

*The motion was adopted.*

[English]

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

[English]

#### LOTTERIES (PROHIBITION) BILL

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar-Delhi) : I beg to move for leave to introduce the Bill to prohibit institution, promotion, conduct and sale of lotteries and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce the Bill to prohibit institution, promotion, conduct and sale of lotteries and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Pandey is absent. He has requested for deferment.

15.50 ½ hrs.

[Translation]

#### CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL (Insertion of New Article 371HA)

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : I introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The rest of the business on the Private Members' Bills will be taken up after the conclusion of the Finance Minister's reply. Finance Minister please.

15.51 hrs.

[English]

#### GENERAL BUDGET - 1996-97 - GENERAL DISCUSSION

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 46 days after the Budget was presented, I am glad that I have the opportunity to reply to the debate which has taken place over a period of three or four days. I must confess that a certain sense of urgency or a certain quality of passion that should attach to this debate was indeed missing. In a way, I think that is because the Budget did not effect or provoke too much opposition from any quarter.

I have a useful way to test whether we are on the right course or not. It is a very simple talisman. Whenever I have a doubt, I visit my constituency and if the people in my constituency appear generally happy, I return with the confidence that we are on the right course. I am sure, every Member does that if not always, at least on crucial occasions in his parliamentary career or political life. I do not believe that any part of India is very different from any other part of India or that people of any part of India are very different from those of any other part of India. There are social and cultural differences but, by and large, I think the heart beat of India is one. Hearts of all Indians beat in the same manner. And I believe that this Budget, the first one of the U.F. Government, has been generally well-received by the people of India as a Budget which balances growth and social justice, balances courage and compassion and balances reform and restraint.

I am grateful to hon. Members from all sides of the House who have given their very valuable suggestions on the Budget and made some extremely valuable points which, of course, have been of great benefit to me. I am also grateful particularly to Opposition Members who, despite their criticism, were broadly supportive of many measures that were announced in the Budget.

Sir, I wish to begin with a brief exposition of, what I believe, is the need for economic reforms. Five years after reforms commenced, it is good that there is still a very healthy and effective debate on reforms. But the debate must move from stage to stage. The debate cannot go back to first principles. The debate cannot go back to the sterile and ideological controversies like, should India open up its economy; should trade become free or do we need foreign investment. These are issues which have been debated, on which I believe we have broadened the consensus. Why do I say that?