

14.04 hrs

Title: General Discussion on Demands for Grants for the State of Manipur for the year 2001-2002.*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up item Nos. 12 and 13 together. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar will speak.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur 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, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 47."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today, first of all, I would like to convey to the Government our grateful thanks for having delivered on the assurance which was given to us here when the Budget of Manipur was last discussed that the Assembly would be dissolved, and the subsequent assurance given to us that the elections for Manipur would, if possible, be held with the elections to the other States scheduled for the month of February-March. From the newspapers, we gather that this is going to happen. It would be a matter of great reassurance to the people of Manipur, if they were to be told possibly through this debate, if not as soon thereafter as possible, that these elections will, in fact, be held.

We had warned during the last debate that appropriating money from Parliament to run economic development programmes in Manipur is one thing. Actually implementing these programmes on the ground in Manipur is quite a different matter.

The experience of the last few months does not suggest that apart from paying themselves their salaries, the Government of Manipur, even under President's Rule is doing anything substantive in regard to either development or welfare.

In this connection, we would like to submit to the Government some proposal for what requires to be done on an extremely urgent basis in Manipur, possibly beginning the work even now, so that an elected Government does not have to begin *de novo* but work upon some progress that would have been registered till then.

The single most important requirement there is roads. Roads fall in two categories, one, a Ring Road, that will link all the district headquarters to the others and, second, is rural roads. The very rapid transport of highly perishable horticulture products is imperative there because horticulture is the mainstay of the Manipur economy.

Sir, we have made some calculations and we find that the Ring Road can be constructed linking all the district headquarters over a length of approximately 852 kms. Of this, a large proportion, approximately 378 kms already exists and it is a question of upgrading the quality of those roads. We would need to construct only another 189 kms. of new road.

Sir, if this Ring Road is constructed, then the present isolation of each district of Manipur from the other, and the need for everyone from each district to first get to the State capital before they can get to another district headquarters would be obviated. This would, of course, facilitate administration, it would even more importantly facilitate law and order.

There is a very serious deterioration of law and order in Manipur and I do not believe that it can be tackled simply by sending more and more troops or more and more security personnel into the State. They need to be able to move extremely quickly and, with this in mind, just building 852 kms., of which 139 kms. is going to be new construction, is, I think, an expenditure well worth undertaking, without which there is neither going to be administration, nor law and order, nor development, nor welfare in the State of Manipur.

Also, Sir, it is only by linking these different districts together that there will be a sense of togetherness in Manipur. Now, that togetherness has been very badly shattered by certain unfortunate actions of the Union Government in

the last few months. But if you look at the history of Manipur, it is quite clear that the different communities that live there are fundamentally secular and fundamentally more than willing to live with one another. What they need to be given is the opportunity of interaction so as to get this sense of togetherness strengthened. This is another objective that would be fulfilled by having a Ring Road that exists linking the different districts. This would also promote tourism as well as cultural integration besides promoting the growth and speeding up of economic development.

The investment required in this, in terms of all India funding is so small -- it is believed that we could complete it within Rs.131 crore -- that I would urge through Shri Swami, who is present here, the Minister for North-East Development to give this the highest possible priority to the building of this Ring Road at an estimate cost of Rs.131 crore. Obviously, you will have to recheck these estimates and recheck the quality of the roads that require upgradation and the integrated links that are to be established.

I have with me a map which shows how the different district headquarters in the hill areas would then get connected with one another and then lead into the valley areas. This will promote a sense of integrity in Manipur that has been seriously fractured in the last few months.

I urge this project upon the Government and we in the Congress Party stand ready, at the convenience of the Government, to meet with the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of North-East Development, I think, both would be involved, in explaining what this project is, so that we give teeth to the single most important requirement of this State.

The second thing that needs to be given very deep and concentrated attention is horticulture. Horticulture holds the potential of not only making Manipur a very well off State, but promoting development in an equitable manner because the prime beneficiaries of a booming horticulture industry in Manipur would be the poor farmers, the poor labourers. It would really be growth with social justice. To get this done, there are a few specific steps that seem, to a layman like me, to be obvious but which, for some reason, have not been implemented by any of the successive Governments in Manipur adequately and which I think, the Union Government is uniquely well-placed to promote at the present juncture. This must be a people oriented development and should be run as far as possible through existing *Panchayats* in the Valley areas and through the traditional tribal bodies in the hill areas.

It would require, I would imagine, five or six basic things, namely, firstly, the creation of a data base; second, the rejuvenation of existing orchards; third horticultural marketing facilities. There is an estimate that of the total production of approximately 1,11,000 metric tonnes of horticulture products in the State, some 30 per cent to 50 per cent is lost because they cannot be transported to the place of either processing or marketing sufficiently quickly. This obviously requires priority attention in a mass horticultural production programme which is linked to the introduction of an effective road network.

Then, we need to give attention to infrastructure projects for horticulture, such as godowns in rural areas, cold storages, rural marketing yards and processing units in all district headquarters. There must also be some diversification. There is a prospect for low volume high value crops, like spices and cashew, particularly, in the Tegnoupal district and the areas surrounding Jiri bam. This whole project can be launched and completed at an expense of less than a crore of rupees and it is sad that we have not looked into this kind of possibility. Then, there must be, of course, the creation of water resources, community tanks and tubewells require immediate attention.

Another interesting suggestion that has come really from the people of Manipur is that there should be a model village in each district, where it is demonstrated as to what are the right kinds of inputs, and what are the right kinds of technical steps to be taken to ensure optimum production. If these kinds of model villages are created in each of the nine districts of Manipur, then the villagers around would be able to come and see for themselves how this is done and we would see a real increase in economic prosperity and social justice and therefore, peace in that very disturbed area. There seems to be also considerable prospects for organic farming being promoted.

The third thing that requires urgent attention is the wetlands of the area. There are about 500 sq. kms. of wetlands, of fresh water, shallow lakes and adjoining lands in the area, ninety per cent of which are situated in the Central Manipur valley and the rest in other parts of the State. It appears as if it is the Bishnupur district and the Thoubal district that are the ones which have the largest availability of such wetlands. The most well known of these, of course, is the Loktak Lake, which has been designated internationally as one of the six wetlands of international importance. What we need to do is to so use that natural resource as to promote fishery, to have effective hydel and lift irrigation systems, to provide a wintering habitat for migratory birds, to have a breeding ground for prized fishes like Pengba, Khabak and others to have an exclusive habitat for the rare and endangered deer species of Manipur, the Sangai, and to effectively do the modulation of flooding and micro-climate buffering.

All this can be done. The lake is shrinking and there is a rapid decline in the habitat area for migratory birds. So, what we need to do is to have immediate lake boundary settlement, the erection of shoreline identification

landmarks, the framing of a wetlands policy, possibly through a Loktak Development Authority, and also to have scientific management plans for the lake so that we can pose these to external funding agencies. And we have to give very particular attention to the removal of phoomdi which is a kind of weed, which spreads all across the lake, chokes it up, and which has very sharply reduced the availability of wet area.

There are also, Sir, wetlands of smaller kinds available at Pumlen and Khoidum Lamjao in Thoubal District, as also at Ikap and Khavung in the same district, as well as Loushi Pat and Phumnom Pat, all of these are in Thoubal District.

We can share with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of North East Development, if we are invited to do so, our specific ideas on how right at the ground level in terms of practical action, steps can be taken to make the people of Manipur believe that Delhi is actually interested in them, that Delhi actually knows where they live, that Delhi knows the names of its districts, villages and pats, and that Delhi has some ideas about how to promote development. If we continue in the manner in which it is reflected in the documents before us, where almost everything goes to salaries for Government servants, then any possibility of development is ruled out; and where development is ruled out, there is bound to be insurgency.

We are very fortunate that Manipur has insulated itself from serious insurgency, which is taking place to its North in Nagaland and which had taken place to its South in Mizoram. This achievement needs to be consolidated. The fundamental goodwill which the communities of Manipur have towards each other needs to be consolidated and not exploited as has been happening in recent months. To this end, we are willing to support the Demands for Supplementary Grants that have been brought before us, but subject to the hope because we cannot make it a condition to Shri Swami, Shri Arun Shourie and others concerned that they will seriously take our offer of giving our ideas to them so that in respect of a remote, sensitive but extremely important State like Manipur, the Opposition and the Government can join hands in the interest of the welfare of the people.

May I conclude by once again reiterating the very strong demand of the people of Manipur that they be allowed to elect a Government for themselves in the month of February or March along with the elections to the other States going to the polls?

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (TRIPURA EAST): Hon. Speaker, Sir, we are bound to discuss the Manipur Budget as the elected Government in Manipur is defunct now. Actually, it is due to in-fight among the NDA political parties, who were ruling there up to May.

Sir, I have seen the Budget proposal presented here. In the proposal, the proposed deficit is about Rs. 382.86 crore. If we look at the receipt and other figures, it will be found that the amount has been decreased in almost all the cases. I do not know how, in this way, the development works in Manipur will be taken up, and how the development of Manipur in general will advance.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that we have to discuss this Budget here. There was an elected Government for the last five to six months. The people put their votes to form a new Government. But after the elections, their elected representatives changed floors and political Parties. After election, they have formed a new Government. Before the dissolution of the House, the Government was run by the Samata Party with the help and support of the BJP. But at the time of the 60-Member Assembly election, the BJP's number was very few. But when it was resolved by floor crossing, defying Samata Party, the BJP MLAs wanted to form a new Government. In this way, we have to discuss the Budget here. The MLAs, the representatives of the people of Manipur, know better what their problem is.

As my predecessor hon. Member has just now mentioned here, their main problem is transportation. Actually, Manipur depends on agriculture and horticulture. Like any other State of North-East, in Manipur also, there is zero industry. All the industries which were set up there, are now non-functional. In this way, they have to depend on horticultural and agricultural crops. Now, all the Departments, whatever we had from outside, are actually non-functioning. The Government employees are not getting their salaries. Now, Manipur is under President's Rule. But the normal function of the Government was not up to the mark during the elected Government. The same position is still going on. Teachers and other staff members are also not getting their salaries every month. So, in this way I am in doubt. Today, we will pass the Manipur Budget for the remaining period, that is, up to April. If the Union Government is able to hold the election earlier or in time after the extension of the President's Rule there, then we should not require this Budget to be passed here. Manipur can pass its Budget there itself. But it is not necessary to be passed in this way.

Manipur needs one food processing industry to make horticultural produce effective. They produce oranges and pin apples. They produce precious valuable horticultural crops but due to lack of marketing facilities, the producers are not getting their actual price for their produce.

Manipur Land Reforms and Land Revenue Act should be amended. Several times, the Manipur Government had

tried to amend this. The Act was passed in the year 1960 by this Parliament. Actually, 90 per cent of the hilly land is reserved for the Tribals and those who are living there.

Among the tribals, one main group is the Naga and New Naga group and the other main group is the Kuki Chin group. Though in terms of total population the Naga group and the Kuki group are less than one-third of the total population of this area, they inhabit almost 91 per cent of the hilly areas. The other communities like the Methei and the Muslim Metheis are not allowed to get land there. So, this Act should be amended so that the entire Manipur State could be developed in the future.

*SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (INNER MANIPUR): Sir, I am taking part in the discussion on the Budget of the tiny State of Manipur. It is a Budget which involves a very small amount of money. Sir, for the year the plan allocation is only Rs 375.21 crore for the Centrally sponsored schemes the allocation is Rs 69.90 crore and for non-plan the amount given is Rs 1998.46 crore. This meager sum is meant for one year's expenditure for the State of Manipur. Sir, there is a huge gap between the revenue receipt and expenditure. The actual gap at present is Rs 498.67 crore. This gap is to be bridged. This year's gap is more than that of last year's by Rs 115.99 crore.

Sir, the crucial issue before us is how to fill this gap. Manipur has very limited resources and its income is very meager. But the expenditure always exceeds the income. Why the resource generation is poor in the State? The reason for this is not difficult to seek. Even after 50 years of independence the infrastructure to mobilize resources is not being developed. Due to lack of proper infrastructure resources cannot be tapped in a suitable manner. Resources are rather depleted instead of increasing. Here I would like to cite the example of Meghalaya where during British Raj power projects and coal projects were set up alongwith a good road network. Such infrastructure is not present in Manipur. After independence proper infrastructure has been developed in parts of Bengal, UP, Bihar and other States so to mobilize resources. Till today there is hardly any standard national highway in Manipur. The traffic on our highways is very less and therefore the income generated from it is very low. In these 50 years no big projects and no mega power projects have been set up in Manipur. All the preceding Governments had neglected the entire North East region including Manipur *vis a vis* infrastructure development is concerned. As of now the Planning Commission has been earmarking funds for the States on the basis of population,

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

area and resources. We have no infrastructure, no good roads, no train traffic and therefore we have tremendous bottlenecks to mobilize resources. Since we have very limited resources the fund earmarked by the Planning Commission is extremely meager.

The income from land revenue is also negligible because it is collected only from the valley which is one tenth of the total geographical area. Land revenue is not collected from the hills which comprises of 90% of the total area of the State. In the valley again we have to minus the Loktak lake and other areas. Hence, the income from land revenue is nothing but a peanut. The income from the forests is also not coming due to the ban imposed by an Apex Court ruling. Again, the lotteries have been completely disallowed. Ways and means to earn income and mobilize resources have been restricted drastically. As a result the income of the State has been reduced to the minimum. It is the responsibility of the Government to develop and provide adequate infrastructure. In the last 50 years such appropriate infrastructure and system could not be developed in the region. The onus of this failure mainly lies with the Government of India. NDA Government endorses this view. I believe this august House also will agree with me.

This is the main reason for regional disparity and imbalance. North East has been ignored and neglected for years together. We have a very poor resource mobilization mechanism.

The huge chasm between income and expenditure must be bridged by doling out some economic packages as done in the case of some other States. Otherwise it will be an uphill task for the State to overcome such an enormous deficit accumulating year after year. Frankly speaking the allocated small sum of about Rs 300 crore cannot undertake any development activities.

Sir, as far as employment opportunity is concerned there is hardly any opportunity worth mentioning. It is almost nil. The number of unemployed youths is very high. Our literacy rate is higher than the national literacy rate. The number of educated unemployed in Manipur is now more than 4 lakh. It is an unmanageable figure for a small State with a population of only 22 lakh. Sir, one of the root-cause of insurgency in the State is unemployment. Many bright educated unemployed youths have joined insurgent groups in search of livelihood and solace. In fact unemployment particularly the educated unemployment augment the problem of insurgency.

A large part of our income has been utilized to fight and control insurgency. The amount of money left has become too little to take up any development works. All the plan funds have been diverted to pay the salary of the

employees. Still there is shortage of fund and as a result salaries are not paid for three months now.

The Loktak Down Stream Project has not been taken up properly by the present incumbent. It is now in rough weather. It is not being run smoothly. The expenditure incurred upon providing security to the project has been clubbed with the cost of the project. This is a wrong estimation. Because, in other parts of the country the security provision for projects is being dealt with separately and not added to the project costs. Now, they are saying that Loktak Down Stream Project is economically unviable taking into consideration the security expenditure. Sir, this is very unfair. Such projects can generate a lot of employment and this particular project will certainly be quite beneficial for the State. I urge upon the Union Government to kindly review the situation.

In the present Budget not a single penny has been allocated for the maintenance of Loktak Lake. If this lake is not maintained properly the NHPC Loktak project will fail in no time. Without proper maintenance the Loktak lake will become shallower, it will be filled with '*Pumdhis*' (floating mass) thereby deteriorating the adjoining environment. This Budget also completely ignores Loktak lake. Therefore, I insist upon the Government of India to take this matter seriously because Loktak is the only life sustaining lake in the State.

Sir, last year the Home Ministry had issued a circular thereby banning the funding of NGOs in Manipur by all the Ministries. It is really unfortunate and it is sending a wrong message. Many NGOs in Bihar, UP and other States have been blacklisted. But only three NGOs of Manipur have been blacklisted. We don't understand the rationale behind the ban on funding to the NGOs in Manipur. Sir, many educated youths are working for a number of NGOs. They are doing extremely well. If fund is not provided how can they function? Sir, as a matter of fact some NGOs in the State are rendering very noble and useful service, for instance quite a good number of NGOs are working to prevent AIDS and taking up awareness programmes throughout the nook and corner of the State. The fund allotted by NACO for the State AIDS Control Board and other NGOs in Manipur is also not being released due to the order of the Home Ministry. The step taken up by the Home Ministry is highly objectionable and illogical. How can the Home Ministry impose a blanket ban on other Ministries not to release fund for the NGOs in Manipur. This is discriminatory and obnoxious. When I was the Minister of Food Processing such an order came and I simply ignored it and continued to release fund for the performing organizations and institutions. Likewise other Ministries should not comply with the order of the Home Ministry and act independently. Are other Ministries under the Home Ministry? The answer is a big 'NO'. All the Ministries are independent and they have their respective programmes and policies.

Sir, I am concluding.

Ban to provide fund to all the NGOs is a wrong decision. It should be reviewed at the earliest.

Another important issue I want to bring to the notice of the Union Government is that the fund meant for the Centrally sponsored schemes are not available for my State, Manipur. The reason is very simple; the State Government is not in a position to contribute its mandatory share of 25% or 10%. My humble request is that the Union Government should give cent percent fund for the Centrally sponsored schemes to the poor States like Manipur. Otherwise the poor States will never be able to get the benefit of the Central schemes and projects.

The ground reality is that the State is not getting any fund for NGOs; NEC is not releasing any money and in addition the Government of India has drastically restricted the flow of fund to Manipur. All plan fund has been siphoned off for paying the salaries. Then you imagine the state of affairs in Manipur. It is terrible. The President's Rule is of no use. The State machinery is completely defunct. Therefore, Sir, election should be held at the earliest in the State and a democratically elected Government should be installed. In a democracy there is no substitute for a democratically elected Government. I hope normalcy will be restored in Manipur with the kind cooperation of the Centre.

SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP (OUTER MANIPUR): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Manipur Appropriation Bill, 2001-02. Kindly give me just enough time to speak. I shall be very brief and very fast. That is why I have prepared my speech.

This is a routine business of every Government to pass the Budget, to bring Appropriation Bills, Supplementary Demands and so on. We are not cynical about these constitutional functions of the Government, but what is worrying us most is the deteriorating financial and fiscal health of the nation, particularly of the States, more particularly of small States like Manipur. It is an obvious fact that all the States are facing serious financial crisis, which is a matter of great concern for the nation. Yet, I support the Bill to be passed today.

Manipur is under the Central rule. We all know it. We are very anxious about the initiatives of the Central Government to improve the financial position of Manipur because there is hardly any improvement at all. President's rule in Manipur has now been there more than six months but still the State authority is not even in a position to pay the salaries of the employees. It is indeed a failure on the part of the State authority and the Central Government.

You forget about the developmental activities in the State. The State Administration is on the verge of collapse because of bankruptcy. The coffers of the State are almost empty. When there is no money what can we expect from the State Government? There is nothing to expect. This is a very serious matter. The Government of India should take it seriously. Just blaming the earlier Governments for the financial mismanagement and the bungling will not help us. Certain remedial measures should be taken up at the earliest.

Sir, the situation now in Manipur is that there is no salary for the employees; there are no developmental activities, there is no employment generation and there is no economic growth and there are no funds for the NGOs. There are 197 blacklisted NGOs and 15 of them have nexus with underground organisations. They should not touch them. They have banned all of the NGOs – whether blacklisted or not. This is due to wrong policies.

There is direct or indirect ban on the financial inflow to the State by the Centre on some pretext or the other and this will certainly weaken the State's economy and the financial position. This situation must be reviewed at once. Otherwise, the situation will be out of control. Please remember that the people of Manipur are highly educated and highly sensitive. To prolong the present state of affairs will be quite detrimental to our national interest.

Another issue that I want to highlight in this august House is that despite having enough food-stocks, many people in the country are starving, particularly in the remote areas and interior parts. Rice, fit for consumption by animals only, is given to the North-Eastern States, particularly Manipur. This should be stopped. It is a big irony. In my constituency, the people living in the remote and hill areas are struggling to get one square meal a day. This is the hard fact and this is the ground reality. Even after fifty years of Independence, the people are not having enough food to feed themselves; forget about the amenities and other facilities.

Let us not always blame the State Government. The Centre has a big role, perhaps a bigger role, to look after the well-being of the citizens of this country, particularly of Manipur. When we have abundant foodgrains in our godowns, still we are unable to feed our people. It is a big shame. Something is seriously wrong with the distribution system. Is it a failure of the system or is it a human failure? Whatever it may be, we have failed. We need to improve the system and we have to overcome all the bottlenecks. Otherwise the poor, starving people will never forgive us and the coming generation will spurn upon us.

The poor farmers in the villages and the unfortunate people in the remote areas and hills do not understand inflation, recession, growth-rate, WTO etc. They do not understand it. The only thing that they know is food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education and employment. Still, we fail to provide them all these basic human needs. In the last fifty years, we have made progress in every sphere of life, but still there are miles to go to achieve a satisfactory level.

There was a proposal to build the Tipaimukh Dam and Loktak dam in downstream in Manipur. Now they say that it is economically not viable and they want to stop everything and they charge us for everything. As my elder colleague Shri Chaoba Singh has said, they are charging us for the project cost that is allocated for the project. It should be charged on the law and order and the aspect of dealing with the insurgency. I urge upon the Central Government to look into the proposal minutely and let us not be guided by bureaucratic myopia and manipulation. Ours is a democracy and the people's aspirations should be respected and promoted.

Finally, the financial health of the State of Manipur is worse now. The Budget Estimate for the year 2001-2002 is for Rs. 2,434.56 crore. After deducting the amount for interest payment and debt services and the Government expenditure, the remaining sum for development works is very meagre. What can you expect from this extremely meagre amount? The total public debt is Rs. 1,368 crore. The current overdraft with the RBI is Rs. 70 crore and the current borrowing capacity is only Rs. 21 crore. Again, there is a huge gap between the revenue expenditure and the revenue receipt. It is a pathetic situation. Keeping this broad scenario in view, it is high time to do something concrete for the State of Manipur.

In order to bring the State economy and finance on the right track, certain economic packages should be doled out in no time. Along with this, some austerity measures must be taken up, like curtailing the Non-Plan expenditure, Government expenditure, reducing the number of Government employees and so on. Practicable VRS should be introduced. Permanent programmes and retrenchment schemes may be introduced to remove excess Government staff. Abrupt removal of staff will not solve the problem. Instead, it could turn out to be a big headache for the Government.

Besides, the Union Finance Minister should experiment with the zero-base budgeting in Manipur. I strongly believe that such an endeavour will certainly revive the tottering Manipur economy and finance. Please consider it seriously. Sir, zero-base budgeting is perhaps the only way out.

Both the sides, the ruling as well as the main opposition party, have brought dissolution to the Manipur State Assembly. Now, they want to hold election very soon. I say that the President's Rule should be extended by one

more year. The ground reality is such that it is still very bad. If the elections are held now, the militants will have the upper hand because it will reverse the achievement of President's Rule, of downsizing, of gradual improvement of financial discipline, and of Government's upper hand over underground activities. After elections, it will encourage horse trading, rampant corruption and jumping from one party to another party. It will give a tremendous boost to the anti-national elements actively working in Manipur. The overall consequence will be people's loss of faith in Indian democracy.

Sir, there are 20 underground organisations in Manipur. We must keep President's Rule there for another year. I still say that President's Rule should be extended for a further period. He said that they are expecting a popular Government. I say that it will be the most unpopular Government. I do not like unpopular Government. Who will be responsible? Will they not be responsible? We are Members of the apex body of the Indian Sub-Continent. Sir, that is why, I say that election should not be held now. The State is not yet ready for election.

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (VISA KHAPATNAM): Mr. Speaker Sir, Manipur is very rich in its culture and heritage. The exponents of Manipuri dance are known all over the world ...*(Interruptions)* Kuchipudi dance is in Andhra Pradesh. Manipuri dance is more popular even than Kuchipudi. It is very unfortunate that the Budget proposals of such an important and vital part of the country are being considered in this House rather than in its own Assembly. There is no alternative to a democratically elected popular Government. In the present system, it has to be restored at the earliest so that the people's mandate alone can rule that State and not some remote control. The President's Rule should be of the shortest tenure as far as possible. It is a very remote State, sensitive and very volatile to any situation. Besides being a small State, there are so many ethnic groups who fight each other. Now, we are experiencing that small States are always volatile to change from this side to that side. The political system is so volatile that over a period, we trust that the Small State is not the solution for a democratic set up. In such small States with 40 or 60 Members, if five Members go from this side to that side, it will change the fate of the Government. So, it is happening. Still, we feel that some small States are needed. I strongly feel that no more small States should be created in this country. If you create more small States, there will be more volatility in the country and there will be more shift every time. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, what happened to the State of Bihar? It seems they want some more States to be created from out of Bihar. There is a demand for creation of new States everywhere. But this is not the solution for effective democratic functioning. If we want the democratic functioning to flourish, then there should be large economically viable States.

Sir, there is a deficit of Rs. 380 crore for the State of Manipur. Wherefrom would the Government fill this gap? Even the money allocated for Plan development has been utilised on revenue expenditure account. No State would be a financially healthy State if there was a gap between revenue collection and revenue expenditure. Every State should tighten its belt to keep its revenue receipts and revenue expenditure within its means, otherwise no State would be able to flourish and would go the way the State of Bihar has gone.

Sir, a sum of Rs. one crore only has been allocated for Centrally-sponsored schemes for the State of Manipur. Such a meagre amount of money is not enough to sustain the welfare activities of a State as remote as Manipur. As long as this State is under the President's Rule, there should be more allocation of funds for this State so that the State can develop well and turn itself into a model for other States. Also, when a popular Government is installed there, they would be able to continue the developmental activities that get started during the period of its being under the President's Rule.

Sir, tourism is one of the mainstay and best possible means of collecting revenue for the State of Manipur provided we can restore peace and tranquillity in the State. Again, peace and tranquillity cannot be restored unless we can create jobs for the educated unemployed youth of the State. In a total population of 22 lakhs, there are about four lakhs of educated unemployed youth in the State and they are struggling to get a job and in the absence of any work, these educated unemployed youth are resorting to underground activities. Our primary aim should be to concentrate on creation of jobs for these youths. This is very essential.

Sir, along with tourism, the State of Manipur is endowed with abundant natural resources. If these natural resources could be utilised in proper manner, then we can even generate hydel power from it which could in turn be supplied to other deficit States. With improvement in tourism, creation of jobs for the educated unemployed youth and with the ability to generate hydel power by making use of its abundant natural resources, this State of Manipur can well become a self-sufficient State in terms of development.

Sir, with these few words, I support the proposals contained in the Budget for the State of Manipur.

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मणिपुर एक गरीब एवं छोटा राज्य है, लेकिन देश के लिए उसका इतिहास-भूगोल कम महत्व का नहीं है। वहां 103 करोड़ रुपए का रिसोर्स है और हर महीने वेतन पर 65 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होते हैं। इस प्रकार जिस राज्य के विकास पर साल में केवल 780 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे, तो उसका क्या विकास होगा। इसके बाद जो 10 परसेंट कर्जा देते हैं, उसे चुकाने में भी उसके उम्र भार पड़ता है। इसलिए उसको पैकेज मिलना चाहिए। वहां रेल लाइन का एक्सटेंशन होना चाहिए। जीरी बांध से लेकर इम्फाल तक रेल लाइन बढ़ानी चाहिए। वहां एन.एच. खराब हैं। दो एन.एच. हैं वे भी खराब हैं। दीमापुर से

इम्फाल और जीरी बांध से मोरे तक, वे भी ठीक प्रकार से बनने चाहिए। यदि वहां एन.एच. की ठीक ढंग से शुरुआत हो जाए, तो अच्छा रहेगा।

इंडो-म्यांमार ट्रेड हुआ, उसमें मोरे स्थान हिन्दुस्तान की सीमा पर पड़ता है। बर्मा ने अपने शहर का विकास कर लिया लेकिन मोरे का विकास नहीं हुआ। वहां पी.डी.एस. चौपट हालत में है। श्री चौबे सिंह बोल रहे थे कि वहां खराब अनाज देते हैं, वह जानवर के खाने लायक भी नहीं है। वहां पी.डी.एस. को दुरुस्त करना चाहिए। लोगों को तीन महीने से वेतन नहीं मिला। वहां हड़ताल चल रही थी, आन्दोलन हो रहा था। आप जानते हैं कि वह सैनसिटिव एरिया है। इन्होंने नागा वालों से गड़बड़ समझौता कर लिया था जिससे उसकी उपेक्षा हुई और वहां आन्दोलन होने लगा। मैं मांग करता हूँ कि मणिपुर को छोटा राज्य मान कर उसकी उपेक्षा नहीं होनी चाहिए। लोकटक पन बिजली में 578 करोड़ रुपये की स्वीकृति हो गई लेकिन काम नहीं हो रहा है। तिपायमुख डाउनस्ट्रीम जो पन बिजली की परियोजना है, उसकी पन बिजली की क्षमता 1500 मेगावाट है। इसलिए तिपायमुख को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर बोली लगा कर करना चाहिए जिससे देश को लाभ होगा। पन बिजली सबसे अच्छी बिजली होती है। नार्थ-ईस्ट में जो भी पन बिजली की क्षमता है, उसे प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए। **श्री (व्यवधान)** छोटे मंत्री को बोलने के लिए बिठा दिया है। इनको क्या पावर है, ये पेपर्स लेड आन टेबल वाले लोग हैं। **श्री (व्यवधान)** मणिपुर के सदस्य बैठ कर मणिपुर का बजट पास करवा रहे हैं। दबाव था इसलिए वहां के मंत्री को हटा दिया और छोटे मंत्री को लाकर बिठा दिया। **श्री (व्यवधान)**

वहां के लिए टूरिज़्म बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। प्रोटैक्टेड एरिया परमिट को खत्म करना चाहिए। गृह विभाग इसका जवाब दे कि प्रोटैक्टेड एरिया परमिट को क्यों नहीं खत्म करते जिससे वहां का विकास हो। इन सब सवालों पर सरकार स्पेसिफिक जवाब दे।

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन) : यह बीच वाले मंत्री हैं। ऐसा मत बोलिए कि छोटे मंत्री हैं।

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बालासाहिब विखे पाटील) : ये खुद भी राज्य मंत्री रहे हैं, इनको अनुभव होगा।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : मैंने कहा कि रघुवंश बाबू भी छोटे मंत्री थे। अपनी बिरादरी वालों को तो आप कुछ मत बोलिए।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : मैं छोटे मंत्री की पीड़ा जानता हूँ कि पेपर्स लेड आन दी टेबल के आलावा और कोई काम नहीं है।

श्री बालासाहिब विखे पाटील : आपकी जितनी पीड़ा है, हमारे पास उतनी नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, six speakers have taken part in the debate and I am grateful for them.

The initiator of the debate, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, said that the Government was fulfilling an assurance. I take it that he would agree to the fact that this Government has always fulfilled the assurances given by it. One of those assurances is on dissolution of the Manipur Assembly. I must assure the entire House, through you, that this Government is keen to take the State to polls at the earliest opportunity. So, there is no need to extend this. Both the Houses have unanimously passed the extension of President's Rule in the State, but the Government is not keen to extend it further and wait till that further period expires.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total receipts, excluding Public Account, in the year 2001-02 are estimated at Rs.2203.80 crore. Out of the total receipts the revenue receipts are estimated at Rs.1220.16 crore compared to Rs.1281.89 crore of Revised Estimates, 2000-2001. Estimates of State's own tax and non-tax revenue are Rs.103.25 crore. The revenue expenditure is estimated at Rs.1245.32 crore and the deficit on the Revenue Account is Rs.25.16 crore. On capital account, excluding Public Account, receipts are estimated at Rs.983.64 crore. Expenditure including loans and advances is estimated at Rs.1100.05 crore, which is lower than the Revised Estimates, 2000-2001. As rightly pointed out by a colleague, the deficit is expected to be Rs.498.67 crore. I am not going into the details of these things.

I must tell you that the Government is very much concerned and serious about the development of the entire North-East in general and Manipur in particular. The Government is also serious about implementation of land reforms, VRS and other popular measures. But such popular measures are expected to be taken only by a popular Government. As the Member has rightly pointed out, we do not want to give a message to the country that the State is being governed by remote control.

15.00 hrs.

So, we are very much interested to establish a popular Government in Manipur.

In respect of Centrally-sponsored and Centrally-planned Schemes, provisions have been made on the basis of previous year releases in order to obviate the difficulties of the Department in timely implementation of the schemes.

Sir, in respect of the NEC, a sum of Rs. 5.36 crore has been tentatively provided in the Budget Estimates, 2001-2002 covering the area of Integrated Project for self-sufficiency in Animal Origin Food, Jiri Irrigation Project, roads and bridges, sport and youth activities.

For NSDC schemes, only token provision has been made.

Sir, the House will appreciate that the hon. Finance Minister was in Shillong on the 19th October, 2001 during the Chief Ministers Meeting. The Governor concerned was there in that meeting. The hon. Finance Minister had requested the Governor of Manipur to come with the proposal as to how Manipur problem could be eased and how the Government of India could help them. We are waiting for their proposal. We are also monitoring the situation on day-to-day basis.

Sir, some hon. Member mentioned that there is no power project going on in Manipur. The House would be happy to note that there is already a Heavy Fuel Project at Leimakhong under progress. Its cost is Rs. 129.08 crore. It has been funded considerably from the Central Pool of Resources. It is likely to be commissioned within a month or two.

Similarly, a lot of other schemes are there through the banking etc. I am happy to note that the NGOs are working there in a strong and healthy way. There is no dearth of money as far as the NGOs are concerned. NABARD and CAPART are financing them. A number of banks are also financing so many schemes including self-employment scheme.

Sir, points were raised about the economic viability, development of agriculture, horticulture and agro-processing units in Manipur. Agriculture being a State subject, naturally, the popular Government, when comes, will take all these things.

It is true that about four lakh educated youths are unemployed there. That is why a number of schemes are there through NGOs. We hope the popular Government will take up all these issues. It is for the administrators to take the advantage.

Sir, as far as the salary point is concerned, I must inform the august House that there was a strike by the employees of the State Government of Manipur from 22nd October, 2001 demanding the fulfilment of 16-point charter of demand. But some Departments like Police and Electricity did not join the strike. Now, I am happy to inform the House that an agreement has been reached. After their agreement with the State Government on the 30th November, 2001, the Secretariat employees and the teachers have withdrawn their strike from 3rd December, 2001.

Again, the Joint Administration Council of All Manipur and Trade Union Council of All Manipur Government Employees Organisations have entered into an agreement with the State Government on 10th December, that is today, and have withdrawn their agitation. So, the strike by the employees of the State Government of Manipur has been called off.

Their salaries have been paid upto October, 2001. We are going to pay their salary of November also. Those who were on strike, their salaries will naturally be paid now. The duration of 45 days strike has been taken by them as leave. In this regard an agreement has already reached. So, nobody will be denied of their rights.

With these words, as everybody is supporting this, I would request the House to pass this Manipur Budget.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : What about the Lok Tak Downstream Project which is already approved?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, as regards the Lok Tak Project and other infrastructure part, the *Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana* and the *National Highway Yojana* are there. Funds are allocated there.

We have asked the Governor to come here and discuss it with the Planning Commission. These are only the token provisions which have been made. We will make all the necessary provisions after having consultation with the Planning Commission because the *ad hoc* measures will not work permanently.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Manipur) for 2001-2002 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur 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, 2002, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 47."

The motion was adopted.

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