it could not be debated last year.

Just now I was listening to the debate of Members from both the sides. Shri Sharad Yadav started the debate, Joshiji also expressed his opinion and both of them made mentions about Congress party several times. None of the political party could get clear-cut majority in 1996 elections. In view of the activities of Joshiji's party like 'rath yatras', the incident of 1992 which shook the basic structure of the country, we all, especially Congress party was in a dilemma as to what steps could be taken in view of these

developments. We were well aware of the fact that so called United Front had been our rival in elections in every state whether it was Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh or Bihar. We all were well aware that United Front has a different ideology. But in the interest of the basic structure and future of the country we tried our best and had taken steps to prevent those parties to come to power which tried to weaken the country.

Several Members of B.J.P. are known to me personally and I know that they are good people but their ideology was the same as of their party. Our party was very much worried about it especially in view of the developments that took place in 1992. In 1977, both these parties formed the Government collectively and were considered brethren parties. At that time both these parties had forgotten the differences of their ideologies and the concepts behind BJP and RSS, and worked collectively to oust and weaken Congress party. I remember very well that in 1989 these parties became cousins and formed Government with mutual support. A meeting of steering committee of one party and co-ordination committee of another party used to be held on every Friday, Vishwanath Pratap Singhji was their Prime Minister. We know that whatever decisions were taken by that Government he used to put a seal of approval on them. We know all that but as the Congress party could not form the Government therefore in the interest of the country we had taken a decision to encourage those forces to form Government which could maintain integrity of the country, continue the policies of previous Government and restore the lost faith of people. After 1947 the faith in basic structure of the country was shaken in 1992. We visited various villages and found that people's faith in the country had shaken. Except the 2-3 percent curtailment in votes in some areas due to their provoked sentiments we found that people actively took part in these elections. Therefore, we had taken a decision to support the U.F. Government from outside. We very well know that their ideology is quite different even then in the interest of progress of the country and in order to see continuance of the policies followed by us during last four five years we supported them and also to give them an opportunity to rectify the mistakes which they thought had been committed by us.

Earlier, I used to listen to their debate from treasury benches. The Members from BJP and Janata Dal used to point out our lacunae. It is the duty of opposition. With a hope that this Government would remove those lacunae for the progress of the country, we supported this Government and will continue to extend our bonafide support to it in future also till it works in interest of the country and prevent the ideologies and forces which are trying to weaken the country.

I was listening to the speech of Shri Sharad Yadav. He raised the issue of social justice. It is also correct and social sector was a major issue of politics when our country attained independence. At that time mostly social workers used to

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

join politics. Later on social services extincted. In the morning Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and later on Joshiji also mentioned that this issue pertains to the whole country. Castiest conflicts are not in the interest of the country. Keeping ourselves free from regional consideration and above party politics a decision should be taken to create an ideology to end this conflict. The guilty should be punished so that this conflict does not aggravate. The same incident took place in Uttar Pradesh. What has happened in Meerut could be prevented. But nothing was done. The same type of complaints have been received from Bihar. This should be debated in the Parliament above the party lines whether the Government had not taken the stern action which should have been taken by it.

You have raised the issue regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A legislation was enacted on it in 1989 and notified in 1990. It was enacted to curb the increasing atrocities against SCs and STs. This law was enacted by the Parliament but could it be implemented. 21 thousand cases have been registered under it. It was told that a copy of the implementation report of this act should be submitted to the Parliament annually. But so far it has not been received. Under this act 21 thousand cases were registered but so far only in 4000 cases accused persons have been charge sheeted. Sixty percent, out of them are still on trial. Joshiji, please forgive me. In Maharashtra, Government has been formed with the support of BJP. In 1996, 1600 cases have been withdrawn. They might have been genuine. But withdrawal of 1600 cases altogether regarding atrocities against SCs/STs reveals that Government is taking them lightly. You had not set up any committee to inquire into it. This withdrawal has given a message that political parties are not serious about the incidents of atrocities against SCs/STs.

In view of the views expressed by Shri Sharad Yadav I would like to know as to what has been done by this Government as it was a Central Act. Shri Krishna Commission was constituted by our Government to inquire into Mumbai riots in 1993 during our regime because innocent persons belonging to Hindu, Muslims, Sikh or Christian communities were killed therein. At that time I was in the Ministry of Communications and given the charge of Ministry of Internal Security. Shri P.M. Sayeed may be present here. We both went there. Joshiji you would have felt taken aback if you had listen to what they told us. We went to one house where young son of a widow named Razia was killed. He was beheaded with sword. She said, Pilotji my son is no more but save this country which is being ruined. These were the sentiments of an illiterate woman. Later on Shri Krishna Commission was constituted to inquire, into such incidents which has been winded up by this Government.

After that when pressure came from people, from media and from some people amongst you, a committee was set-up again. Till date the country has not been told as to what

action has been taken in the cases pertaining to the 1993 riots. All of us are loosing our credibility.

Joshiji you were saying very emphatically that your Government did not do it. At least you could have asked the Maharashtra Government about the persons who have been found guilty by the commission set up to enquire into the cases of riots that took place in 1993. I am accountable to Parliament. You never referred to this issue.

Unless we cut across the party line and discuss the issues sincerely, we can not render our services to the nation honestly. Joshiji, though you are senior to me, but these things move us. We are discussing here our national problems but this Government neither paid any attention to this issue nor it did tell anything to the House. Today it is the feeling of the common man that Commission of Enquiry or committees are set up just to waste the time. Today a common man feels that setting-up of a committee or a commission is only an eye wash as it is set-up only to suppress the matter. The Government, therefore, have to take some firm decisions in order to improve their credibility and wash away such feelings from the minds of the people.

Joshiji has raised this matter and you have also just now told that you have set-up a Corporation for SCs. Unless Corporation's justice delivery system functions well, it will also not be able to deliver goods to the common people. I have also been member of the Cabinet. But there should at least be a monitoring system. Sharad Yadav ji, you people have been the most vociferous in this matter but have you ever placed any record before the country as to how much money did you sanction for formation of a Commission on atrocities on SC/ST people and how much thereof has been utilized so far. Today the common man as well as I myself may tell you that

[English]

Right to information has become a necessity now.

[Translation]

but every system in this country is loosing its credibility. The way our institutions are becoming weaker day by day, has become a matter of concern for all of us.

You spoke in favour of minorities. You will be implementing your 15 point programme under CMP very strictly. Minorities are in such a worst condition today that their representation in Government jobs is negligible as they do not possess the required educational qualifications. They do not get proper education because economically they are not sound. They are capable of neither competing nor receiving proper education as a result of which their representation in Government jobs is negligible. If you attend any conference of minorities, they will be complaining only one thing to you that nobody cares for their representation. I request you to come over here with comprehensive paper on it. If your Government is serious about it and if you people are willing, then come-up with a comprehensive paper and move ahead after taking all parties into confidence and show the people that you are doing something for minorities and for SCs/STs. Only formation of a corporation or making

of a financial allocation is not going to yield any results. We have also got the experience of running the Government. Unless there is a bonafide intention behind it, you can not implement it. You have said that your policies as well as your intentions are bonafide. Sharadji when there are good intentions and good policies, there is no question of failure. And, contrary to this, howsoever good policies you may frame but if your intentions are not good, it is bound to fail...*(Interruptions)* We had promised to go into such cases and had accordingly instituted an enquiry. We had apologized for having punished the persons wrongly implicated ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : In 1984 riots during the reign of the then Government, twelve thousand Sikhs were killed. Many soldiers and Generals were killed. Where were these people at that time ? Still these people are silent. Where were their good intentions at that time ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : At the time when the 1984 riots took place, our Government was in power. That time I was in the ministry. We had set-up a Committee and laid the report thereof. Trial in Patiala House Court and in the Karkardumma special court are still going on ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : You are referring to the committees but people have got no belief in your committees. Your Government remained in power from 1984 to 1996. You were also a Minister, but you failed to punish the persons guilty of 1984 riots ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your submissions. Now, please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : I beg your pardon but nobody can claim having monopoly on wisdom.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : When a big tree falls down, the foundation is shaken....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH (Bulandshahar) : Set your house in order before pelting stones on others' houses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, keep quite ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Our brethren are very right. We took the maximum possible steps in the 1984 riot cases. You were saying that religion should be kept apart from politics. My BJP colleagues raised this thing. You have entered into an agreement in Punjab. Everybody here is talking of the nationalist forces—be it Atal ji or Advaniji or Joshiji. I ask you people whether you have gone through the Anandpur Resolution ? Had you gone through the Anandpur Resolution, you would have never tried to grab the power by extending your support to these parties. You can not claim yourselves to be the nationalist force. I want to ask you, if you have gone through the Anandpur Resolution ? I am placing it on the table ...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Now there are two Anandpur Resolution ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am talking of that Resolution which demands the Sikh Nation. If you say you do not support it, then why did not you say so during your election campaign. You merely said—we will consider it. Why did not you say categorically that you do not support the demand for a Sikh Nation ?

SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : The very people who have signed the agreement are preaching nationalism. This is something intolerable ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Now this is known to the country as to who is on the brink of split—Congress or BJP ? Now they have come to know as to what are the policies of Congress ...*(Interruptions)* I may tell you very categorically that if you intend to strengthen the nation and national ideologies, you should be very sincere and honest in your speech. The country never becomes stronger when you are not honest in your talks. When you manipulate the things just to grab the power. This is different thing that my brethren are supporting such parties but support to Anandpur Resolution can not be termed as an act of nationalist forces, this is my thinking .. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : My submission is that the coalition Government of BJP and Akali Dal has been formed on the basis of a common minimum programme and there is no mention of the Anandpur Saheb Resolution in it.

Thus it is totally wrong to say anything in support of Anandpur Resolution. It is true that the Akalis support it whereas we have conflicting views in this regard. That is why it has not been included in the Common Minimum Programme and everyone should be very clear about it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We are eye witness to it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : You are supporting this Government. Do you agree with them on all the counts ?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (Taran Taran) : There is true federalism in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution as it supports the idea of granting more and more financial powers to the States. You are granting it in Kashmir and you have even included them in your Cabinet ...*(Interruptions)* The Congress has caused the fall of our Government in Punjab many a times. They do not remember this fact. On all such times, when you caused the fall of our Government, we too should have done something in reaction. They should have had no right to cause our Government to fall. That no Central Government should have the right to cause the fall of the State Government elected by the people, this is what has been stated in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution and we have also asked for the financial powers in order to lead our State towards the path of progress....*(Interruptions)* You are saying this in order to irritate them so that both of them do not form a coalition. As the Congress is able to form the

[Shri Major Singh Uboke]

Government only by keeping the two parties separated, that is why you do not let us join hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you have made your point. Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : They will keep on fighting between themselves. Those belonging to Punjab would say that Chandigarh should be merged with Punjab and those belonging to Haryana would want Chandigarh for themselves. They themselves will collide.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : The Congressmen are also in a similar position. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : The purport of my saying was that whichever party indulges in the opportunistic politics, that is not good for the nation whatever weakens our nation is not right ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the parties should keep it in mind.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What I wanted to say was ...*(Interruptions)* What Nikhilji and Shri George used to say about the BJP. Now that they have come closer, they have become very fond of each other. Well, leaving that issue aside, I am coming back to the functioning of the Government. It is true that law and order position has deteriorated in the North East. Alongwith the kind of situation that was prevalent in Assam, we were also treating and tackling the Bodoland issue. When Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was the Welfare Minister, he had made a beginning in this regard. Our Government gave it the form of an agreement. A.G.P. which forms a part of the United Front has not been able to conduct the elections there so far and same problem has surfaced in Bodoland again. Tribal people live there and they are nice people. They had made a very small demand. They had agreed to the proposal of setting up of a Council in order to preserve their cultural heritage. You have not been able to do even that much. Today the Bodos are agitated. The situation is so bad that you had to send the army there. The situation has worsened in Nagaland and Manipur also. When our Government was in power there, we had made an effort to take strict measures in both the states and we also tried to listen to their grievances and sentiments. We had made a beginning. Now I do not know as to whether the same has been continued by the Government or not.

North East is a very sensitive area of our country. We should respect their sentiments and try to arrive at an agreement.

Secondly, just as Shri Sharad has stated just now that they have prepared a package for North-East. The Prime Minister also went there. That area lacks infrastructure. When our Government was in power there, we had started making an effort in this direction.

I do not claim that everything was put in order in North-East under our regime but we had definitely taken an

initiative. We had made a beginning by setting up the North-East Council and Economic Committee just as you have made a beginning now. I am very pleased that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has declared that each and every State will be connected by the Rail line. We should take the issue of North-East very seriously so that all the problems that have arisen there could be overcome. You are also facing the Jharkhand problem. The State Government had reached an agreement with the leaders there. The Chief Minister himself was present there at that time. The agitations have started again in Jharkhand because elections could not be conducted there.

17.00 hrs

Those who used to blame us and say that this Government can not take any decision and that the Prime Minister keeps on thinking and does nothing to them. I would like to say that you have been wide awake for the last 8-9 months. You claim that you are awake even when asleep, you should take some decision so that this difficulty could be overcome. The Jharkhand issue is still very much alive. All my colleagues have mentioned Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. The elections were held there. All the parties took part in them. It is true that the Kashmir situation was pretty bad. All of us joined hands to get the elections conducted in Kashmir. It is true that when our Government was no more in power, the Parliamentary elections were held. 3-4 members of our party were elected to this House. This became possible because of our policies and our brave brothers and sisters who faced the bullets courageously. Madam, you would not have forgotten that situation was very bad in both Punjab and Kashmir in 1991 when our Government was formed there. Nobody dared to go there. When I went on tour to Punjab and Kashmir, I myself have witnessed firing many a times. Our brothers used to sleep in daytime and remained awake at night sitting in a room. Our brave brothers faced the firearms valiantly and did not allow the terrorists to advance further.

The elected Government took over the administration. We respect the elected Governments. It does not matter whether it has been formed by Akalis or you. I request you not to take Punjab very lightly. It is a sensitive State. In place of indulging in politics, you should throw a glance at the past history of the State and take such steps so that such situation is never created in Punjab ever again. The Governments keep on coming and going. If the internal strength of the country is debilitated, we can never ever make up for that lapse. You should take it very seriously.

So far as the Kashmir issue is concerned, the Government has mentioned that issue also. Whether the Government has formulated any plan to send back the Kashmiri migrants ? Three-four months have elapsed since the formation of the Government there. I was in Srinagar 15-20 days ago. There too, I had mentioned this very point that so long as those who have migrated from Kashmir do not come back to the State, the atmosphere will never be

the same in the State. So far as tourism is concerned, till the time it does not pick up and migrants do not come back, psychological confidence can never be built up. The Centre is holding talks with the National Conference and your Government has also made an announcement that it will offer its help. All this should be implemented. Such views were also being expressed in Kashmir that the Central Government does not take any follow-up action on the announcements made by it which affects the local people. I do hope that jobs will be given to the youth there. During the last five years, unemployment has risen, the infrastructure has broken down completely. The roads are broken. The school buildings have been damaged. I would say that this problem has been created by Jamait-e-Islami.

Jamait-e-Islami started influencing and misleading them. They brain washed them, exploited their religious sentiments and took them on a wrong path. We failed to check their activities in 1988-89. We had started it from 'Madarsas'. They started such activities which were not in the interest of this country. I am sure that the Government will take a note of it. ISI was indulging in such activities through Jamait-e-Islami which required to be checked immediately.

Madam, I was listening to Shri Joshi ji. He did not speak anything in respect of Uttarakhand. Your Government had declared from the ramparts of the Red Fort that it would form a separate Uttarakhand states. BJP people who used to utter Uttarakhand-Uttarakhand daily, have now forgotten it. They did not speak anything about it. Probably it was their overenthusiasm which provoked them to say so.

Madam, you were also present in this House when debate on the Muzaffarnagar firing incident was going on in the House which continued for two hours. In that incident fire was opened against the people demanding a separate Uttarakhand state. The matter was probed by the CBI but till date the House have not been told as to how much progress has been made in this investigation; who have been found guilty and how many people have been punished. In case such informations are not given, the House loses its credibility and we are in no position to let the people know as to what has happened in a particular matter. I do not know as to what have been the findings thereof? Today U.P. is under the President Rule. The people must know clearly as to who were the persons found guilty of the Muzaffarpur firing incident over the Uttarakhand issue and what punishment you have awarded to them.

The issues pertaining to reorganization of states have been raised many times. This demand has been raised from every quarter. Sometimes a demand is raised for carving out a Vidarbha from Maharashtra a demand is raised for Uttarakhand, Jharkhand or Bodoland. This is the time when the Government should think over such issues. They should set-up another state reorganization commission. It is necessary to ascertain the feelings of the people otherwise the movement launched by them may take the form of agitation. I would appeal to have a debate over the issue

of state reorganization. Let us sit together and find out as to what may be the likely plus and minus point in this respect. Let us try to take some steps in this regard. The different parties should realise this thing. Some of you people should express your individual ideas on such issues and come with comprehensive plans as to what should be the basis and lines for the state reorganization work.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : You are talking about all states, say something about Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That I have said earlier.

SHRI SHYAM BEHARI MISHRA : You did not mention anything in respect of law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I have already said in this regard. You have come late.

Madam, Chairperson, when this Government came to power it started from CMP. Shri Paswanji must be remembering his words that transparency would be the key note of this Government. Accountability would be the key note of his Government. This slogan was given the top most importance and you people had also taken a decision to abolish this discretionary powers but I am very sorry to state that your much talked about transparency and accountability is not that much visible to us. You must be remembering also that Vohra Committee Report was discussed the whole day in this House and views were expressed by every party over it. Fortunately that time I happened to be the Minister of Internal Security and I had said in my debate that 4 lakhs crores of rupees of our country has got stuck in the black marketing, profiteering and the underworld activities. There is a great danger to our internal security. Unless you establish any monitoring system, develop any mechanism for this purpose nexus between politicians and bureaucrats is bound to strengthen and criminalisation of politics is bound to increase. The Indian Express has brought out a survey report today and if you go through it, you will find the number of people from various parties who contested the Lok Sabha election in spite of their criminal background. When criminals started entering the politics, everybody had raised his or her voice against it. When our brother Shri Sharad Yadav happened to be in the opposition, he had said very emphatically that criminalisation of politics must be dealt with iron hands and stopped immediately. But now you yourselves have not been able to check it effectively.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : Who are the criminals, out of these, belonging to the largest party ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I do not want to say anything in this respect as it might irritate you. But the name of your party has been given on the top in that survey report.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Shri Chavan has given an interview, kindly throw some light on that.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : So, I was saying that it would be in our interest to stop the criminalisation of politics. If we fail to check this trend it would debilitate the democracy and as Shri Sharadji has said, fighting an election will become beyond the reach of the common man. Such is a condition today that contracts are being given in the elections for certain number of votes, to say 25. The country is facing such a worst kind of situation. I am hopeful that the Government would take a serious note of it and set up a committee to consider as to what actions and wide approach are required to curb the criminalization of politics.

Madam, Chairperson, I feel very sorry when I see that people holding high offices are being politicised. For the posting of a Joint Secretary and above, decision is taken in the ACC, his tenure is fixed and the officer who is posted works for a term of five years but he is least aware that only tomorrow he may have to leave the Ministry and join some other Ministry. This is my request that like Centre, this system should be introduced in the States also where, as per the report of the Dharamveer Commission, posting and tenure of the officers, such as Chief Secretary, Director General or anyone holding high office, should be decided by the ACC and a system should be evolved under which he can approach ACC so that they may be able to work properly. Any kind of political involvement in such matters encourages the nexus between the politicians and the criminals. There should be stability in such decisions and they should reflect the transparency and accountability of the Government. I am sure that the Government will consider these two points seriously to complete the above task.

Madam, Chairperson, now I would like to dwell on the economic reformations. Recently, just two or three days back, the Minister of Finance was answering to the questions. I don't want to say much but I would like to point out the downfall witnessed during 1996-97 in the bench mark set in 1995-96. The growth rate in mining and quarries was 7 percent which has come down to 1.7 per cent. It was 13.6 in manufacturing sector which has come down to 10 per cent. Likewise the growth rate in electricity, gas and water supply was 9.8 per cent which has come down to 4.2 percent. It was 5.3 in the construction sector which has fallen to 4.6 percent. It was 13.3 per cent in trade, hotel, transport and communication sectors which has come down to 9.4 per cent. The growth rate in community, social and personal services was 6.2 per cent which has fallen to 4.9 per cent.

The Government must think as to why there is a downfall in their bench marks ? Why you were unsuccessful?

Either you had not done monitoring or you could not implement what you had envisaged in the Common Minimum Programme. It is true that the efficacy of a programme can be judged only after its implementation, and not merely by

its salient features. Apparently the package proposed by the Government may sound promising but only after the implementation one can say whether the package is good or not. So long as the common man is not benefitted by it, the Common Minimum Programme would remain ineffective and all the speeches made in this regard would be useless. The common man should be benefitted and in order to ensure that, the Government would have to introspect to find out the lacunae therein.

There was mention about foodstock. I read in 'The Pioneer' today that there are only two million tonnes of foodstock. During our Party rule, the production was 191 million tonne and now it has come down to 185 million tonnes. Only today, I read in the newspaper that foodstock is so less that it is one half of our emergency requirement. I do not believe that this News report is correct because the Prime Minister had given a statement regarding the P.D.S. today itself. However when figures are being given there should be some truth in the reports as to why the foodstock has come down.

Inflation rate has been mentioned. Under our regime, the inflation rate was 4.2 and now it has risen to 7.8. There is a major point which I have been raising even under the regime of our own Government and today also, I would like to say that the benefits of the policies formulated do not actually reach the villages. Under the regime of our Government, we had admitted that if we wish to provide, say, one rupee under a certain scheme for a village, at times 15 paise, 20 paise or only 25 paise actually reach them. For making available those 15 paise, the Government spends four to six rupees and some paise. The infrastructure is such that it costs a lot to keep the delivery system running whereas its actual output does not justify its cost. We had some expectation from this Government. It was said about us that the infrastructure was old and that we won't be able to bring any changes in it. I would like to ask the present Government as to why is it not being able to deliver the full one rupee grant to the beneficiaries ? In the Common Minimum Programme, it had been stated that the Government will pay utmost attention towards the delivery system. However today also, the situation is more or less the same.

I had toured Assam. We were coming from Dibrugarh. Shri Rajiv was the Prime Minister and I was the Transport Minister at that time. We stopped our vehicle at a certain place. Rajiv ji asked about the name of the programme under which the road was constructed. The name of a programme was mentioned. Then he enquired about the amount of expenditure incurred thereon and was told that this much expenditure was incurred. He asked for the register, at which the register was shown. The entries in the register pertaining to four months were made in the same handwriting and with the same ink. Rajiv ji asked whether the clerk-in-charge did not take any leave for even a single day and whether he did not change his ink in these four

months. They said that since it was a Prime Minister's tour, they had got all the records updated. This kind of wide gap is prevalent in the delivery system and implementation. This is because of the deficiency of the system. So long as the Government does not monitor it strictly, all the benefit of our policies won't reach the village level. I agree with Shri Sharad Yadav that our 80 percent population lives in rural areas. So long as there is no progress in villages, even the country can't progress. There is vast difference between urban and rural life. The literacy rate varies in villages and the cities. I read a report that the hospitals have, at an average, only 18 and 25 beds respectively per lakh population in the rural and urban areas. The average comes to 256 for urban areas. If this divide between the urban and the rural areas persists, it will keep on widening and we won't be able to root out poverty from villages.

I found that the Government had launched a mid-day meal scheme and Rs. 1400 crore were allocated for it. Out of this amount, Rs. 300-400 crore remained unutilised. Thus you will have to personally monitor the functioning of the system. Anti-poverty programme has been mentioned. Under our regime, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Self-employment programme and several other schemes were launched but benefits could not reach the villages because of heavy filtration in between. I would request the Government to formulate a comprehensive anti-poverty plan and it should be discussed in the Parliament and the views of the Members of Parliament should be heard so that we can achieve poverty alleviation. I heard that discussion has been going on in the Planning Commission as to whether the formula is correct or not. On one hand they are specifying a formula according to which 40 percent of the population is below poverty line and on the other hand discussion is going on as to whether the formulae of determining poverty level is correct or not.

17.15 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

Whatever formula may be there but all of us, irrespective of our party affiliation and the areas represented, are very much aware that there is still poverty in the country and so long as a comprehensive approach to root out poverty from the country is not adopted by the Parliament and all the parties do not work sincerely to achieve that objective, we won't be able to alleviate poverty. In the past we did not have liberalisation. When liberalisation process was started, India on the basis of its industrial houses ranked 12th in the world but when we take a look at the growth, India ranks 134th. Amongst the industrial powers of the world, we are being ranked 12th, even then we are 134th in case of growth development. Why is there such a big difference? What are the reasons therefor and I have found out that there are some countries like China, Korea and Malaysia which are making similar allocations. The allocation being made by them is not higher than ours but their delivery system is so

good that their results and achievements are far better than ours even if the allocation being made by them are lesser in comparison. Just now you were mentioning as to why investment rate has grown in China. People went to China because their policies remained firm. There is certainly some lacunae in our policies that investment is not forthcoming and if investment is coming in, why is there no change in the situation. What are the reasons therefor? You should have continued functioning on the same lines which had been started by our Government, so that confidence would have been retained but now the Confidence has been shaken and investors are thinking whether it is good to invest in India or not? The Government should consider the measures to re-build this confidence. I make an appeal to all the parties that at least for the development of the country, we should come together so that such an impression is not passed on to the other countries that they need not make any investment in our country. The situation prevalent in the country warrants this. On this count, we are with you. I too feel and just as Shri Sharad Yadav has stated that if the urban-rural gap is to be bridged at all, so long as the facilities are not provided in the country, satisfactory progress can not be made there. If a 50 bed or a 100 bed hospital, a college, an I.T.I., an agricultural research centre is set up at block level, the villagers would not need to come to the cities for such purposes. The Government should set up a Communication Centre, a General Store so that the villagers have access to all the goods they might need and then they would not feel the need to migrate to cities. This Government has made many promises in the Common Minimum Programme but so far no such plan has been announced by the Government which would create the confidence that the urban-rural gap would be bridged. Shri Somnathji should prepare a Plan of Action to implement the measures proposed to be taken by the Government under this Programme so that people have Confidence that it is not as if the Common Minimum Programme is there but it is being implemented as well.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to raise the issue of rural credit. There is a rural development scheme operative in Bangladesh which is quite successful. Villagers are allowed to avail credit facility there and recovery of loan is also about 90 percent. In our country banks face problems in the recovery of loans and thus are not interested in providing loans to villagers. I have discussed this issue many a times with my colleagues and desired that there should be some mention of scheme on this line in the Presidential Address. The economy of Bangladesh is weaker than our economy and in spite of this, it can provide so much facilities of rural credit then why our Government cannot do that? I feel that economy of the country cannot be strengthened without strengthening the rural economy and for it we have to encourage the poor farmers, and labourers. In party meetings also I have said that one can be full satisfied if he is financially sound and whereas people, who are financially weak worry about their dismal future. These facilities should be provided to rural poor for

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

increasing their financial competence. I hope that Shri Somnath would raise this issue in the next meeting he has a better say.

Mr. Chairman Sir, so far as defence is concerned, several members have expressed their views about modernisation in defence. I hope that this Government would pay attention towards it in this budget. There were some shortcomings in earlier budgets which were mentioned by the Defence consultative committee. The Government had given assurance for increasing budget outlay. The issue regarding model of defence forces was debated in the morning.

Pilots are involved in many such accidents. You should pay attention towards the fact that moral of defence forces should not be lowered, you please see the difference in salaries of pilots of Air Force, BSF and Indian Airlines. This is also one of the reasons. It is not in the interest of the country that moral of defence forces is lowered. The issue of one rank one pension" is being debated since 1989 when V.P. Singh Government was in power. I hope that it will be done at earliest. In the same way there is a need to set up a National Security Council. The Government should take initiatives in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present we are completing 50 years of our independence. Just now I was reading the views expressed by our great leaders on 14th August 1947 in Constituent Assembly. Though I was not born at that time but I have noted the feelings expressed by our freedom fighters from a book kept in library. At that time Dr. Rajendra Prasad had said that they were meeting on the occasion when several freedom fighters had sacrificed their lives for the country. I, myself had read a line written at a chowk in Kohima—

[English]

'When you go back home, tell them of us that we gave our today for your tomorrow.'

[Translation]

This line has been written for those freedom fighters who were killed in Kohima. At that time Jawahar Lal Nehruji while moving a resolution expressed his feelings. Mahatma Gandhiji also said that it had increased their responsibility. I would like to quote the wordings of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan on it.

[English]

Dr. Radhakrishnan speaking in the Constituent Assembly said this and I quote those few lines :

"Let me warn you that when power outstrips ability, we will fail on evil days—a free India will be judged by the way in which it will serve the interests of common man in the matter of food, clothing, shelter and social service.'

Dr. Radhakrishnan spoke about this in 1947 when India was just getting Independence. There was no Government at that time and we were getting into Government. That man, that great leader had a vision of what would happen to India after that and he warned. He further said and I quote :

Unless we destroy corruption in high places, root out every trace of nepotism, love of power, profiteering, black marketing which have spoiled the good name of this great country in recent times, we will not be able to raise the standards of efficiency in administration as well as production and distribution of necessary goods of life."

That was the feeling of Dr. Radhakrishnan on the midnight of 14th of August 1947.

[Translation]

Now we are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence. But at present the credibility of politicians is doubted. The moral Character of politicians have been lowered to such an extent that a common man, a respectable man does not want to involve in it and pass his time. Now we, the political leaders are compelled to hear indecent remarks. It does not concern any specific party or any Government, but all of us. Earlier people used to gather in a large number to hear the speeches of political leaders but now a days politicians have to provide vehicles, food and also work hard to gather people for rallies. Thus it has become essential to go through the sentiments expressed by our leaders at the time of independence. Our generation had not made any specific contribution in freedom movement but we are enjoying its benefits. Crores of our people living in villages feel that a resolution should be brought before 15th August 1997 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of independence. We should restore our credibility. We should repeat the pledge of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and work on those lines. Now a days corruption prevailing in politics is being criticised because political parties play significant role in democratic system.

Political parties are important in a democracy. Bureaucracy and judiciary cannot be corrected untill and unless the legislature is corrected.

[English]

It is because it is a forum which is elected by the people.

[Translation]

We all, right from Sarpanch to Members of district councils, MLA.s and M.P.s should say so.

[English]

We declare our assets and liabilities in our place there so that my people know as to what Mr. Pilot is, how he has

earned and how he has not earned. We also declare that every year we would come and tell you if we have done anything wrong. We would come in front of you. Till such time we do not take that step, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that our credibility would go on deteriorating. If the political character deteriorates, then the national character is directly affected. That is the problem in that country That is the problem we are facing today; that is the problem the next generation is going to face. It is hurting every young men. I personally feel that in this Fiftieth year of our Independence, we should adopt a special Resolution in our own way. The leader of the House is sitting here, I would request him that whenever the Prime Minister or you would be replying to the debate, please give us your comments. If the Government takes it up this year, in the Fiftieth year of our Independence Day celebrations, then we would be contributing to the souls of those freedom fighters who have sacrificed their lives for us.

With these words, let me once again ask this Government to please start working; please start delivering results. Please improve your delivery system. Everybody is watching you. Sharad Ji is very right; he said about *kamjor* Government, You are not *kamjor*. We are not calling you *kamjor*. We want you to take action. You have mentioned about scams; you have mentioned about corruption. Who has stopped you from taking action in the last eight months? Please tell us what action you have taken in at least one particular case. But you cannot say everyday that you are fighting against corruption and doing nothing and blaming us saying that there were scams during that period. That period is over. We have lost the elections. We have suffered if we have done anything wrong. But, what are you doing about it ? If there is anything against any individual or any Party organisation, please take action against them. This is our appeal and then only you can save this nation.

Lastly, let me tell you, as far as the Congress Party is concerned, we are with you till you go solidly on the economic path where the country is strengthened. We are with you when you fight the communal forces in this country but we must see that you are fighting the communal forces. But we do not see that. Sometimes we feel that the communal forces have returned after your coming back to power. You have not dealt with the communal forces with a strong hand.

I am very hopeful that the Government will react to whatever we have spoken today. We would continue supporting you till such time you carry on marching ahead on this line. Let me also assure you that the Working Committee has very clearly stated that the Congress would be with you till your issues are high and are in the national interest. Do not take us for granted. We have said that also. We are not like them.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : With these words you have dissipated your whole speech.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : With these words, I assure you, Chairman Sir, whatever is decided by the House for the future of this country, I have only given my feelings as a young Member of this House. I have been a Member of this House for three to four terms, I feel that the nation should march forward.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What about the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address ?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am saying that the Government should be careful. We are watching them; we are monitoring them. Anytime we find that they are wrong—they should not take us for granted.

17.30 hrs.

ACCIDENT OF HOWRAH BOUND DELHI MAIL  
IN HOOGHLY DISTRICT

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, a very serious railway accident has taken place today in my district. The Howrah bound Delhi Mail had run into a running bus in an open level crossing. It caused the death of four persons on the spot, another four passengers died on the way and 19 other passengers of the bus are struggling for their lives in the hospital.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When did this accident take place ?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It has happened today in the morning at 7.45 a.m. The hon. Railway Minister is present in the House. I want that the people should be informed as to how this has happened and proper relief and compensation to the victims must be ensured. The hon. Railway Minister may kindly respond as to what happened and give the information to the House.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I got information about this accident in the morning at 9 O'clock. I wanted to raise this issue during Zero Hour but at that time some very important issues were being discussed, therefore, I did not intervene. I do not know as to whether the bus driver was at fault or not but as per the information given to me the train driver was at fault. He has been suspended and we have made announcement that Rs. 10 thousand would be given as compensation. Passengers would be given more compensation if laxity on part of Railway is proved...*(Interruptions)* I have already said that additional compensation would be provided if laxity on the part of Railways is proved. It is being inquired into thoroughly and senior officers have been told to enquire into it and submit the report. The officials found guilty would not be forgiven.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : There are several complaints pertaining to Railways in Uttar Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*