

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)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can say that during the discussion of Railway Budget. Now please sit down...

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given permission to raise a specific issue but it does not mean that every member starts speaking. Same situation is prevailing in every area...

...(Interruptions)

17.34 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those who are not speaking today will lose their priority tomorrow.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : What about me, Sir ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yours is a different case.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : I rise to participate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, moved by my good Friend, Shri Sharad Yadav.

This is a very unique situation. The present Government, which has prepared the speech of the President for the first time ever since assuming the Office, is supported by thirteen parties in addition to the support of the Congress Party from outside. As I said, this is a unique situation ever since India's Independence that the two major parties, the BJP and the Congress, which constitute more than 300 Members in this House thus having an absolute majority are out of power and the other splinter groups have combined together to form a Government which is being supported by one of the major parties. Why has this happened ? We shall have to analyse this position.

It is only because of one point, that is whether we should practise secular politics or communal politics. The division is here and because of this division only though we have diametrically opposite views on many issues, we have combined together. We want to restore secular politics in this land of Budha and the land of Gandhi. Now, the point is, are we really serious about it ? We have to search our hearts and answer this question, the Congress position is very clear. Ever since we attained Independence, it is the Congress Party which has remained mostly in power in the Centre.

It was the then leaders, the stalwarts of the Congress Party who thought that there should not be a State policy on the basis of religion because human beings, irrespective of their caste, creed, religion, are one. Their sorrows and their joys are common and that is why there should be a secular polity. It is the Congress Party and the leadership of the

Congress party which was the architect of the secular policy in the country. When you accept this position, I would like to ask my friend in the Government, are you fully aware of the significant position in this country ?

He has mentioned one thing from the President's Address and that is, "This is the time for coalition Governments." But he has not elaborated why this coalition Government has come into being. What is the reason ? There is another important aspect which has come to light in the recent by-elections. I am sorry to say that the behaviour of the secular political parties was something to be ashamed of. It is not a question of winning elections by Congress, Janata Dal or the Communist Parties. It is a question of fight between secular forces on the one hand and the non-secular forces on the other. The response which should have come from the Ruling Government was not forthcoming. Hence this is the result which we all see today. Somebody has to answer to this.

In the State of Uttar Pradesh we are all talking about democracy and democratic polity. Yes, certainly democratic polity is the best form among all the systems of governance practised in the world. That is why we had accepted it. But then, the question again arises that when you accept this position, due to personal liking or disliking, the secular forces were not able to come together and form a Government in Uttar Pradesh. What sort of secularism are we practising then ? People will not tolerate this position for a long time. When they have accepted that the country is wedded to democratic polity, the Ruling government and the Ruling partners cannot shirk their responsibility. They will have to see it happen. They will have to search their hearts. If they are not in a position to do this, they will drive the people of this country towards communal forces. I would like to warn the Government that if they do not read the writing on the wall, those things will happen. What you do not want, the country does not want. It is high time that the Government consider this point.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to another point. I can understand that the President's Address is written by the Cabinet. President is a very lovable person, a very learned personality. When we criticise some of the points stated in the address, it does not mean that we are criticising the office of the President or the person who is occupying it. What we are trying to do is we are trying to find out loopholes and the lacunae which remain in the speech.

The President has said a lot of things but he has missed some of the very important issues, as Shri Murli Manohar Joshi has rightly pointed out, like the centenary year of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose which is being observed all over the country. There is even a Union level Committee of which the Prime Minister himself is the Chairman. In spite of this, how is it that the great hero of our national life, and the greatest of the freedom fighters, could not find a mention in the President's Address ?