

provide easy surface communication between North and South bank of the river but would also greatly help the people of Arunachal Pradesh in removing the existing transport barriers through upper Assam. The strategic importance of the bridge from the point of defence as well as opening up of trade and commerce with South East Asia was raised at different levels by linking the proposed highway from Burma. The recent exploration of oil fields at the North bank specially in Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts of Assam and part of Arunachal Pradesh further justified the need for early construction of the bridge to connect the existing oil installation at the South bank of Brahmaputra. The Planning Commission approved this project during Eighth Plan period in accordance with the recommendation of LC Jain Committee formed to formulate plans under clause 7 of Assam Accord. The Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Surface Transport jointly took up the project and decided to start construction immediately after completion of the Jogighopa Bridge scheduled for completion by October, 1996. The North East Council also agreed to partly finance the project.

The Railway Ministry has been kind enough to allocate rupees two crore in the current budget for survey, preparation of techno feasibility report and estimates but the real work cannot be started unless all the required formalities are completed by September, 1996. I, therefore, urge upon the concerned agencies of the Central Government to expedite the matter so that the real construction work is started by the end of 1996.

**(viii) Need for early Completion of Gandak Irrigation Project in Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMBAHADUR SINGH (MAHARAJGANJ) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Gandak Project was started about 25 years ago with a view to solve the irrigation problem of North Bihar. But it could not be completed till today as a result of which a loss is being incurred instead of profit. The land which was used for farming has either been acquired by the Government or production has reduced in that area.

I, therefore, request the central Government to get the Gadak Project completed without any further delay.

[Translation]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before you take up the next item I have a point of order. Since the commencement of the session of this Lok Sabha, I have not got any opportunity to speak. I have also discussed this matter with you in your chamber also. I am seeing that T.V. is telecasting views of so many members but my agony is that I am not being given any opportunity to speak. You know that I

was not given a chance to express my views even on the issue of Vidarbha. I come and sit in the House at 9.30 A.M. and give notice to raise my point in the Zero Hour. Even then I do not get an opportunity. How shall I face the people when I go back to my constituency after the session ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. I have told in the morning that I will give chance to all. When there was so much interruptions in the House, I had to adjourn the House. I shall give you a chance tomorrow.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Such a situation will arise if you take up national issues in Zero Hour  
... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well. We shall keep this thing in mind in future.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : If a national issue is discussed in Zero Hour then there may be a chance of dispute. I am speaking proud words from a little mouth but you should keep in mind that uproarious scenes would be created on such issues. Therefore, such issues should not be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right.

14.25 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1996-97  
AND

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—JAMMU AND KASHMIR

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir budget. Before calling anybody to speak on it, I would like to request that too much discussion has been held on this issue and now we want to complete it soon. I have to make two submissions. The first is that please speak on budget only and secondly you should not take more than five minutes. Four-five members are there in my list.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (RAJAPUR) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I said yesterday, I hope that this is the last time that I will get an opportunity to speak on Budget of Jammu and Kashmir because hopefully by next time the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their Assembly would debate the Budget.

Sir, it is always misconstrued when somebody raises a question about the amount spent in Jammu and Kashmir as if raising an issue of that sort means an act of anti-nationalism. Somebody is asking questions whether

the people living in Jammu and Kashmir—when they are part of India—be considered as Indian citizens and as our brothers. We feel why they are still feeling so, despite the fact that they are part of India and a lot of amount is spent on them, that not enough amount is spent on them. What are the causes for that? This is what the people would like to know at the time of presentation of this Budget and consideration of the same by the House.

Sir, it appears that this year also we have spent a substantial amount on Jammu and Kashmir on various aspects.

Let us take Education. We have spent almost Rs 366 crore on education. I would like to know as to how many institutions we have started during this period.

As far as power generation is concerned, we are going to spend Rs. 871 crore during this year. I would like to know whether any new power generation capacity created during this period.

As far as unemployment is concerned, we are spending about Rs. 265.92 crore. I would like to know as to how many people are going to get employment.

The total amount spent on Industry, agriculture and animal husbandry accounts for almost Rs. 266 crore during the next year, which we are going to spend. I would like to know as to how many people are going to get jobs; and how many new areas are going to be brought under cultivation. It is because of the threat that the people of Jammu and Kashmir feel that they are not getting enough and we are going to spend so much of money without getting any tangible results. So, the question is where this money is going. Are there any pilferages?

The accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir were audited by the C&AG of India last time. Are there any serious doubts expressed about the utility of this fund? Is there any report on that? So, we would like to know from the hon. Minister about all these things when he presents his Budget.

Sir, I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to present a White Paper to Parliament and for that matter to this country to know as to how much money has been spent on Jammu and Kashmir during the last 50 years; per capita utilisation of these funds on various social sectors and the utility that has been derived by the people of Jammu and Kashmir during the same period; how much per capita amount has been spent on other parts of India so that we could really know legitimately as to how this money has been spent because we really feel sorry for our brothers and sisters who are staying there. We are really wondering as to why they are taking to arms when so much of money is spent on

them. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to present a White Paper in this regard because, as I said earlier, this could be the last time that we are going to debate on this.

Sir, I know that I have to be brief. So, I will just touch a few points.

I will take only one figure. The land revenue collected during this period was budgeted as Rs. 113 lakh, which again is a very low figure. But the revised estimate only shows it as Rs. 4.64 lakh. Is the Government machinery functioning there, which could collect only such a paltry sum of money though the original estimated amount itself was such a small amount? But despite that what has been collected is very small.

Again this year, we are budgeting Rs. 134 lakhs for the Budget-Estimate for 1996-97. I think we really need to know whether what we are really budgeting for is in conformity with the ground realities prevailing there. During the same period how much amount has been collected on account of small savings? Is the Government spending so much amount on Home and Government machinery? The Government machinery could not mobilise even a single rupee on account of small savings. Have the people of Jammu & Kashmir really lost faith in the Government machinery? It is spending so much on paper, but what they are receiving in return is hardly anything. We would really like to know this from the hon. Minister.

Sir, in the three regions that we have got in Jammu & Kashmir, that is Kashmir Valley, Jammu and Ladakh, if you take the area, the Kashmir Valley accounts for 16,000 sq. kms., Jammu accounts for 26,500 sq. kms., and Ladakh accounts for 96,700 sq. kms. But the number of seats that these people represent in the Legislative Assembly is totally disproportionate to the population which is 31.34 lakhs in Kashmir Valley, 27.20 lakhs in Jammu, which is almost 45 per cent of the total population—and 14 lakhs in Ladakh.

Even the Delimitation Commission which was set up last time had also recommended revision of the seats, but now the people of Jammu and Ladakh legitimately feel that this Assembly is not really representing their wishes, their desire and their aspirations. So I feel that probably there is also need for us to know, when they are talking about giving money to the State, how much of it is spent on these three district identities that exist within that State.

Sir, the Planning Commission had also made a recommendation in the National Development Council. It was a part of the National Development Council's deliberations and which was ultimately accepted as a recommendation and is a guideline for the Planning

Commission now that that much amount of money should be spent on one of the most backward areas. If you take the backwardness indices, one of the regions which is most backward should receive backwardness indices, one of the regions which is most backward should receive more funds. But are we following those norms or not, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister ?

I am sure these issues would be incorporated into this Budget Document which has been prepared. I am also sure that this regional imbalance would be removed while preparing this Budget and the Government would definitely give us a view on that.

When we prepare the White Paper, I would like to know how much of total amount we might have spent during the last forty years on the Central assistance provided to the State of Jammu & Kashmir; how much total amount we might have spent on security in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is something the nation has a right to know. I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance or may be the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, during the course of next few months would present the Status Paper and let us know about the total cost incurred on this.

During the same period of 1995-96, the Central loans to the States are in excess of Rs. 278 crore in one single year as against the collection of not even one crore of rupees from land revenue. We would like to know how much total amount has been spent by the Central Government on security, on Central assistance, on loans and advances and the total amount of loans and advances written-off as grants for the last four years.

Sir, I am conscious of the fact that so many other Members have to speak and the people of Jammu & Kashmir have also to receive these funds which the hon. Minister of Finance is so generously providing for them, so I do not take more time of the House and resume my seat.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE (BERHAMPORE) (WB) : Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my Party's views on this Budget for Jammu & Kashmir. On behalf of my party, RSP, I rise to extend my support to this Budget in a general way subject to some observations on it.

Sir, I take this opportunity to welcome the decision of the Central Government for holding Assembly elections in the State and I also welcome the people of Kashmir Valley who have come forward to cast their vote in large numbers. Actually this is the beginning of the people's participation in the political process in that State and this is actually the beginning for the restoration of political process in that State.

Sir, the restoration of political process is impossible without the restoration of economic activity.

So, I think that the first objective of this Budget should be to support the economic activity in order to restore peace and normalcy in that State. I am also happy to appreciate the stand taken by the hon. Prime Minister who has made an announcement in this House for the sanction of a huge amount of money for the developmental projects in that State. In consonance with the feelings of the hon. Prime Minister for that State or for the restoration of economic activity in that State this Budget should be re-oriented in such a fashion that we should start the economic activity in order to sustain the political process. The first objective of the Budget, I think, should be to get back the misguided youth of the Valley to the mainstream of the Indian society, to the mainstream of the Indian culture and Indian economy. They were misguided not of their own choice, but they were misguided due to the failure of the Central Government at that time to tackle the situation. Basic poverty, and unemployment drive them away towards the fundamentalists, towards the clutches of the Jamait-e-Islam towards the clutches of the militancy, towards the clutches of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. So, to get them back to the mainstream of the Indian society we should provide the economic package in this Budget for the restoration of economic activity. But it is my observation— I may be wrong—that the main thrust of the budget is not reflected towards the restoration of economic activity.

With your kind permission I may put a very simple question to our hon. Minister of Finance. Can this Government assure that the Plan funds during the previous years have been successfully utilised ? We have the Budget statement made by the then Minister of State for Finance, Shri M.V. Chandrasekhara Murthy and the assurance was given by him in this House that the district level supervision by the task force must be done in order to check the accounts of the progress of the work and the development projects in that State. Can this Government assure that this supervision has been done ? I think, it is my information, that this supervision has not been made possible at all in that State. I have got an unwanted information, which is part of the rumour that goes throughout this Valley, that the money allotted by the Central Government for the people of Kashmir does not actually go to the hands of the needy and poor people of J&K.

Sir, please pardon me and forgive me if I use any unparliamentary word. There is an unholy alliance between the corrupt people inside the Government machinery and outside the Government machinery and the entire amount or a bulk of the budgeted amount sanctioned by the Government of India goes to the clutches of that unholy alliance. This is the root cause of all economic frustrations in that State. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance and the Government to take appropriate action

to investigate the matter and to take adequate measures for the solution of this problem.

I beg your pardon to draw your kind attention that proper emphasis has not yet been given on developmental projects. We have heard the hon. Prime Minister and earlier the Minister of Railways that the construction of railway lines from Srinagar to Jammu or from Jammu to Udhampur was the beginning of economic restoration. What is the present position? What is the booster given through this Budget to rejuvenate the economic activity in respect of construction of the railway line? The unemployed youth could come and enjoy this facility. But this has not made any sincere progress to that effect.

Sir, we know it very well from this Budget and the Budget speech that many notable schemes were adopted by the Government of India under the employment generation programmes to reduce the rate of unemployment in the State of Kashmir. But may I urge upon the Government to make an assessment as to how far the problem of unemployment has been solved as yet? The programmes were adopted, the schemes were adopted under employment generation scheme, but those schemes have not yet been successful. I would urge upon the Government to make greater provisions for solving the crisis of power in that State, for solving the problems of tourism.

Tourism is the backbone of Kashmir's economy. What are we doing to develop that backbone of the economy? What are the provisions the Budget is making for the development of tourism in that State? We are not sincere in that respect. We are not sincere. We see the tears coming from the eyes of the shawl weavers. What is the position of the handicrafts and cottage industries? What is the Stringent condition of the poor peasants who are working in the fields or who are working in the forestry? I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to make sufficient provisions for the development of the shawl weavers, for the development of shawl dealers, for the development of persons engaged in social forestry and the agricultural fields. I would also urge upon the Government to give sufficient energy and attention to the problems for the development of tourism. With these words I conclude my speech. I again extend my support to the Budget.

SHRI E. AHMED (MANJERI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the last several occasions when the Budget of Kashmir was presented before this House, I had the privilege to participate in the discussions and on almost all the Budgets of Kashmir. This is the last time we are participating in the discussion on the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir. Hereafter, as my friend Shri Suresh Prabhu has stated, the Kashmiri people and their representatives

will discuss about their Budget proposals in their own Legislative Assembly which will be constituted after the on-going elections.

Sir, I had an occasion to visit the Valley last week. I have myself seen a changed political atmosphere prevailing in the Valley. This is because of the transparency that the Government here is New Delhi has shown in recent past towards the people of Kashmir. In this context, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for having visited the Valley and he has the reputation of visiting Kashmir Valley after seven years in this democratic India. His visit and also the transparency of the Government have helped them to change the political scenario and the democratic process now underway in Kashmir will be the best bet for the people of Kashmir. The normalisation of situation as well as the progress of Kashmir is depending on the democratic form of the Government. But I am sorry to say Sir, that even now there are some sizeable section of people who are still not participating in the political process. I had also the occasion to meet the Chairman of All Party Hurriyat council Mirwaiz Maulim Umer Farooq and also some other people who have not joined in the process of election.

I may be permitted to bring it to the notice of this august House that during the discussion I had with some of the intellectuals—Of course, they are not with Pakistan, they are not supporting Pakistan, they are cut up with India too—told me one thing. They said that it was not they who were supporting Pakistan. They were against Pakistan and its leader Mohammad All Jinnah. They fought with Pakistan, they stood by India, they supported India and not only that, they also suffered of the hands of Pakistani invaders and the atrocities committed on them by the Pakistani invaders. Even people like Brig. Usman has laid down his precious life for keeping Kashmir with India.

Sir, according to them all these years, the Government of India have been trying to alienate the people of Kashmir about which also they narrated many instances. But past is past. Now what we have to see is that even those leaders of Kashmir who have not identified themselves with the mainstream politics have also to be brought into the mainstream politics. In this context, I would also say that elections should definitely be held there in a free and fair manner. When the first phase of the on-going Assembly election was held on the 7th of this month I was there in Srinagar and I have been told that the election was, by and large, peaceful. Of course, there were allegations and complaints about some people capturing the polling booths. I hope the Government of India as well as the Election Commission will look into this matter. But any way, militancy is militancy

and it should be met with a firm hand. The people are now disillusioned with the militants. The people of the Valley are also disenchanted and disillusioned with the militants and they have their own opinion about Pakistani designs. But at the very same time, we should show not only transparency, but also our sympathy, compassion, goodwill and friendliness towards the people of Kashmir. We should honour their sentiments. That is the only way in which we will be able to have Kashmir as a part of India, for which I am sure the majority of the people of Jammu and Kashmir are ready. They must also have their own civil administration, their own democratic institution and their own participation in the democratic process for which the Government of India should take necessary steps.

Sir, as a matter of fact, Kashmir is very much backward. Who is responsible? What is the situation there? Everybody knows about it. But I would like to mention at this stage about the unemployment problem which my R.S.P. friend has just mentioned. He also mentioned about inadequate development in the fields of education and electricity. The money set apart for electricity generation and distribution is not sufficient to meet the requirements of Kashmir now. Then, many of the educational institutions have been damaged and there are no good roads. This matter has been brought to the notice of this House by the hon. Members of this House after our visit to Charar-e-Sharief last year.

As my friend has just mentioned, corruption is rampant among the officers. Even now there are people who are doing many things only with ulterior motives and also to amass money. These officers have to be dealt with seriously. Unless and until we do that, we will not be able to put an end to corruption.

Sir, before concluding I would like to urge upon the Government, especially the Minister of Finance to continue with the implementation of the economic package presented by the hon. Prime Minister to the people of Kashmir and also take some confidence-building measures. Unless we take some confidence-building measures to take the entire people of the Valley towards India, then it will be like what the present Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta described sometime back that we have only the soil of Kashmir, not the soul. But now the situation has changed. The should is also returning towards the Union of India and under any circumstances we shall not allow our neighbour Pakistan to exploit the Kashmir problem. They have been exploiting it in the international fora. They have been changing it into a Hindu Muslim problem. I hope that all the sections of this House

as well as the parties at the national level and the regional level would see that we shall not do anything or commit anything which would help Pakistan to intensify their propaganda against India by treating the Kashmir issue as a Hindu Muslim problem.

It is not a Hindu-Muslim problem at all. Kashmir is an integral part of India. It shall continue to be an inalienable part of India for which we must show our compassion, our goodwill, our helpful attitude and our friendliness towards the people of Kashmir. With these words, I once again support the Budget moved by the hon. Finance Minister.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (SHIMOGA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Budget proposal put forward by the hon. Minister for Finance in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, I would like to offer my own views on the subject. Of course, irrespective of the political parties, this august House since decades has gone on extending full support for the unity and developmental activities of the State of Jammu & Kashmir in our Indian Union.

Actually, two things are to be kept in mind while discussing the Budget proposal, one on the revenue side and the other on the expenditure side. I see no reason why we should again harp upon one view as far as the revenue side is concerned. The activities in the Valley and also in the whole region of Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh are to be taken into account. Ladakh, of course, I am told, is a highly neglected area in the whole State of Jammu & Kashmir. It has got to be given top priority in respect of giving a boost to that area and keep it on a moving trail of economic activities.

As far as the revenues, of the State of Jammu & Kashmir are concerned, it has almost come to a standstill since decades because of the political uncertainty which we have been witnessing since that time. When we considered that the whole State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part and parcel of our country, there was no second thought about it. As has been said earlier by the hon. Home Minister, the soil is there but the soul is yet to be traced out. The soul is also there. I do not say that soul is not there. To some extent it is there. The only thing is, part of the soul is not required for our soil but soul requires the whole soul itself. For that, we should extend our budgetary support to that State as has been done in the past also till this time and economic activities are to be given a big fillip even in future also time and economic activities are to be given a big fillip even in future also in spite of the fact that uncertainty has



overwhelmingly engulfed the whole political atmosphere in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

Hitherto, I have been discussing here when the Amarnath Yatra took place, many people died who went from every nook and corner of this country to have a *darshan* of the temple God, but when our people on the way were in deep trouble, who actually gave them the helping hand? It is only the Muslim community. Therefore, all the praise should go to our Muslim brotherhood for helping them not only on the route of that yatra but also elsewhere also. All the people in the Valley are not to be considered as terrorists. That is very bad, of course. Nobody has said so, so far.

But a few people are always there carrying on some activities. They are not only there but even in some other parts of the country also they are there carrying on some of the activities. But instead of condemning them, better we make them realise that they are a part and parcel of our Indian union and then move forward with the development of our country. Therefore, I still feel that barring those who have actually engaged themselves in disrupting the tranquillity and peace process in that Valley, the others are with us. We have to give a fitting reply to those who are disrupting peace and tranquillity. Apart from this one there are other set of people, who are in a big majority, who align themselves with our idea of unity, brotherhood and love and affection among the religions, castes, creed and something like that. We will have to move with that idea only. Therefore, whatever financial help we give to the State in a larger way, that will ultimately achieve this goal or the object.

There is another aspect. Plan funds were approved either by the State Assembly previously or later on, after the State came under the President's rule, have been approved by the Parliament. I must thank the people of the whole of our country because we have been going on giving money to them so as to see that it is an integral part of our country. They are our people. They are our brothers and sisters. Therefore, I feel that taking into consideration the elections that are going on in the Valley and the other areas of the State in Jammu and Kashmir, we should grant it. Actually, some of the political parties are very much scared to go to the people. Still, we have to keep the wheel going on. In fact, it is going on and it is a welcome thing. Of course, it will have its own flaws and defects etc. But we should get them set aside and move forward. Therefore, keeping this in view, I feel that this budgetary support, in a bigger way, must be there. But side by side, a reminder should go

throughout the length and breadth of the State of Jammu and Kashmir that on the Revenue side, they have got an onerous responsibility cast on them to account for the State Budget also. It requires a lot of time to explain in what way all these things should be done. An in-depth study has also to be made in this direction.

Sir, with these words, I welcome the Budget proposals as presented by the hon. Finance Minister for our acceptance. I do not think that we are sitting here to oppose any of these moves since we have got a lot of thing to do with the State of Jammu and Kashmir to make it an integral part of our country. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as we are discussing the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir, the people of that State are voting a new Assembly into office. This, I believe, is a momentous development and a development, I am sure, that will augur well for the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the people of that State and for the country as a whole. I, therefore, do not wish to deal in any great detail on the many issues raised by the hon. Members. Within a few weeks from today, there will be a Assembly, there will be the elected representatives who will raise these questions and I am sure suitable and appropriate answers will be given by the elected Government of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Very briefly, I must point out that there are serious structural weaknesses in the finances of Jammu and Kashmir. Let me just share the figures for the last three years with you. In 1994-95, the total Central support for the State was Rs. 1,849 crore. However, the Plan expenditure was only Rs. 867.34 crore.

15.00 hrs.

The remainder was really used to meet the non-Plan expenditure. Similarly, in 1995-96, out of the central support of Rs. 1,547 crore, the Plan expenditure was Rs. 1,052 crore and the remainder went to meet the non-Plan expenditure.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : It has gone down really.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The plan expenditure has increased. In 1996-97, we had kept the Plan at the same level of last year pending finalisation of the Plan size after the elected Government comes into office and we are providing Rs. 1,507 crore as total central support.

and  
Demands for Grants—J & K

So, after allowing for Plan expenditure of Rs. 1,050 crore, the remainder is really going as resources to meet the non-Plan gap.

In fact, there is a financing gap of about Rs. 352 crore and together with an opening balance of over-draft of Rs. 549 crore, the total deficit is about Rs. 900 crore. The Prime Minister referred to this Rs. 352 crore financing gap when he made a statement on the floor of the House and said that we would find ways and means to provide these finances. I think, given the peculiar situation prevailing in that State and the great hardships that the people of that State have undergone, the Central Government would have to meet this financing gap and we are committed to meeting this financing gap. But all is not bad as might appear on the surface. On the development side, for the first time, in six years in 1995-96, there has been 100 per cent utilization of the Plan funds. Non-official public representatives cutting across Party lines are participating in the District Development Board meeting. The block level planning has been introduced in the State last year. A major step in democratic decentralisation was undertaken during 1995-96 by constituting Ladakh Autonomous Hill Council at Leh with directly elected representatives. Physical verification of major works through District level task forces constituted under the respective District Development Commissioners was conducted last year and has been continued this year also. A total number of 1,500 works have been physically inspected, photographed, records have been taken so that when an elected Government or an elected Assembly come into being, they will have a record of what has been done particularly last year and in the first six months of this year. The Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) has been extended to all the 57 blocks; eleven mobile shops have been there for catering to higher and remote parts of the State; pre-matric scholarship for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been increased by one hundred per cent, from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per boy student and from Rs. 125 to Rs. 250 per girl student.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Is it on per month or per annum basis ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Girls get a little more amount.

The National Social Assistance Programme, the National Family Pension Programme and the National Maternity Programme were introduced in the State year. All the blocks have been covered under the National Scheme of Mid-day Meals. This covers 2.5 lakh children. 220 KVA transmission lines from Jammu and Kashmir Valley is expected to be commissioned shortly. Some development works has indeed taken place last year.

and  
Demands for Grants—J & K

Maybe, it is not entirely satisfactory. But some development work has taken place. And I am confident with the elected Government in office, Jammu and Kashmir will get the attention on the development side as it deserves to get.

Sir, some question was raised about the higher per capita outlay in Jammu and Kashmir. I think, the reasons are obvious. The cost of developing Infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir is much higher than in other parts of the country. For example, take laying a road. The cost of laying a road in terrain, as obtained there, is very different from the cost of laying of roads in the plain.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM) : In North-Eastern region also it is so.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, North-Eastern region also.

Sir, the State is a vast area and therefore, the cost is higher. I am told-I do not have the figures with me—that the plan outlays per unit area, like per square miles is taken into account, well, the allocation for JAMMU AND KASHMIR would not be much higher than the allocation of the rest of the country. For example, in the Ladakh region, the per capita allocation is much higher because Ladakh is even more inaccessible. So, I do not think we should take umbrage at the higher allocation, per capita of Jammu & Kashmir. I think that State requires that allocation.

Sir, there was some question about unemployment. There are about one lakh names in the live registers of the employment exchanges in Jammu & Kashmir. Vacancies in various departments of JAMMU AND KASHMIR are being filled with utmost expedition. The Central Government public sector undertakings have launched special recruitment drives for educated youth and technocrats in the State. For example, SAIL has launched a special recruitment drive; the Railways have launched a special recruitment drive there. Under the self-employment programme, PMRY and the State's self-employment scheme about 8,000 units have been set up in the last two years.

1508 hrs.

(SHRI NITISH KUMAR in the Chair)

On Just last point of power, the internal hydel generation is 833 million units. Imports from the northern grid last year were 2473 million units. This year, they have proposed to import 2,620 million units. Additional power imports will become possible on the 220 KVA line being commissioned. This will enable us to import another 600 million units into Jammu & Kashmir. Therefore, the power

situation is expected to improve this year over the last year.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I would like to know, whether any survey has been made also to find out the potentiality of the JAMMU AND KASHMIR in respect of the establishment of hydro-electric projects. If yes, what exactly is the progress made? What exactly is the progress in regard to drawn-up projects which are still to be implemented? If you have got all those details, you can give.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We will give the details but before that let me complete this. Then I will get it.

Sir, Shri Rawat mentioned about the supply of weapons to ex-servicemen in Doda district. I may inform that more than 200 defence committees have already been set up in Doda and the number of ex-servicemen who are members of the committee have been issued with weapons.

Relief to victims was mentioned by an hon. Member. The current scale is Rs. Two lakh to the next of kin of a servicemen belonging to the para-military or the police services and Rs. One lakh to the next of kin of a civilian who is a victim of a terrorist violence. The Rehabilitation Council has recently been set up to take up measures for rehabilitation of facilities affected by terrorist violence, especially widows and orphans. They are provided maintenance amount in education and training.

Sir, there was some question about tourism. Out of the Eighth Plan allocation of Rs. 78.30 crore, expenditure incurred in the first three years was only Rs. 42.82 crore.

In 1995-96, the Plan provided for Rs. 21.05 crore and about the same level will be expected to be spent this year also.

A lot of programmes have been drawn up for tourism. Needless to say, tourism in disturbed conditions will be affected, but after the elections take place and an elected Government comes into place, I am sure that there will be much greater confidence and more tourists will come to the State.

I am grateful to the hon. Members for the support they have extended to the measures taken by the Government, particularly the decision to hold the elections. I think that the decision is a courageous decision. It is not a decision taken by one party or the parties constituting the Government. This decision could have been taken only by all the parties supporting it, the whole House supporting it. It is because there is unanimous support from all sections of the House that the Government could take the bold decision to hold the elections.

Shri Bangarappa requested for information about the power potential. A survey for power potential has been made. There is a potential of thousand megawatts in the Chenab basin in the Jammu region. The Dulhasti project is part of this. Other projects are under investigation and consultants have been engaged to assess the techno-economic feasibility.

I am grateful to the hon. Members for the  
... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (LADAKH) : Sir, as I mentioned yesterday, we are grateful to the Government for giving the Autonomous Hill Council status to Ladakh, but I had also mentioned yesterday that the status of the Chief Executive Councillor in respect of Ladakh has not been made comparable to that of the position that he should have. I am saying this because the Gorkha Hill Council Chairman is enjoying the status of a Senior cabinet minister. The Ladakh Council is also demanding a similar status for the Ladakh Chief Executive Councillor. I was told that the case is pending with the Cabinet Secretary in the Government of India. I would like to know if any decision has been taken in this regard. As a result of non-conferment of the status, all the developmental activities in the hill region of Ladakh are at a standstill. I would like to know the position on this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, while the point made is valid, the conclusion is not valid. Just because the status is not being conferred, development works need not be halted, I being told that status of the Chief Executive Councillor is under the consideration of the Government and it is proposed that a final view may be taken after an elected Government assumes office. But I would request the hon. Member to convey to the Autonomous Council of Ladakh that the development works should not and ought not be halted just because of the question of status.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Sir, he has not got the financial powers. This is what I meant.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will ensure that adequate financial powers are made available to the Chief Executive Councillor. The question of status will be decided and a final view will be taken after an elected Government comes into office.

I would now request the hon. Members to pass the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Jammu and Kashmir) for the year 1996-97.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : The decision should have been taken now as the Act has been passed when the State was under the President's rule. There should be no problem in according proper status to the Councillor.



and  
Demands for Grants—J & Kand  
Demands for Grants—J & K

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Jammu and Kashmir) for 1996-97 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted

to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to *complete* the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1997 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 27."

*The Motion was adopted.*

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—BUDGET (JAMMU AND KASHMIR) FOR 1996-97  
SUBMITTED TO THE VOTE OF (LOK SABHA)

1	2	3		4	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1.	General Administration Department	14,13,17,000	1,35,30,000	14,13,18,000	1,35,20,000
2.	Home Department	149,76,47,000	3,59,45,000	209,76,46,000	3,59,45,000
3.	Planning and Development Department	2,80,66,000	2,95,85,000	2,80,66,000	2,95,86,000
4.	Information Department	2,68,27,000	32,18,000	2,68,27,000	32,17,000
5.	Ladakh Affairs Department	63,09,62,000	32,89,12,000	—	—
6.	Power Development Department	294,52,73,000	141,19,29,000	294,52,74,000	141,19,29,000
7.	Education Department	195,04,64,000	8,04,38,000	195,04,63,000	8,04,38,000
8.	Finance Department	88,19,89,000	2,20,00,000	88,19,89,000	2,20,00,000
9.	Parliamentary Affairs Department	95,31,000	—	95,32,000	—
10.	Law Department	7,82,17,000	—	7,82,17,000	—
11.	Industrial and Commerce Department	22,67,73,000	22,15,87,000	22,67,73,000	22,15,88,000
12.	Agriculture, Rural Development & Co-operatives Department	46,86,46,000	30,73,98,000	46,86,46,000	30,73,98,000
13.	Animal Husbandry Department	25,93,34,000	4,59,86,000	25,93,34,000	4,59,86,000
14.	Revenue Department	42,82,15,000	1,23,40,000	42,82,14,000	1,23,39,000
15.	Food Supplies and Transport Department	31,71,00,000	279,01,02,000	31,71,01,000	279,01,02,000

1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
16.	Public Works Department	72,53,16,000	38,29,44,000
17.	Health & Medical Education Department	86,63,97,000	9,25,85,000
18.	Social Welfare Department	12,91,10,000	4,37,77,000
19.	Housing and Urban Development Department	15,96,39,000	25,75,08,000
20.	Tourism Department	6,63,18,000	5,78,33,000
21.	Forest Department	27,38,73,000	12,01,61,000
22.	Irrigation & Flood Control Department	35,61,50,000	19,72,83,000
23.	Public Health, Engineering Department	50,11,53,000	20,69,72,000
24.	Estates, Hospitality and Protocol, Parks & Gardens Department	9,55,27,000	1,07,78,000
25.	Labour Stationery and Printing Department	6,04,10,000	8,91,23,000
26.	Fisheries Department	2,56,86,000	1,15,05,000
27.	Higher Education Department	27,84,74,000	4,87,28,000

15.15 hrs.

[English]

## JAMMU AND KASHMIR APPROPRIATION BILL 1996\*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 1996-97".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State

of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 1996-97."

*The motion was adopted.*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir I introduce\*\* the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 1996-97, be taken into consideration".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the

\* Published in the Gazette of India, Extra ordinary, Part-II Section-2 dated 11/9/96

\*\* Introduced and Moved with the recommendation of the President.