

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I am prepared to give all the details.

15.58 hrs.

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

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Motion moved by Shri Sharad Yadav.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not forget that Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Before I go into other important issues, I wish to categorically state that I strongly support Comrade Geeta Mukherjee's proposal. I hope that some way will be found out as to how to take up this Bill and to pass it. I had suggested that we should pass it without discussion and I stick to it. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : The Bolpur seat will become a woman's seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If Bolpur seat becomes a woman's seat and if I am still in the reckoning, I will go to Silchar.

15.59 hrs.

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

Sir, the last year's President's Address was product of what I call the constitutional absurdity, lacking in political and moral authority. We are happy that this year hon. Rashtrapatiiji has been able to read out a speech prepared by a legitimate Government. That is why, the speech reflects the urges and aspirations of the people of this country and addresses some of the basic problems facing the country and the people.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, the United Front is not just a combination of political parties born out of political expediency it is the result of a clearest mandate of the people of this country who have, in no uncertain manner, given their mandate against the forces of communalism and sectarianism. Consciously, I believe, that the people of this country did not vote for a single party. But they have made their choice and expressed it in no uncertain manner, in unmistakable form that they have opted for a secular and democratic administration in this country and they want a

Government to be guided by transparency, probity and accountability.

Sir, the coalition government has come to rule this country. I believe that the people of this country realise that one-party rule has not been able to solve the problems of this country when most of the 50 years since our political independence we have had one-party rule. But, Sir, what we find and what is matter of great importance is that 75 per cent of the voters, three out of four voters in this country, in the last election gave their verdict against communalisation of politics. Sir, their mandate is clear and loud. The people's choice for secular, democratic and liberal administration has to be respected and that is why some of the political parties, 13 or 14, have come together to carry out the mandate of the people. It is not a matter to be scoffed at. We have to have a Government in the Centre. We have to provide an administration which will look into the problems of the people, and try to solve them. Therefore, this United Front, which has been born out of the people's choice and the people's mandate, has a very important duty to perform.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are told by the major Opposition Party in this country that Government lacks legitimacy because on its own it is not the majority party, that it is supported from outside by the Congress Party which has been ousted from power, and it is supported by the United Front parties not all of whom have joined the Government. Sir, as I said, the clearest decision of people of this country is that the communal forces have to be halted. This country cannot be allowed to be overrun by those who want to divide the country once again, by those who divide the people on the basis of religion, those who have desecrated a place of worship, those who have violated the Supreme Court order and those who have brought into all seeds of discord in the body politic. Sir, as we have to get rid of the economic corruption from our body polity, from our political life, we have also to get rid of this virus of communalism and separatism, from our national life and that is the great obligation which has been imposed on this United Front and it would have been letting the people down ignoring the people's mandate if these political parties who are now in the United Front had not come together to provide an administration which will cater to the needs of the people.

Everybody will realise this that it cannot be a bed of roses for the Government, it cannot be a smooth sailing affair, but they have risen to the occasion and the Common Minimum Programme has been constituted and framed. I believe that even the Congress party has accepted it, which is nothing but, according to me, a testament of hopes, urges and aspirations of the people of this country. It is a charter of comprehensive development of this country

and which all parties together, which is a sort of post-electoral alliance, framed. Considering the future of this country, considering the duty of us who are in Parliament, in political life, in public life to try sincerely to remove tears from every eye in this country, they have joined and formulated the United Front, its charter, its programmes and its formulation. I feel that it is the bounden duty of all of us in the Parliament, or even outside, to see that the Government is allowed to do its duty to fulfil the expectations of the people, as indicated in the United Front's Common Minimum Programme.

We have always said and I am happy that the Prime Minister has emphasised on that from time to time, namely, our primary objective is towards the common people, the poor people, how to remove poverty from this country, how to take recourse to the poverty alleviation programmes, how to see that not a single person in this country remains unfed or not fully fed, how to try to provide a shelter on their heads, how to provide that they should have treatment when they are ill or sick. These are the basic minimum rights of any civilised society and it is our bounden duty to fulfil them, specially when a long time has elapsed. Five decades is not a small period. As a nation, we cannot absolve ourselves of the shame that still in our country, there are people below the poverty line, without decent standard of living, there are people who are unable to go to schools or places of learning, there are people in this country who do not get pure drinking water and there are people who die without medical treatment. Therefore, are we not here in this House obliged to see that these minimum facilities are made available?

Sometimes, probably, we are more concerned in finding out what divides us than what unite us and what are the divisions amongst the people. But there are certain areas and objectives which, according to me and my party also, should be the bounden duty of everybody in this country to see to. There should not be disparity from people to people.

Let them enjoy the minimum rights which the Constitution makers have provided for the citizens of this country. Let not the Directives Principles of the State Policy be mere narration of such rights and goals only in papers. Let Fundamental Rights of citizens of this country be not paper rights only. Therefore, how will we achieve it unless we are able to concentrate on this, able to put our heads together, able to put our energies together?

It is a developing country. We have tremendous resources. Our biggest resource is human resource. But unfortunately, are not able to fully realise these resources. We find that our young boys and girls and brilliant academicians are waiting for opportunities to serve the country, and they are going out of this country because

here, they are not respected, they are not having job opportunities. They are contributing to other countries' development and progress and we are not able to retain them here, in our own country.

This is the position. But we cannot lose hope. We cannot throw up our hands. We cannot say : 'thus far, no further and we cannot do it.' The history will not pardon us. Those who have decided to participate in political and public activity cannot, but redeem our pledge. Otherwise, the future generations will never exonerate us.

Sir, I know the limitations of the United Front. I know the problems which will be there when so many parties are working together. I know that this country has complex problems, problems of unbalanced development, problems of lack of development, problems of lack of infrastructure and problems of inherent weakness of our economic set up also. We have to depend on other countries. We have to borrow money from other countries. We cannot provide the wherewithal with our own resources. We are not even able to provide water to our farmers who are toiling everyday and producing our biggest asset, namely food.

These are the problem and we have to tackle them. But in the present context, how do we do it? Merely nibbling at each other and merely criticising will not do, and there again I appeal to all sections of the House that there are some basic aspects, some basic issues which should not be allowed to be compromised. There cannot be a let up in that.

Sir, nobody, I believe, wants an election now. The Bharatiya Janata Party may be having its dreams. But with their performance in Gujarat and Rajasthan and with some negative votes here and there, they may think that they would be able to come on top of the world. But what have we seen in Delhi? Even the other day, the ballot boxes were seen on the streets under their administration. What is happening in the State of Maharashtra? In Maharashtra, people like Dr. Datta Samant are killed on the streets. How are the elections being held there and what is the percentage of voting there? I found that not more than 50 per cent of the people had voted. How are they dealing with their political opponents in Maharashtra? These issues are there. But at the moment, I do not wish to have a confrontation.

Sir, the duties towards the common people and the poor people will have to be discharged and in this context, I must congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and the Government. I know that they would be facing the problem of providing subsidy to over Rs. 8,000 crore. But you cannot play with the future of the people below the poverty line. We have been insisting, rather pressing hard for it, because that is one of the commitments made in the United

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Front's Common Minimum Programme that we must provide, at a cheaper rate, at half the rate to the people below the poverty line, at least the rice and wheat. I must congratulate the Government on this issue that the hon. Prime Minister has made that announcement yesterday and this would provide great relief to them. Let us have this satisfaction at least that those who need the most have been provided with this opportunity of survival.

Sir, I shall request the Government, particularly the Prime Minister who is here, that it has to be seen that there is a proper implementation of this programme. All risks should be avoided. It is the duty of every citizen to see that this is properly implemented and those who indulge in black marketing with these foodgrains—let us follow Jawaharlal Nehru's wishes—should be hanged from the nearest lamp post. I do not mind that, because you cannot play with the lives of the people. The people of the country will be paying the subsidy, but this is a subsidy which has to be borne by this country. It cannot be helped.

Therefore, I hope there will be the proper implementation. The West Bengal Government is hoping to introduce it comprehensively within a month. It has already done the process. Similarly, I am sure the other Governments will also sincerely try to do it. Let us not play with the lives of the poor people when the entire country is making the sacrifice very legitimately.

Sir, there are many other programmes which this Government has taken up. The provisions have been made. I find a very wholesome change in the approach. I must thank the Prime Minister when he rushes to places where the people have suffered because of fire, because of natural tragedy and natural calamity. This is what is expected from a pro-people Government and pro-people administration. It shows the concern of the Government for those who are afflicted in our country. I quite appreciate the concern that is expressed by my friends from Orissa. Yes, when you are saying this, please see that it reaches the needy. The Prime Minister has made a commitment on the floor of the House. It should reach the proper people, reach quickly and should not be wasted.

Sir, I also wish to thank this Government and congratulate the Government for another milestone which it has achieved, namely, entering into Indo-Bangladesh Water Treaty. It has changed the entire atmosphere in the sub-continent. It has brought about a real change of attitude and feeling between the two countries. Sir, nothing can be more important than our closest and friendly relations with Bangladesh. I know the BJP will not be happy. They are not happy. They are trying to find out some loopholes with or without the support of some of Mr. Sharad Pawar's

lieutenants. I do not know how many groups you have. But, at least, some individuals seem to be not satisfied.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : There is no question about it.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool) : You are also not free from it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this has opened a new vista of relations and economic activities between the peoples of these two countries who have suffered because of the partition and other problems between them. Our Chief Minister has played a role in this Treaty which has been admitted.

The Treaty with Nepal is also commendable. I must congratulate the Government for the very firm role and attitude which they displayed during the CTBT discussions and agreements. These are very positive points. Let us go on in these matters with or without BJP and try to serve the people.

Sir, the other aspects on which I wish to make a reference is the improvement in the relations between the Centre and the States. We have been saying and we have been crying hoarse as a matter of fact that the time has come for restructuring the relations between the Centre and the States. After all, it is a federal structure for facility of administration. If we find that certain division of powers has not helped in the equal development of this country, in the balanced development of this country and if it has not helped either in the establishment of true federal structure of the Government in this country or for providing the wherewithal to the people of all areas in an ample measure as they deserve, something was basically wrong. Long before this *Manmohanamics* came in, the West Bengal Legislature passed a resolution asking for scrapping of the licensing system so far as industry was concerned because it was felt that the licensing procedure was being misutilised at Delhi. We are not getting even licences for setting up the industries in different areas. Today, I do not grudge Mr. Sharad Pawar's Maharashtra. I appreciate that. But are the people of North-East India, people of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam not entitled to it? Are they not entitled to the benefits of industrial development?

Orissa, with all the mineral resources, is crying 'give us water, give us some development grant'. Kalahandi seems to be the poorest district in this country; people are dying out of hunger. They are crying for a little drinking water and a little water for their cultivation. Why should it be? What is the per capita income of some people in some parts of this country? Why is it half in some States? This is how, we have created areas of discord. We have encouraged people to take up arms against others because

they feel alienated from the mainstream. This has not helped the country's development. So many ethnic groups, so many pressure groups, are all trying to have their own say in the matter. Why? They ask for separate States or separate districts or separate administration because they feel that unless they shout, unless they make their presence felt and unless they create problems, nobody is going to look into it. It was not for one State or one group of people that this restructuring has been asked for.

What is happening in the National Development Council? Shri Sharad Pawar has been attending it. I have come to know from other that in every meeting of the National Development Council, all the Chief Ministers, at least secretly or privately, ask for more money. All of them do not have the courage to say that in the presence of the Prime Minister. They will come and ask the Left Front Chief Minister : "Why do you not talk for us also?" They are not to be blamed because they want money for the development of their States. I am sure, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala would agree with me, that every Chief Minister has been facing this problem. I am sure that our esteemed Prime Minister also faced this problem earlier as the Chief Minister of Karnataka. Therefore, some restructuring was necessary. The Constitution contemplated the setting up of an Inter-Council. It was in limbo; nobody bothered about it. The National Development Council hardly holds one or two meetings in a year and, sometimes, even not that. The State Governments are getting more and more alienated from the planning process. There was no discussion on the Approach Plan; there was no discussion on the Draft Plan worth the name. In one day, all the State Chief Ministers will come and make their speeches and go away. It was supposed to be a discussion on planning.

Therefore, these are welcome signs. I am sure, this will benefit all the States, whichever party may rule that State. But here, the Centre has to take the lead. On the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, there are certain things which we have supported and on certain things we have reservations. But there are certain basic issues which have been dealt with by the Sarkaria Commission. I am glad that proper attention is now being paid, and a Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has been constituted which will look into all these problems and try to sort them out.

As we said, our great advantage is that there is a basic unity amongst diversity in this country. Let us not only emphasise on what are the diversities, but we should also not forget what is the basic unity of this country. Unless this basic unity is kept in front of us, we shall lose our way and we shall be more concerned with matters of division or with matters of discord.

I also congratulate the Government for the way they

have conducted the elections in Jammu and Kashmir and in Punjab. Whatever Government was formed, it is welcome. It is for the people of that State to decide and we respect the people's verdict. But the point is that they have been allowed and they have been able to exercise their franchise. That is the most important thing. It is for the different political parties to make themselves acceptable to the people. But the point is that the people's wishes must be respected; they must be given full opportunity. I have my good wishes to the Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

They should prosper. Their problems should be solved. It has to be a cooperative effort not only between the Centre and those States but all over the country to solve their problems.

When I talk of problems, they are still galore. There is no doubt about that. We are concerned about the price rise. Unfortunately, it is still there. People are feeling the pressure of it.

There is the problem of, what you call, the sick undertakings in this country. Many people are still not getting employment. Even today, in the morning, the question of NTC mills came up. These mills are there is so many of the States. They are lying closed or they are almost getting closed. The wages of the employees are not being paid. Therefore, these are matters which have to be dealt with immediately.

There is the question of self-reliance in our industry. It has to be looked into. My colleague Shri Syed Masudal Hossain will deal with the other problems. I am not getting into them.

So far as the serious problems of terrorism and ethnic struggle in Tripura are concerned, these are matters on which action has to be taken immediately. I know this Government has taken some steps. The Home Minister has been there. On these matters, as I said just now, action has to be taken very quickly.

I would also like to request the hon. Prime Minister the while replying to this debate, he should give us fuller information about the Poverty Alleviation Programme and how he wishes to give a thrust to the projects for supply of drinking water to the people.

The other aspect which also took quite a long time in this House today quite some time back is regarding the issue of corruption. Obviously this is a matter on which there can be compromise at any level, at any point, whoever may be involved. We have expressed our sincere thanks to the courts also. Because of the Judiciary, we have been able to pursue with the investigation of the JMM bribery case, the *Havala* case, the St. Kitts inquiry and so many other scams. But our duty does not end there

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or our obligation does not end there. It is one of the primary duties of this Government to assure the people of this country that all these inquiries and investigations will be pursued most vigorously and that those who are guilty, however highly placed he or she may be, should not be allowed to go scot-free. Nobody tainted with any scam or anybody guilty of any offence, economic offence primarily, should be allowed to enjoy the benefits of any weakness or any lackadaisical attitude on the part of the Government or the investigating agencies.

Sir, I need not go into the details about Bofors. So far as Bofors is concerned, we have discussed the matter. This is also one of the cases where it is high time that the people of this country are given the full details, subject to the rules, regulations and whatever provisions are there.

The people of this country, as I said, are waiting to receive a just and humane treatment. They do not claim much. The ordinary common people of this country are satisfied with little. Therefore, our justification is that these very minimum demands of the people of this country are met.

There is still raging unemployment in this country. We have to solve this problem on a war footing. The young boys and girls, educated, skilled or even unskilled people want to have a decent standard of life.

They want to earn their livelihood on their own and look after their families. It is our duty to see that they are able to do their job and earn their livelihood.

I know there are certain contentious issues. My Party has also said specially on some of the economic issues. There are still areas of confrontation, areas of disagreement. I request the Government and the Ministers here to please hasten slowly. Please do not do anything which will create a situation that you are out to destabilise what is India, what is our objective. After a long deliberations, certain areas have been cited upon or have been identified in the industry, in the economy where we must have our full control in the country as a whole. Let us not, in a sense of trying to follow what others would like us to do, give up some of our commitments. This is a matter which is of very great importance and I want that those issues are discussed. Let the Steering Committee of the United Front, which is given a very important task, look into it. They are not amenable to us but the Government is responsible to this House. Therefore, the Government must see that there is larger amount of acceptability in areas of agreement so that this Government with all the problems in the country, tries to fulfil its objectives laid down in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government.

Sir, it is said and if I may quote:

"This is a transition period which will be guided by the need to strengthen the principles of democracy, secularism, federalism and social justice. In the building of this new India of equality, justice and fraternity, we seek the fullest participation of all citizens. The hallmark of the United Front Government's approach will be the greater and greater involvement of our people in all its endeavours."

This should be the *mantra* of this Government. So long as you do not deviate from this commitment given to the people of this country, I am sure, they will have the confidence of this House.

I support the President's Address and I sincerely hope that the Government will take all measures to implement the very important commitments in a time-bound manner, that have been made to the people of this country so that the people of this country can get what they fully deserve.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Today the whole country is passing through an extraordinary situation. We are celebrating the golden jubilee year of our independence and a mention of this has been made in the President's Address. During the period of last fifty years our country has made progresses in many fields and at the same time have faced several challenges. These challenges came from inside the country and also from outside. In spite of all this, the country have emerged victorious every time by showing and proving the whole world that democracy in India is impregnable and no one can weaken it. It was only through the democracy that we have succeeded in giving so many good things to the country.

We have set the target of socialism and we have been discussing it in the House for the last fifty years. Now we are moving ahead with this idea. A new economic wave has invaded the whole world and India too have accepted it. Today we have entered into the field of economic liberalisation. The economic liberalisation has yielded good results to the country during the last 4-5 years. But alongwith the economic liberalisation we have noticed one more thing and that is the lower strata of our society which needs some more attention. We have to work hard to protect and serve their interest.

Sir, when we look back at the last achievements of last 50 years, we find that there, has been improvement in the various fields—whether it is in the field of education, communication, irrigations or in the matter of building-up

huge and powerful Army—we have achieved a lot. But at the same if we go in deep, we will also find that all our dreams have not come true. We cannot claim that all our dreams have materialised. If we make compensation, we cannot claim that the number of illiterates has gone down. We have failed to provide adequate and proper medical facilities in every nook and corner of the country. The problem of unemployment is still a big problem before the country as our youth are sitting jobless. The whole country is unanimous over the issue of prevailing corruption in the country. This is a much talked issue and we are required to take some firm steps to remove this evil. There is a question of regional imbalance before us which was just referred to by Shri Somnathji in his speech. Whether it is the state of Orissa or a part of Bihar or Rajasthan or Uttar Pradesh or any part of North-East—regional imbalance is existing. All these problems require our immediate attention and hard labour.

Sir, there is an important point pertaining to our security measures—Be it a matter of internal security or external security—which is directly linked with our economy—we are ready to guard our borders at any cost but when questions are raised about our border security, they create an atmosphere of tension and divert our attention from the very important domestic issues which hinderes our development process and affects the climate of investment. This is not in the interest of the country at all. A mention which has been made in the President's Address for taking steps to improve our relations with our neighbouring countries is to be welcomed. I also welcome the steps taken to solve the dispute over sharing of Ganga water with Bangladesh.

The country and the whole world recently witnessed democratic elections in our neighbouring country Pakistan. This time the people of Pakistan have given a clear majority to Shri Nawaj Sharief and it is hoped that it would be his best endeavour to improve the relationship between the two countries. Because of Nawaj Sharief's initiative an atmosphere of confidence is building-up between the two countries. He has said that he is ready to hold dialogue with India and the Government of India have also welcomed this step. Kashmir issue may take some time some but, there are other issues like bilateral trade, transport etc. which require immediate initiatives from both side to build-up a good relationship between the two countries. Since the initiative taken by Shri Sharief has been welcomed by our Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs, I would say that in order to create confidence between the two countries we will have to take some steps time and again. I do agree that important issues will take some time to resolve but, we have to make some way out for resolving the smaller issues which, in turn, would build-up an atmosphere of belief and faith.

I have received a letter which was addressed to some editor. There are a few Indians languishing in Pakistani Jails for the last many years. 13 Guajrati fishermen had gone to Dubai on visa. They had been working in fishery sector since many years. One day their launch had crossed over to Irani territory. They were caught by the Irani Police and give six month's imprisonment. After the imprisonment period was over they were left at the Pakistani border by the Irani Police. Again, they were arrested by the Pakistani Police for want of visa and again imprisoned for 6-7 months. They have been put-up in Karachi Jail for the last two and a half years. It has been mentioned in the letter that apart from these 13 fishermen, there are other 50 Indians who have also been languishing in Pakistani jails for the last three to four years. Neither any case is booked trial against them nor they are given any opportunity to speak in their favour. They have repeatedly written to the Indian High Commission but to no avail. In all, there are more than 200 Indians who are in different Pakistani jails for the last three years. This issue should be taken-up by the Ministry of External Affairs with their Pakistani Counterpart. All out efforts should be made to bring these people back to their country. They belong to Gujrat. I am sure, this step will give a good signal for future talks.

It would be encouraging if our relations with China also improve alongwith improvement of our relations with Pakistan. We can learn a lot from each other in economic and social field and if we make sincere efforts we can gain a lot. Today, China are moving ahead with a dream of becoming super-power in the field of economy.

We welcome their this efforts and at the same time we also welcome their proposal for having good relations with their neighbours, and not having any tension at our borders and making all contributions in this direction.

Efforts have been made to build-up good relationship with the South Asian nations. We are having good relations with these countries. We are having the same issues with them which we were having over the last few years. Over the last few years, we have made large scale improvement in the field of economy. The result is before everyone. It seems to me that more and more good relations we have with these countries, we will get more and more good commercial results.

Sir, when I was listening the President's Address, I heard him saying at one place that—

"The Armed Forces remain in a state of constant preparedness to safeguard our territorial integrity. Strengthening the defence of the nation is among the foremost priorities of the Government on which there can be compromise. The Government is conscious of the urgent need for modernising the Armed Forces.

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and is committed to provide all the inputs which may be needed for fulfilling this objective."

In today's scenario we are having good relations with our neighbouring countries which is a welcome step. For this, I also feel happy but in view of the past experiences, we have to make our armed forces more strong. It is, therefore, I feel happy and I welcome the mention made in the Address in respect of providing more funds to our armed forces for their modernization. I am well aware of the situation prevailing in the Indian armed forces. I don't want to speak more on this score. There are certain problems before the Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Naval Force are faced with certain serious problems, I want to place the picture of Indian Navy before the Government. If the Government are committed to provide necessary funds and resources for modernization of Indian Army, I also endorse this decision.

Our total coastal area measures more than 17 thousand km. Our annual targeted transaction from ports and other means of sea transport comes to Rs. 80 thousand crores. I have placed this figure before you just to make you realise the importance of our ocean in the field of economy. We have invested one lakh and fifty thousand crores of Rupees over the last many years on our all sea ports—be it Mumbai Port, Chennai Port, Kandla or Mumbai High. We have made such a huge investment on our parts, therefore, it becomes the responsibility of our Naval Force to take care of them in the interest of the security of our country. But, the condition of our Naval Force is becoming worst day by day and if we don't attend this problem in time, the whole country will have to pay price for this negligence.

Many Hon'ble Members must have read today in the newspapers that two months ago a function was held in Mumbai wherein aircraft like INS Vikrant carrier were grounded. This requires replacement by a new aircraft carrier. There is no preparation for this. INS Vikrant is 40 years old. Our neighbouring countries, particularly China, are having many such aircraft carriers which may pose question our long term security measures. We are having tankers but they are not in a good condition. We have INS Deepak tanker which has been de-commissioned. INS Sakti is likely to be decommissioned this year itself and other tankers, which are 12 years old, are not in a pretty good condition. After this, there are submarines. This also include two decommissioned submarines. Remaining submarines are also more than 10 years old. The original force strength of our submarines was 20 which has now come down to 17 and by the end of this year it is likely to come down to merely 6. The number has reduced from 20 to 6 which is not in the interest of the security of our

country at all. It is in view of these facts, much more investment is required in this field. The Government should make more allocations under this head.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Budget was presented in this House last year, increased provisions were made for Naval Force which was also approved. And in the proposals which came after two months, Navy were given no amount. The people of this country might have to pay the price for this shortage of fund with the Indian Navy. I have illustrated a very fine example of Navy before the House. But our Amed Forces and Air Force are in much more bad condition. We must have good relations with our neighbouring countries. But, at the same we must have a strong army, which requires our immediate attention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, apart from the external condition we have also discussed about the internal condition. Just now Shri Chatterjee has said that this is a secular Government which was formed with our support. I fully agree with him. It would not be in the interest of the nation to encourage and promote the communal forces in the country. When we talk of bringing a change in our economic field, when we talk of paying our attention towards development and when we talk of creating a congenial environment for attracting investment, we must present ourselves or undivided and there cannot be any difference of opinion in this respect. For this, we must fight back the forces which want to disintegrate us and our society. This is our national duty and we, therefore, welcome the Government formed on this basis.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai-North) : That force is sitting over here.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That is what requires our attention. As Shri Naikji said such forces are becoming powerfull. We have to think over it as to how they are becoming stronger? Instead of communal forces, secular forces should be powerful. We have formed the Government to strengthen the secular forces but in case we act otherwise in public, I feel disheartened. I want to give a very small example. Recently elections to Panchayat were held in Orissa. Some of the secular forces these joined hands and fought the elections together but now, they fought the elections against one another. Even then I did not raise any objections. But later we saw that secular party or Congress party came to power in 15 districts but in the remaining 15 or 16 districts power went either into the hands of Bhartiya Janta Party or Janta Dal. I think this is not correct. If we are not fully united, we cannot fight back the communal forces; we cannot make them weak rather, they will grow stronger and the price of this mistake will have to be paid by the tribals and downtrodden people. It is in this context, this issue requires our immediate attention.

I give another very small example. By-elections were held in Nagore constituency of Rajasthan. We were defeated by a margin of 1100 votes there and the seat was bagged by the Bhartiya Janta Party. Why we lost the seat? Just because of the division in the votes of secular forces. Secular forces did not fight the election unitedly. Today, we have gathered here to strengthen the secular forces and for this reason we have formed the Government but here is the time to see as to what steps we take outside and who is going ultimately to be benefitted from these steps? This is the high time to think over it. Only this much, I want to say. . . (Interruptions) This is not a party issue, rather it is a national issue. It is not in the interest of the country to encourage and promote the communal forces. Whatever is in the interest of the country, I am bound to speak on that. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If anybody would like to ask any question, they may do so but no commentary is allowed please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister regarding P.D.S. on behalf of the Government of India. People throughout the country are facing certain critical issues today. Inflation is also one of these issues. A new policy has been adopted for supplying essential commodities to the people living below the poverty line and thus the Government of India has under taken a heavy financial responsibility. We welcome it but at the same time we also cannot ignore the working class and middle class people who are living above the poverty line. The inflation rate has been rising for past few months. The Consumer Price Index rose by 8.7 percent in Novermeber, 1996 and if one goes into detail, one would come to know that the price index shows that the prices went up by 53 percent in case of vegetables; by 38 percent in case of grain yielding products; by 30 percent for fruits; by 20 percent in coal mining sector; by 19 percent in Mineral Oils; by 17 percent in cereals; by 13.8 percent in pulses and 11.8 percent in electricity. Its comulative impact was that the inflation increased further. The Government is helping the people living below the poverty line however the hardworking Middle class and working class people living above the poverty line will have to suffer. So we'll have to pay attention to this aspect.

17.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If the prices rise, more people will be brought under the poverty line.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That is not correct.

[Translation]

We are facing a very important issue—the issue of procurement of wheat and today itself, a point was raised in the Parliament that the procurement of wheat was not handled properly. The Food Minister gave a reply to this question in the House. Now what was the position with regard to wheat last year. In this House as well as outside the House, it was being said that there is no space to store procured wheat in Punjab, Haryana, North U.P. and serval other states. Hence the Government also took on the responsibility of getting the buildings vacated and making them available for storage of wheat. Yesterday also, the newspapers carried the reports in this regard alongwith the data which makes it amply clear that we had a stock of more than 16 million tonnes, whereas this year we have got a stock of two million tonnes and that is why we had to import the wheat. All right if required, we have to resort to imports. However for the last few years, so far as the position of foodgrains is concerned, the farmers of our country have worked hard to discharged their responsibility towards the nation and we had freed the country rom the vicious circle of foodgrain imports. Now again we are thinking in terms of importing wheat and when we are taking steps in this direction, I feel that we will have to pay more attention towards this aspect. Secondly, despite having such a large stock of wheat, still we are facing this situation. I feel that there must be some kind of management problem and we'll have to address this management problem as well and the Government should pay utmost attention towards it. So far as the agricultural policy is concerned, I would like to say that certain inputs are required for increasing agricultural production. Fertilizer is major input and in the last 15 days, certain measures have been taken regarding urea. I think these might to be reconsidered. Today we talk about the interests of the small farmers in the agricultural sector. We talk about increasing productivity but when the prices of inputs, such as fertilizers and pesticides go up, it undermines the development of agricultural sector. I am hopeful that Government would think about a way out in this regard. Now-a-days we have been witnessing a major trend throughout the world and especially amongst the developing nations and a sort of competition has started amongst the nations as to how the atmosphere of the country can be improved further in order to attract more investment, how the financial assets of the world can be brought into the country and how more investment can be attracted in core sector. In China, the issue of liberalisation was first raised in the country in 1978 under the leadership of Late Shri Deng. They have taken certain steps in this regard since 1978. Some free zones were created, as a result of which the investment has

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

grown in the past few years from 20 billion dollars to 40 billion dollars. We can see the country changing completely. We have set a goal to attract an investment of 10 billion dollars in the country every year, but this investment won't come on its own and we will have to take several steps in this regard. We'll have to pay fullest attention in order to create confidence in the investors we'll have to ensure consistency in policy and so long as the consistency is not there, we won't be able to do anything, we will have to reach an agreement regarding the implementation of policies and we'll have to take strict measures only then confidence would be created in the investors worldwide and they could come to India for making investment. Hence there is a need to put in more efforts here to improve the atmosphere for investment. I can understand that the present Government is face to face with certain crucial issues. There could be certain problems also. Everyone has his own ideology, this is the situation the Government is facing today. The Government is functioning on the basis of Minimum common agreed programme but when we take the issue of investment, there is a need to adopt an altogether different policy.

Many a times, I read in the newspapers that Shri Somnathji has gone to Singapore and has been successful in convincing the industrialists there to make investment in West Bengal after negotiations and I am very pleased at such times. I feel that there is a need to attract investment throughout the country by adopting this very approach. The present Government has taken certain steps but similar efforts are required to be made in all the states as are being made by Shri Somnathji in Singapore. I am hopeful that all the political parties will pay attention towards it so that people of our country are benefited.

A lot needs to be done in agricultural sector. 50 years have elapsed since Independence, even then our position is not very sound in certain areas. I wanted to collect certain figures in this regard. When we throw a glance at the field of science & Technology and try to compare the position of India vis-a-vis the developed nations, we find that there are 50 scientists or technologists per thousand persons in developed nations wherein India the number of scientists is only 3 per thousand. In the field of Adult Literacy, there is 92 percent literacy in the developed nations whereas there is 50 percent literacy in our nation. Similar is the case in the data pertaining to average year of schooling. In developed nations, the average is 7 percent whereas in our country, the average is a mere 2 percent. In the matter of access to sanitation facilities, this facility is available to 76 percent people in the developed countries whereas in our country, it is available for only 15 percent people. In the case of IMR level per thousand, the figure is 30 in developed nations as against 90 in our country.

In the case of labour force engaged in agricultural sector, the figure stands at 17 percent people in developed nations as against 62 percent in our country. All the countries throughout the world having majority people engaged in the agricultural sector are always afflicted by poverty. In all such countries where people have stepped outside the confines of agricultural sector to seek out employment opportunities outside, the situation has improved.

17.07 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

The labour force engaged in Industrial sector in developed nations stands at 29 percent whereas it is 11 percent in our country. 54 percent people are engaged in services sector in developed nations as against 27 percent people in our country. When we take look at this comparative data, we find that still a lot need to be done.

So far as education is concerned, even after 50 years of Independence, a lot needs to be done in the field of literacy. The situation which emerges after looking at the data pertaining to the sixth education survey reveals that a number of steps are required to be taken in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The situation prevalent in these states is not favourable to the national interests and situation is even worse especially in the case of girls education.

If we glance at the figures pertaining to girls education throughout the nation, the situation that emerges jolts us out of our complacency. The drop-out position is so bad that if 100 girls are admitted in class I in rural areas, only 60 girls manage to reach class V and 40 girls drop out. If 100 girls are admitted in class I, only 18 girls are left by the time they reach standard VIII. The figure further drops down to 9 by class X and ultimately only one girl manages to get promoted to class XII.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of 100 girls admitted in primary classes, only one girl manages to reach class XII and the 99 girls who drop out of studies probably belong to poor families. Government is spending such a huge amount of money on educating the poorer section and that very section continues to remain deprived of education. That very section is dropping out of schools which is not a good indication. The entire country suffers as a result thereof. Hence my submission is that we should pay utmost attention towards minimising the drop-out rate, leaving aside all other issues.

Mahatama Jyoti Ba Phule, a known revolutionary in the field of education had said once in Marathi—

"Vidya bina mati geli,
mati bina neeti geli,
neeti bina gati geli,

gati bina vitta geli,
vitta bina shudra kasale,
itke anathya ekha aviadhyene gele."

It Means—

[English]

"Perception is lost without education
Without perception discernment is lost
Without discernment there is no progress
Without progress there is poverty
Poverty makes the depressed more miserable
All this misfortune is only for want of education."

[Translation]

He said these words 100 years ago hence we will have to strive to change the present situation. We will have to pay more attention towards Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and provide maximum support to these states in order to ensure the education of children. I have often noticed that our Prime Minister and our Finance Minister hold talks with the industrialists. They talk about liberalisation but if we are keen on developing the industrial sector on one hand and show reluctance towards development of human resources on the other hand, we will be making a very big mistake. The rich people are interested in taking maximum advantage of liberalisation. However we will also have to take on the social responsibility of educating the backward class people who are still deprived of education. We will have to give up those tendency of leaving every responsibility to the Government. Instead the rich class of the country should be entrusted with this responsibility. Providing education should no longer be seen as the responsibility of the Government alone, rather everyone should be involved in this responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the position with regard to infrastructure is deteriorating day by day. The position of transport in Delhi is very much in your knowledge. Take the Agra-Mumbai road for instance. How many vehicle can play on this road and how many are actually playing. The condition of roads is very bad in the country and that is why accident rate is rising. It a port, such as the Mumbai port, at times ships remain stranded even for 15-16 days resulting in losses to the entire country. Hence we will have to pay attention to this core sector and modernise the ports.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as telecommunications are concerned, although a number of new measures have been taken in this field but even then by 2000 A.D., against increased demand of 31 million telephone lines in the country, we will be able to provide only 19 million lines at the maximum in next five years. So long as we do not

consolidate our position in the field of communication, the development process cannot proceed further. Besides there is a need to do a lot of work in the power sector. Our past experiences in the field of power have not been very good. The requirement of power was 48,000 megawatt during 1992-1997 and our target was 30,000 megawatt whereas actual power generation was 18,000 megawatt. How can we go on like this. The power generation is so less. A Rakesh Mohan Committee was constituted in this regard and this committee had said :

[English]

"If the investment of this order is not facilitated and utilised optimally over the next year, the power sector will fail to support the economy just when it is poised for a rapid growth."

[Translation]

We will have to pay utmost attention to power sector in order to strengthen the economy of the country. We are facing the resource crunch. In next ten years, the anticipated requirement of power in India would be around one lakh megawatt. Government of India requires Rupees four lakh crores in order to meet this demand of one lakh megawatt. Besides its distribution system....(Interruptions) The entire amount is required for generation of power. However besides generation, again this much amount would also be required for system improvement. This much amount would also be required for transmission and distribution. We will also have to consider as to how such a big amount can be arranged. We have no other alternative except bringing it under private sector. Coal is also required. Presently 215 million tonnes of Coal is at the disposal of the power sector. Additional 500 million tonnes of coal would be required in order to achieve the targets set for power sector in the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan.

Massive investment will have to be made in mining sector. Simultaneously, a huge investment will have to be made in transportation of coal in view of condition of Railways today. Then only, the requirement of basic raw material, coal could be met. Otherwise, the country may face acute shortage of power in coming three-four years. More attention is required to be paid towards the power sector.

Now-a-days State Electricity Boards are passing through a critical phase. I was appointed the chairman of a committee constituted by National Development Council to study the requirement of power production in the coming 25 years. It was a high power committee. Shri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of Assam, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Manmohan Singh, the Minister of Power and the Vice-Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri Pranav Mukherjee

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

were the members of this Committee. They held several meetings, in a year and prepared a blue print of power for the whole country. Besides, we also paid attention towards the short-comings in the present system of power generation. We found that transportation and distribution loss is a big problem faced by Electricity Boards of the Country. In the Five Year Plan, it was decided to confine the transportation and distribution loss upto one percent only. You will be surprized to know that 800 Megawatt power can be saved by reducing T and D losses. At present, this loss amounts to be more than 22 percent of total distribution. In some states it is 36 percent. I do not want to mention the name of a state where this loss is 42 percent...[Interruptions]. Secondly, the figures regarding pilferage of power, after generation of 100 Megawatt power, are also starting...[Interruptions]. There is a big state where only 16 Megawatts of power out of 100 Megawatts power generated reach the people. The remaining quantum of power is lost in pilferage and it results in T & D losses. This is an authoritative statement given by that Government ...[Interruptions]...I feel that some stringent steps should be taken to deal with the problem of transmission and distribution losses. We will have to distance ourselves from politics, and then only the country can be saved from this crisis.

I have also tried to collect figures regarding financial position of various Electricity Boards of the country. The position in the last year is like this. The loss incurred by Rajasthan Electricity Board was to the tune of Rs. 421 crore, Gujarat 550 crore, Madhya Pradesh 390 crore, Andhra Pradesh 828 crore, Orissa 136 crore, Punjab 427 crore, Uttar Pradesh 980 crore, Kerala 160 crore, Haryana 450 crore, Bihar 300 crore, Assam 270 crore. Thus the total losses incurred by all the Electricity Boards of the country during the last year amounts to be Rs. 4650 crore. Maharashtra is an exception which has not incurred any loss...[Interruptions].

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Has Maharashtra Electricity Board not incurred any loss?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : No, it has earned a profit of Rs. 320 crore [Interruptions]. West Bengal has incurred a loss of Rs. 70 crore.

As Shri Ram Naik has also mentioned no payment is made against the power in the Central Sector. On the whole, the outstanding amount against states for one year, as on 31st July 1990, stood Rs. 9263 crore. It will not be in the interest of the country if this matter is viewed from political angle. At present, almost all political parties have governments in one or more states. One party has formed Government in Rajasthan, the Congress is in power

in Madhya Pradesh, Marxists in West Bengal and Janata Dal in Bihar. Similarly, and other parties have also formed a Governments in other States. Political hurdles should not be created if someone is ready to make investment in the power sector or core sector and the concerned Project fulfil requirement of that state. Can any consensus be arrived at on this issue? I feel that a meeting of leaders of all political parties and Chief Ministers of States should be convened by the hon. Prime Minister.

We had cleared the Enron Project worth Rs. 2000 crore when I was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Later on, it was made a political issue during election. After formation of a new government in the state, the Enron Project was cancelled. But, this project was cleared again after six months. This matter was taken to High Court. The Council for the Maharashtra Government, Shri Ram Jethmalani, who is an M.P. and who has been Minister of Law was asked by the court to cite the reasons for cancellation of the project and if that project was not viable, why did he create such an atmosphere? Shri Ram Jethmalani replied that the elections campaign was on in the state and since they had no other issue, they had made it an election issue. Later on, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra had to submit an affidavit stating therein that the project was viable. I am happy to say that bold decision was taken to clear that project. It is a laudable step of that Government. I do not want to criticize him, but I feel that such basic projects should not be made political issues as the whole country has to suffer losses for the delay of two to three years in such projects. It results in cost escalation and reduction in the quantum of power generation. Further, it affects the development. I feel that in the present situation and on the occasion of Golden Jubilee celebration of Independence of the country we should seek consensus on such developmental projects and keep them away from politics. It will be in the interest of the country if unnecessary hurdles are not created by the politicians, opposition parties and others in such projects when investment on large scale is made in the core sector.

After going through the whole Presidential Address, I feel that it is a serious crisis and efforts have been made to come out of it. It is peculiar situation where no political party has a majority but even then, political parties having different ideologies have formed a Government collectively. We have to accept this situation and discharge our responsibility by keeping on supporting this Government. In case we adopt a new course, it will create instability in the country and it will have adverse affect on the economy which will send wrong signal to the world. We can get success only if collective decisions are taken to speed up the process of development and I am confident that we can do that. We should pay attention towards it. In this way we will be able to shoulder our responsibility and fulfil the aspirations of our countrymen.

With these words, while supporting the Resoultion, I conclude.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I don't know as to how much time is still left. But, it would have been better had a balance been maintained. So for only one member of Bhartiya Janata Party has spoken, whereas many members have spoken from other parties.
 . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : The members who were to speak on behalf of your party were not present here.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : No, we were here. Anyway, I move on I rise to oppose the motion of thanks on President's Address. The main reason of my opposition is that the President's Address does not clearly spell-out the policies of the Government. It is beyond my imagination as to why there are so many errors in this Address. Probably, it would be the first ever incident in the history of Parliament when a sentence in the President's Address has been struck off. However, I am not going into that. You have struck it off, that is another thing. However, I have objection to the sentence preceding the sentence which has been struck off. It says, "Whether we move forward boldly and realistically or remain stuck in the traditional modes of thinking, is going to ultimately determine our place in the world." I fail to understand this criticism of our traditional mode of thinking. Is this comment aimed at our tradition or conventions of previous governments? If you were to strike off the next sentence, you should have deleted this sentence also as this sentence is linked with the next sentence. It is beyond my imagination that such a big mistake may occur in the President's Address. It is strange that we abuse our own traditions and criticise them. I don't think there has been any government which alienated itself from our tradition. Moreover, they have not done any miracles or wonders which were not associated with our tradition. I have my strong reservation over this sentence and I want this sentence to be removed from the Address.

This is the first time in the history of the last fifty years that a party having lowest ever number of members have come to power at the centre. Many parties are supporting you either by joining your Government or from outside. However, this Government is running with outside support. Once the support is withdrawn, the Government is bound to fall. Perhaps the tradition of this Government is to seek support from outside. They want outside support to run this Government to seek loan from abroad for implementing their economic policy, to seek foreign capital investment and to deal with many other works. I think there has been outside pressure on all these things as well as on the President's Address. And because of this pressure, they have landed in a position from where they are unable to

take any decision, make any policy or launch any programme. In the last session, three Bills were the topic of discussion and it was hoped that these bills, namely; Lok Pal Bill, Women Reservation Bill and Electoral Reforms Bill would be presented and passed by the House but none of these three was introduced and ultimately the session came to an end. It was not because of opposition from outside but because of lack of consensus among the people sitting in the Government. This Government which is replete with inner dissensions is unable to take any clear decision even on a particular issue. Shri Somnathji is not available here. He was speaking in support of this Government. This much support does not come even from Shri Indrajit Gupta who is also a minister. I do not know, for what reasons, he was speaking so enthusiastically in favour of this Government. The congress has decided to extend their issue based support to this Government. It was not mentioned by the leader of the Congress, who spoken just before me, as to what are their future plans. What do they intend to do? It is no use to discuss about the issue based support. There is only one issue before the this Government and that is to stop Bhartiya Janata Party from coming to power. They have no other policy. Whether people get drinking water or not, whether they get electricity or not; whether the poor get justice or not, whether people get wheat or not—these all issues hardly matter to this Government.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : You have also got only one policy and that is to bring down this Government.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : It is the duty of the opposition in a democracy.

SHRI QAMARUL ISLAM (Gulbarga) : If you promise to remian in opposition for a period of five years, we will part with the Government.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : We accept your condition. You get the elections held. We will run the Government for a full term of five years. I want to say that you people should not move ahead with your eyes closed. This Government and the Congress both are moving with closed eyes. However, I have nothing to say on this. You have said that after coming to power, you got the elections conducted in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. This is a good step. But what was the result? In Kashmir, Bhartiya Janta Party, which is termed as communal by you again and again, got more number of seats than the Congress and this happend for the first time in the history of Kashmir. I don't know whether you are aware of this fact or not. Likewise, the alliance of Bhartiya Janata Party and Akali Dal won maximum number of seats in Punjab. There we got a thumping majority which no party has ever got in the history of Punjab.

[Shri Krishan Lal Sharma]

Do you not accept this fact? I want to make one more submission. If you go through the history, you will find that three elections have been held in Punjab. One of these elections was postponed at the last moment. In another elections, the Congress came to power. At that time Akali Dal had not taken part in the election. It would have been better, if the Hon'ble Prime Minister had stayed here for sometime to listen to me. But, he is leaving early. Anyway, our message will reach him. It was the first election in Punjab which took place free of fear and tension. In the first two elections, many incidents of terrorism had taken place there but this time people stood unitedly and took part in the election without any fear. Now you may say that the communal forces have won the elections in Punjab and the so called secular forces have been rejected by the people. Even a single candidate of Janata Dal could not win a seat. Only one seat was bagged by the communist party. The Congress have won the lowest number of seats. This has happend there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : What is your opinion about Anandpur Saheb Resoution? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions, please.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : After this, elections were held in Chhindwara. We had never won this seat earlier, but this time, we won it. We never got the Nagaur seat but this time, we got it. We got majority in Delhi Cantt. elections. Recently Corporation's elections were held in Mumbai. In Maharashtra, Congress candidates had won in 7 corporations out of 9 corporations earlier but this time, the situation has changed completely. The Congress has won only in two corporations. The result of the MCD polls will also come before you soon and you will see Bhartiya Janata Party winning the elections with thumping majority. Now, if you think that people of the country have rejected the communal forces, then these results show that you are those communal forces. People of the country are rejecting you and these elections have proved this fact. It would be better if you learn a lesson from these elections I would like to say one more thing about the situation created in the country in 1996-97 so far. Today, the country is faced with the problems of instability, law and order, poverty, unemployment, price-rise electricity and drinking water. These problems were highlighted by our Sharad Babu also. In view of all these points, it seems that we have not got such a weak and inefficient Government at the centre in the last fifty years.

I want to make one more submission. Shri Rajesh Pilot is not present here right now. He said that the BJP, while

entering into an alliance with the Akali Dal in Punjab, had not taken into consideration the Anandpur Saheb Resolution. None of us sitting here, can say that we are against the Anandpur Saheb Resolution. I feel that it is not good to give such kind of wrong statements. The Accord which was signed between Rajeev Gandhi and Longowal was endorsed by all. It has been mentioned in clause 8(2) of that Resolution. The Akalis have clarified that more powers should be given to states as per clause 8(2) of the above Resolution. It does not pose any danger to the unity and integrity of the nation. On the basis of this clarification, the issue was referred to the Sarkaria Commission under Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal Accord.

We talk of giving more powers to the States. The recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission should be implemented. Besides, more financial and political powers are also required to be given to the states. I can assert that this view has been endorsed by Parliament itself. Even then, if you talk like this, I would say that you are trying again to create distrubing atmosphere which is very unfortunate.

Now, I would like to draw your attention towards certain errors in the President's Address. It has been mentioned in para 50 on page 15 of the President's Address that the Lokpal Bill, 1996, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1995 and the Constitution (81st amendment) Bill, 1996 providing for reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of the states are pending before you. It has been further mentioned in the same para that your Government intends to bring these Bills before Parliament in the current session. The contents of the President's Address is prepared by the Government neither the Lok Pal Bill nor the Bill on Electroal Reforms nor women Reservation Bill, find any mention in the contents. These Bill are missing from the contents. You should not think that people are foolish. The President's Address is an account of Government policies. But it is beyond my imagination that the Government can talk like this. We want that the Women Reservation Bill must be introduced in this session itself. If the Government fails to bring in the Bill. it will like going back from their promise made to the people. Rest of the parties and at least, my party support this Bill wholeheartedly. We want you to take a decision in this regard. Nothing has mentioned in the Address about the Fifth Pay Commission. Further, there is no mention about the migrants of Kashmir and Punjab, their problems and measures adopted for their rehabilitation. Today, Kashmiri migrants are running from pillar to post. Nobody is there to listen to their problems. Nobody is there to raise their problems. Likewise if the migrants of Punjab who have been staying in Delhi for the last 15-20 years, are asked to go back to Punjab, it would not be proper. The responsibility of their resettlement should be shoulered by

the Government. They should be assured that they would not be sent back, who will be responsible for the difficulties which they may face, after being sent back forcibly to their states? The responsibility of their safety lies on the Government. Those who are willing to stay here should be rehabilitated here only. The President's Address doesn't mention anything in this respect also.

As far as Public Distribution system is concerned, a separate statement had to be given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in this regard in this House. It could have been elaborately mentioned in the President's Address itself. I would not say that there is no mention about it in the President's Address. What I want to say is that there is need of some improvements. But it seems to me that there was a pressure from some quarters and as a result, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had to make a statement in the House before presentation of the budget. In my opinion, serious deliberations were not held on this important matter. It appears as if have moved ahead without making any serious deliberations on the subject and now one by one the things are coming to our notice. I have my reservations on this score. Para 41 of the Address mentions that we are ready to hold dialogue with Pakistan. However, the Hon'ble Prime Minister denied that he had ever said anything about minor adjustments. He has also not said that he would be guided by the resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament in respect of Kashmir. It should have been said by the Prime Minister, otherwise what is the importance of our Parliament? You cannot indulge in contempt of our Parliament like this. The Parliament has passed a resolution unanimously to the effect that the whole of Kashmir is an intergral part of India and we are not prepared to give away even an inch of our land to anyone. The Resolution has been passed by the Parliament. It is not a question of my party only. Rather, it has been passed by the entire Parliament. We are not going to tolerate it any more. There is no mention of it in the Address.

Sir, my other friends will also speak on Jammu & Kashmir. However, we have forgotten an incident regarding the abduction of four foreign tourists. We have no information in respect of their whereabouts. A popular Government has also installed there three four months ago. But till date we have no information about those four foreign tourists. Should still we claim that there is peace in the state, and everything is going on smoothly there? I would like to warn you that as to now everything in the valley is not going well and if we fail to take the things seriously new untoward incidents can take place there anytime.

Therefore, while presenting these facts before this Government and everyone, I would say that the situation in Kashmir requires our immediate and full attention.

Sir, what is the economic position of our country today? In this respect, I would say that the year 1996-97 has been a disasterous one. During this period our economy has worsened. This year our National income will witness only an increase of five per cent as against 7 per cent during the previous year. Thus, it has come down. Our industrial growth is likely to witness a mere six per cent increase, whereas it was 12 per cent last year. This year, our export has gone up only by five per cent as against the last year, whereas our export during the last year had gone up by 24 per cent as against the preceding year. It means, it has come down to five per cent from 24 per cent i.e. a reduction of 19 per cent. Only the prices have gone up and nothing else. Inflation rate which was 4.7 per cent last year has now increased upto 7.8 per cent.

Sir, so far the functioning of the Government is concerned, I would like to point out that in his speech he has spoken at length regarding welfare of poor and has assured that the Government is going to make some substantial provisions for the poor. It has remained me the slogan of 'Poverty Alleviation' raised in 1971. Perhaps it is being raised again. But no one is here to tell as to how many persons are living below the poverty line.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I please request the Treasury Benches not to have a running conversation among themselves?

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : In Context of inflation I would like to cite one instance once it so happend that a control room was informed that water level in the river was rising and was going to cross the danger point whereupon the control room advised to raise the danger mark itself. In the same way our Government is lowering the poverty line. Is it the way to solve such problems. No scheme has been formulated for upliftment of the poor and containing price rise.

Sir, there is an another very piquant incident but how should I narrate it. Now a days rate of wheat, sugar and milk is Rs. 13 per kg. and perhaps it is because this Government has been formed with alliance of 13 political parties. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : The Government formed by your party also remained in power for 13 days only. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Therefore I am saying that this Government is obsessed with the number 13. This Government has been formed by 13 political parties and every thing, including the mineral water bottle is being sold

[Shri Krishan Lal Sharma]

at a cost of Rs. 13. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV (Patna) : There are 14 parties at present

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : If 14 parties have joined the government these all things will cost Rs. 14 now. But in the present situation. . .(Interruptions) Nitishji you can say your points later on but now I would like to know about the debt position of the country. The amount of debt is increasing under the regime of this Government. I am not sure as to whether common man and our economy will be able to bear the burden of this debt. I would like to submit a comparative statement in this regard. In 1990-91 internal debt was to the tune of one lakh 54 thousand crore which has increased upto 3 lakh 31 thousand crore in 1996-97. In 1990-91 other internal debt including other liabilities was to the tune of 1 lakh 29 thousand crore and total debt was to the tune of 2 lakh 81 crore. It means that in 1990-91 external debt was 1 lakh 63 thousand crore, which has increased to 3 lakh 60 thousand crore at present. You can very well imagine the present position, in view of the fact that in 1990-91 the total debt amounts to be 4 lakh 46 thousand crore which has become 9 lakh 72 thousand crore at present. Almost all the resources are being spent for making payment of interest accruing on this debt. This poor country is getting loan to the tune of 80 thousand crore annually and at present the loan amount has increased by 5 thousand crore. I demand that the Government should issue a White Paper on economy, especially regarding the progress of the country. Debt burden on this country is increasing day by day whereas employment opportunities are not being generated. At present our debt is increasing at a rate of Rs. 200 crore daily and 1500 crore in a week. In view of the rate at which this Government is resorting to borrowing, it is a burden on the country.

This Government is going to complete a period of nine months. It is quite a long time. God alone knows whether after these nine months it will deliver any good or turnout to be a fiasco. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcher) : It is not a parliamentary language.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I was saying that during this period this Government could neither create coordination among its own party Member nor with party supporting it. This Government has been a failure on almost all fronts. It could not talk internal as well external matters. Inflation, corruption, non-availability of essential

goods and stravation have increased during the regime of this Government. You can find out the reasons for failure of this Government an all fronts. Where is the Common Minimum Programme. No one is ready to speak about it. No time-bound programme has been formulated by this Government. Atleast some time-bound Programme should be taken up. New scheme for PDS has been formulated. Whether it is going to benefit 32 crore people and will they be able to get wheat on subsidized rates. Whether the stock of foodgrains is in sufficient quantity or it will be imported and you lack funds required for it. How these poor persons will be identified and issued ration cards for providing ration at low rates. By when it is going to be implemented or it is just a slogan for the budget. My own experience in this field is that.

[English]

PDS has proved to be a total failure.

[Translation]

As a result of it centre as well as state, both are shifting their responsibility on each other. So far no poor person had been benefited by it, neither any poor person going to get any benefit from it in future. The Government should reveal its policy on this account, especially about the concrete programmes formulated for alleviation of poverty. This country cannot make any progress untill such questions are not solved positively.

Now I would like to take up another subject. The Article 356 of the constitution and criteria for appointment of Governor were being discussed here in the morning. Sarkaria Commission and Supreme Court have given their opinion on appointment of Governor. Now a days a political leader who is defeated in election by the candidate of the rival party is appointed as Governor of a state ruled by the rival party. This clearly indicates that the Governor would not let that Government function smoothly. Out of political rivalry, Shri Krishna Pal Singh who was defeated by B.J.P. in elections had been transferred from Madhya Pradesh to Gujarat. Romeshji, was defeated by B.J.P. candidate in Delhi. He had been sent to Uttar Pradesh. What is the condition of U.P. today. What the hon. Governor is doing there. Is he concerned over the increasing incidents of violence murders and miscreants' rule prevailing in Uttar Pradesh Rajbhavan has become a place of luxury. He is not accountable to anyone. How administration will function if Governors are appointed in this manner. It should be debated and the Government should adopt a clear cut and suitable policy regarding appointment of Governors.

At Present Ministry of Home Affairs is facing the challenge of law and order situation prevailing in the country and lack of co-ordination in the Ministry. Now a

days secretary to Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of Home Affairs are making contradictory Statement. The Minister of Home Affairs has said that an atmosphere of chaos, anarchy and destruction is prevalent in U.P.

[English]

The U.P. is heading toward this direction.

[Translation]

Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs is saying that there is no need to provide security cover to anyone in U.P. There is no threat to anybody's life. Recently Shri Brahmdev Diwedi was murdered in U.P. inspite of the security cover provided to him. There is no coordination among the P.M.O., Ministry of Home Affairs Home Ministry and Secretary of Home Affairs. Several such problems are before the country. In view of it I would like to know as to whether this situation will be improved or not ?

I would also like to raise a serious issue. In the Presidential Address during the Vajpayee Government the issue of ban on cow-slaughtering was raised, and it created hue and cry in this House as it was an unfortunate decision. I charge this Government as well as its alliance parties

betraying the constitution of India due to their policy of appeasement. It is not correct. I would like to cite an example in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir it is 6 O'clock now.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Let him complete his speech today itself.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : I will need some more time, therefore I would like to continue it tommorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. The hon. Member from Outer Delhi is on his legs. He has spoken for 33 minutes.

The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tommorrow.

18.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Wednesday, February 26, 1997/
Phalguna 7, 1918 (Saka)*