

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 4

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Participants : [Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar](#),[Maken Shri Ajay](#)

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Title: Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal and seconded by Shri Ajay Maken. (Not Concluded).

14.43 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MR. SPEAKER: Let us take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal may now move the motion.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (CHANDIGARH): Sir, I beg to move:

“That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms:-

'That the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on February 25, 2005'. ”

... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha elections, the people of India voted for secular, progressive forces, for parties committed to the well-being of the common man across the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you will get full opportunity to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Except Mr. Bansal's speech, nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, in those elections, the Congress and its allies went to the polls with humility against the arrogance of the NDA. That arrogance is at display even at this moment. (Interruptions) The self-proclaimed, responsible Opposition of this country is not serious even on a solemn occasion like this. This impels me to say that the BJP is a bad loser. I will not be surprised if tomorrow the BJP were to demand that Shri L.K. Advani should be asked to share the Red Fort podium with the Prime Minister! The BJP wants the

* Not Recorded.

Country to believe that the winner in a democratic election has no right to exercise any authority except that permitted by the loser..... (Interruptions)

Yesterday, the House was held to ransom on the Goa issue. I would only like to say about it without dwelling on the proclivity and the expertise of Shri Manohar Parrikar to engineer defections for forming the Government earlier and his failure to keep the flock together. I will only refer to the situation where after the last elections in 2002, he formed the Government in coalition with two parties but later tried to poach upon their own Members. A political commentator referred to this as cannibalisation of the coalition by Shri Parrikar by engineering defection in the parties supporting him. I was because of the dissension within the BJP led coalition that things worsened for him. You reap what you sow, is the eternal truth. It was he, I would like to remind Shri Advani, who circumvented and circumnavigated the 91st amendment of the Constitution by procuring the resignation of a Congress MLA. Shri Advani lamented on such a course yesterday without remembering that it was for the first time introduced by the BJP in Goa.

Now, when MLAs and Ministers resign and part company with Shri Parrikar, the Congress is blamed. When the Government lost the majority, the Congress rightly sought his dismissal. But the Governor did not oblige us, he fixed the date for the test of strength on the floor of the House. On the fixed day, what did the Speaker do? He ordered one independent MLA who had withdrawn support from the BJP and extended the same to the Congress to leave the House without any provocation. It was not only that. In violation of all the rules, the police was called into the Chamber of the House and the Member was bodily lifted out. Counting was done in the melee and surprisingly, the result was declared as 18 to 6. Was that possible? That was not the verdict of the Speaker but that of the then Chief Minister as recorded on the cameras also. It was this act which forced the Governor to dismiss the Government. What happened two days back? While the No-Confidence Motion against the Speaker was pending, he expelled the independent Member Shri Rodrigues and then resigned himself from the post. This is how the democracy has been run. Here, in the House, there is ruckus against the

Congress. Also, Shri Parrikar has already moved the Supreme Court in the matter and it is sub judice. Why should the House be held to ransom on this ?

Similarly again, we face the same situation today with regard to the developments in respect of Jharkhand. The Governor is a constitutional authority. If no party gets an absolute majority, and when different parties or groups present their claims to him for the formation of the Government, it is for him to satisfy himself about the respective claims before inviting anyone to form the Government. The Governor has done so there. What is the Government of India or the Parliament, in any case, to do with that ? Does the Parliament decide about these matters? I am sorry that the House has again been rocked on this matter. This takes me to the President's Address (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got the written speech?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Yes, Sir.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You lay it.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, with your permission, I lay my speech on the Table of the House.

*Today, we can look back to the past three quarters of a year that the govt. has been in office, with a sense of genuine satisfaction that it has demonstrated perfect understanding of and grappled with various issues facing the country with firm determination and competence.

Today, there is optimism in the air. Our age-old traditions of mutual amity and good-will, so essential to run a complex & diverse polity, our cherished values

* The speech was laid on the Table

of pluralism, inclusiveness, secularism and economic growth with equity and social justice have guided this govt. in thought, approach and action. Today, all major economic indicators are looking up and investors are expressing keenness to become partners in our progress.

Immediately, after the UPA took over, there was an induced sharp crash in the stock-market. Realizing the inherent worth and ability of the govt., the prophets of doom withdrew and today the real picture is there for

anyone to see. Today, the Stock market is no longer under the influence of black money but reflects genuine confidence of our economy.

Comparisons are odious. I do not intend to bask in those but some references are essential when one hears voices, though insipid, calling the President's Address colourless, tasteless and odourless.

The sky-rocketing of world oil prices when the UPA took over would have thrown any govt. in a tizzy but not that of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Oil Prices threatened a cascading effect on price of all commodities but as the Hon'ble President has said "a judicious mix of economic policies and administrative intervention has helped bring the rate of inflation down". It had risen to over 8% in August, 2004 but has come down substantially now and food prices have been kept under check.

The success of this govt. in reversing many unpleasant trends in different fields of national activity have left its worst critics ashen faced. Disillusionment of the average Indian has given way to hope. The common man, forsaken for good six years, is again at the Centre of govt.'s thought and action. No longer can pressure groups or lobbies influence decision making.

Nation building has to be a continuous task and a sacred responsibility of any govt. There were slippages in the past few years because of some unfortunate happenings. Alive to its historic role, the UPA govt. has dedicated itself to Bharat Nirman - Building India – and to make it tangible for every Indian, every aspect of development is being given the necessary attention.

Sir, the Hon'ble President has recounted the seven priority areas of the UPA's Common Minimum Programme viz. Agriculture, Education, Employment, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Urban Renewal and Water. In the recent past, we were repeatedly told of the increase in growth, though actually it was only in 2003-04 that it registered a rate of 8.5%. That was after anaemic growth during the preceding three years which ranged between 4.4 to 5.6%. Normally, after a growth of 8.5%, one would not expect a high growth again, yet the growth in 2004-05 is likely to be in the vicinity of 7%, a sure indicator that the UPA policies will see economy grow by at least 7 to 8% in a sustained manner and at the same time generate employment in every field. A jobless growth, as we saw in the past, brought only despair to the youth with the number of jobless persons actually rising.

With the UPA govt. in saddle, retrenchment is giving way to employment and disinvestment to investment. In place of Disinvestment Commission, we now have Investment Commission. PSUs built with toil and scarce national resources are no longer condemned and hanged. Rationalization, now is not sacrificed at the altar of fundamentalism.

The absence of new technology and investment in Research and Development, particularly in agriculture had led to a crisis situation. Increase of indebtedness had led to suicides by farmers in different parts of the country.

This govt. is moving with a firm resolve to give a New Deal to Rural India by increasing investment in rural infrastructure and stepping up Credit flow to farmers. Upto January, 2005 nearly 95% of the targeted rupees one lakh and five thousand crores has already been utilized. Here actions match words.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi had launched, inter alia, a Technology Mission on Water. The National Common Minimum Programme removes the dust that accumulated thereon over the years and the govt. has underscored the importance of conserving & optimum use of water. It is a pity that a large segment of our society does not have access to safe drinking water. The UPA govt. has moved fast to rectify the situation and has set up a National Drinking Water Mission, appropriately named after Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Two-thirds of India lives in villages, yet agriculture contributes only one-fifth to the GDP. This distortion explains the poor living conditions of our people in rural areas. The nation can ill afford to neglect its villages. For this, declining growth rate in agriculture has to be reversed. The govt. is determined to do so. None other than the Prime Minister himself chairs the National Committee on Rural Infrastructure that has been set up to ensure that urban amenities and facilities are made available in rural areas.

Sitting on the other side some time back I heard the Treasury Benches express a helplessness that it could take hundreds of years to electrify all villages in the country. It is a whiff of fresh air to know of this govt.'s resolve to do so by the year 2009.

Having targeted a sustained growth of 7% to 8% over the next decade, this govt. is working for a stepped up investment, public and private, in power, roads, railways, ports, inland water ways, civil aviation and housing. Again, it is the Prime Minister who heads the Committee on Infrastructure. Surely, the infrastructure growth is poised for a boost with the setting up of a Special Purpose.

Over the years, because of lack of adequate amenities coupled with heavy inflow of people from villages, our cities have been sliding on the index of development. Some of them have become veritable urban slums. To arrest the situation from deteriorating further and to turn our cities into world class cities, this govt. has moved to set up a Mission on Urban Renewal.

Faced with an acute shortage of housing and a seemingly intractable housing back-log situation, the govt. has opened up the construction sector to 100 per cent FDI with a clear ban on sale of undeveloped land by foreign investors so that they do not indulge in speculation. FDI in this Sector would be construction -Centric and not land-Centric as in the past. This would help the sector grow, create employment and provide spin-off benefits to cement, steel and brick industry.

Rajiv Gandhi, with his vision of taking India to the 21st Century had ushered in a revolution in the telecom sector. Following on that, the govt. has plans to take India's tele density from 8.4% today to more than 20% by 2008. Dubious deals like the Sankhya Vahini and the half cooked ones like the Media Lab Asia have so far deprived the rural areas of the benefits of developments in IT and tele-communications. This digital divide has to end. UPA govt. has taken a host of policy initiatives (p.200) to catch up with other countries in the telecom sector.

The Broadband policy announced in October, 2004 targets 20 million broadband subscribers against 2 lakhs in December 2003 and 40 million Internet subscribers against 4 lakhs.

Automated Spectrum Management System started in January this year will help maximize the economic value of this scarce natural resource.

Taking note of the declining share of manufacturing in our national income, the govt. has set up a National Manufacturing Competitive Council to increase the sector's productivity and make India, a manufacturing hub. A few years back the Small Scale industries were facing closure. They are now regaining their sapped vitality, having been encouraged to modernize and brace themselves for competition. "Promotion of SSI Schemes" started last year is being strengthened further and a Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Growth Fund with a corpus of Rs.500 crores has been established. A new legislation to provide a supportive environment to the Small Scale and medium enterprises is on the anvil.

Poverty alleviation has received focused attention of this govt. as that of previous Congress govts. National Food for Work Programme has been launched in 150 most backward districts of the country with the objective to intensify generation of supplementary wage employment. An allocation of Rs.5,400 crores was made for this Programme for the current year which has been raised to Rs.11,000 crores for 2005-2006. For a National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, legislation has been introduced in Parliament to provide initially for at least 100 days' work to one member in a rural family.

The National policy on Education, framed at the instance of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1986 had set a goal of spending 6% of the GDP every year, but the total expenditure on education by Central and State governments is no more than 3.74%. Concerned about this deficiency, one of the first steps taken by this govt. was to introduce a 2% education cess on all taxes. This cess will be converted into a non-lapsable "Prathmik Shiksha Kosh" to be dedicated for basic education and mid-day meal scheme. The mid-day meal scheme which helps retain poor children in schools will have its allocation almost doubled to Rs.3,010 crores for 2005-06. The govt. is also determined to stamp out illiteracy through Sarv Shiksha Abiyan.

Some time back, the cause of education had got a beating with the CBSE and NCERT bosses vying with each other to be more loyal than the King to give education the ideological colour of their Master. UPA is more concerned about banishing the scourge of illiteracy and improving the quality of education than making it an ideological nursery of the party in power. An informed and wise young person having imbibed scientific and democratic temper, will later take his or her own decisions in life.

The govt. also is determined to increase the spending on health from the present level of just 0.9% of GDP to 2% over the next five years. It is a pity seeing helpless poor people unable to afford the expenses of medical treatment or crucial operations and resultantly moving inexorably and painfully towards death. The proposal to launch a National Rural Health Mission with a decentralized delivery system is a determined move towards the goal of Health for All which has eluded us so far.

It was in 1975-76 that the Congress had launched the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme for a holistic and sustained child development. This govt. has now decided to expand the coverage of the Scheme substantially and increase the present number of crèches from 15,000 to 30,000 in a period of three

years. The proposed National Commission for Children will have powers for effective implementation of existing laws and Schemes for children. A draft National Action Plan for Children has also been prepared.

Congress has always given primacy to the welfare of SCs and STs. However, it is felt that what is really material to empower the SCs and STs is to raise their level of education and for this Schemes for Scholarships & Fellowships have been announced.

The govt. has constituted a Commission for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities for enhancing their educational, employment and economic opportunities. Steps are afoot to allay the fears and apprehensions of Adivasis emanating from an insecurity and uncertainty about right over the lands they have cultivated for centuries.

Govt. policies, including the Fiscal Policy are being chiselled to spur economic development. Initiatives taken during the last nine months infuse confidence that we will ably meet the “Millennium Development Goals”.

We owe much to our brave soldiers who have done the country proud in times of peace & war. However, to maintain a low age profile in the armed forces, our men in uniform retire early with all domestic responsibilities remaining to be discharged. Something has to be done to reassure them about their welfare. The govt. has taken an initiative in this regard by creating a separate Department of Ex-Servicemen’s Welfare in the Ministry of Defence to give a special focus and thrust to their welfare.

Being a vast country of continental proportions, we have had to face the wrath of natural calamities from time to time. The devastation caused to human life and property by the recent Tsunami tragedy is unprecedented in living history. However, relief operations were undertaken immediately deploying 21,000 personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force, Cost Guard and Central Para Military Forces. 40 ships, 34 aircrafts and 42 helicopters were pressed into service. It was an excellent and perfectly co-ordinated relief work undertaken by the govt. Heavy snowfall and avalanches have caused heavy damage in J&K last month.

It is heartening that the govt. has decided to create a National Disaster Management Authority and to introduce a legislation on this in Parliament soon. The proposed National Disaster Response Force will be fully trained and equipped to swing into action immediately, should a natural calamity hit any part of the country.

The international environment today is more favourable for us than before. The Indo-Pakistan relations have received a new impetus. The recent visit to Pakistan by the Minister of External Affairs has led to breaking new ground in confidence building between the two countries.

I am surprised to hear protests against the proposal to start a Srinagar-Muzzafarabad bus service. Much has been made of the agreement to enable people of two countries to travel without a Passport and a formal Visa. In their anxiety to find fault, our friends on the other side have failed to take note of the fact that the travel would not be without taking care of all security considerations. People across the LoC wishing to travel to this side will have to submit regular applications. The lists would be scrutinized by the designated agencies here and only those whose names are cleared will be able to undertake the trip. At the crossing point, our officials will

check every individual against the approved list and then they will board an Indian bus to come this side. Similar would be the procedure followed by Pakistan. There will be checks & cross checks. And the travel would be restricted only to the citizens of two countries and not open to others. All that has been agreed upon is to avoid hassles of a Passport for just one small trip and at no time will the guard of security be relaxed.

Sir, the people of two countries now want to free themselves of the shackles of history and make a new beginning. Respecting each other's sovereignty, we can both march forward and the benefits would be immense. Measures like those agreed upon now, will be the precursors of better understanding and can lead to peaceful solution of outstanding differences.

Conscious of the fact that an efficient delivery system is the sine-qua non for the success of any programme or Scheme, the Prime Minister already is engaged in an exercise to effect administrative reforms, to make the govt. machinery responsive and sensitized to the peoples' yearnings and expectations. Earlier the Parliament had passed the Freedom of Information Bill but the govt. of the day then did not notify it.

The Prime Minister, a strong advocate of transparency in govt. wants to offer people access to the govt. information as their right. For this, the Right to Information Bill, 2004 has been introduced.

Changes in the procedures to make judicial system swift have also attracted the attention of the govt. It recognizes the need to offer low cost redressal of grievances to the common man and quick clearance of litigation.

Reforms have also been initiated, with the new Budget, in the Tax System – making it simple to understand, comply and administer.

For the success of democracy at the highest level, it is essential that we encourage democracy to work at the grass-root level. This had motivated Shri Rajiv Gandhi to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions and Municipalities by conferring upon them a constitutional recognition. UPA govt. has immense faith in the potential of PRIs. For the development of social sector, the govt. has relied upon the PRIs as the effective vehicle of delivery as peoples' direct involvement therein would ensure transparency, accountability and better results.

Recent Local elections in J&K also have endorsed grass-roots democracy in the State and re-inforced our faith in peace.

Sir, the Congress and its allies RJD, DMK, NCP, PMK, TRS, JMM, LJP, MDMK, AIMIM, PDP, IUML, RPI(A), RPI(G) and KC(J) went to the polls last May with humility against the arrogance of NDA. Against a blitz of “Shining India” campaign, was the sincerity to bring “Common man” in the focus of all development activity.

Rising to the occasion, an average Indian voted for this Alliance. The UPA, supported by the Left Parties, is inclusive in character. It represents the brilliant spectrum of this vast land’s pluralism and the beautiful mosaic of its unity in diversity. Overcoming decades of anti-Congressism, the UPA laid a foundation of trust on which has been built a strong relationship.

The Common Minimum Programme was formulated by UPA under the Chairmanship of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the epitome of India’s ethos of renunciation and the inheritor of Rajiv Gandhi’s legacy. Duty was Rajivji’s anthem to life. It was his literature, his poetry, his philosophy. It was his prayer. It was duty that kept him going, it was duty that made him aspire. Duty was his legacy to the future.

Grateful to an average Indian for asserting himself and voting UPA to government, UPA now considers it its sacred duty to dedicate itself to that “Aam Admi”. An environment of communal harmony, non-violence, security & peace today prevails to take up well thought out plans to realize real Indian real potential. A renowned economist, a humble public man, and a true democrat, Dr. Manmohan Singh is leading the govt., conscious of the onerous responsibilities & challenges that are inherent in governing a vast country. But endowed with immense goodwill competence and capacity, he has energized his team in the UPA. The UPA shall succeed.

With these words, Sir, I commend the motion to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ajay Maken to speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MAKEN (NEW DELHI): Sir, I second the Motion. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please lay your speech.

SHRI AJAY MAKEN : I lay my speech on the Table of the House.

* आदरणीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं श्री पवन कुमार बंसल जी के द्वारा दिए गए प्रस्ताव का अनुमोदन करता हूँ। आदरणीय महोदय, पिछले र्वा के अंत में सुनामी द्वारा जान व मान की भारी क्षति हुयी थी। अंडमान निकोबार द्वीप सहित 6 प्रदेशों की 2260 किलोमीटर की कोस्टल लाईन इससे प्रभावित हुयी थी।

माननीय राष्ट्रपति ने अपने अभिभाण में नेशनल डिसास्टर मैनेजमेंट ऑथरिटी तथा डिसास्टर मैनेजमेंट पर विधेयक लाने की बात कही है।

प्राकृतिक विपदा आते हैं और आते ही रहेंगे। लेकिन जिस प्रकार से हमारी सरकार ने एवं जनता ने रिस्पांड किया है, वह तारीफ के काबिल है।

सबसे पहले तो प्रधान मंत्री जी का यह कहना कि भारत सक्षम है। अपने इस विपदा का सामना करने के लिए और हमें इसे विश्व की तरफ आर्थिक मदद देखने की जरूरत नहीं है।

इससे हर भारतवासी का सीना गर्व से फूल गया। 3644 करोड़ के रिलीफ पैकेज्स अनोमोदित कर दिए गए हैं। सरकार ने 10216 करोड़ खर्च करने का अपना इरादा जताया है। इससे एक सशक्त भारत की तस्वीर उभर कर आयी। भारत का नया स्वरूप बनने पर यह आश्चर्य नहीं है कि यू.पी.ए की सरकार सत्ता में आते ही यूनीयन ने यू.एस.ए., जापान, चीन, कनाडा और रूस के बाद भारत से स्ट्रेटेजिक पार्टनरशिप डोक्युमेंट पर साइन किया।

यह भी आश्चर्य नहीं है कि जी 7 समिट ने चीन के साथ भारत को भी आमंत्रित किया था।

नेपाल ने भी विवाद के बाद, यूरोपियन यूनीयन और विश्व ने भारत के इस मुद्दे के उपर विचारों को ही अपनाया।

* The speech was laid on the Table.

The best thing about these developments is that instead of India-Pakistan Hyphenation, now India is clubbed with China and there is a new era of India-China Hyphenation. This clearly depicts India's growing stature in the world.

It has increased the self-respect of Indians living across the globe and India is not seen merely as a follower of any nation or any power. But on its own, India has an identity.

I would like to quote Hon'ble President who in his Address said my Government wants India to shine but it should shine for all. These twelve words out of 8000 words of Presidential Address, indicates the priority of our Government.

At this moment, I would like to quote what renowned economists Angus Maddison in his book 'The World Economy - A Millennium Perspective' has said:

"India was the world's largest economy in the first millennium producing third of global GDP. By 1500 their share had declined to 25%. It further lost its shares because it could not catch up with the industrial revolution."

Which means that the India which in the first millennium used to produce 33% of the world total output came down to 25% by year 1500 and further because it could not catch up with the industrial revolution and became an under developed country.

With the dawn of new millennium, now India has an opportunity where another revolution is taking place. It is 'knowledge revolution'.

On this important aspect, Presidential Address has thrown light at what Government has done or is planning to do.

Whether it was the announcement on 6th January, 2005 by the Prime Minister to set up a Knowledge Commission or whether it was the decision taken during the last Budget to put an Education Cess to start Primary Education Fund or it was to cover 11 crores children in the last year in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme spending 1675 crores or whether it was enhancing this amount of 1675 crores to 3010 crores for the next financial year or whether it was to set up a National Mission for Education for all or whether it was to set up a Commission to protect Minority Education Institution. Our Government has taken a lead in this knowledge based revolution.

It is not only the announcement of these schemes, which depicts our Government sincerity, and commitment towards the sector in terms of monetary allocations.

When UPA Government to came power; in education, the budgetary allocation for the year 2003-04 was 7025 crores. The first year itself it was raised for the year 2004-05 to 8225 crores and for the next financial year, it has been slated to 13928.81 crores. It clearly shows that in a span of less than one year the budgetary allocation has arisen from 7025 to 13928.81 crores; which is almost double the initial amount.

At this juncture, I would also like to point out the dismal performance of NDA Government in education. As a percentage of total expenditure on education for the year:

2000-01	11.3%
2001-02	10.4%
2002-03	10.0%
2003-04	9.1%

UPA Government in the last year has upgraded 500 ITIs. In this year 100 more ITIs have been identified. Out of these, 67 ITIs are such, which are to be linked with the industry. And for each of such ITIs, around 1.6 crores would be spend. Our commitment to create institution of excellence can be proved from the fact that Indian Institute of Science of Bangalore has been provided hundred crores rupees in this year Budget.

This shows that our Government is committed not to miss this knowledge based revolution and knowledge induced growth is what our Government is looking for. We want India to regain its lost glory of the first millennium through active participation in this revolution. We want India to be a centre of R & D, a hub as a knowledge-imparting destination, where world can throng to seek knowledge.

But in order to participate in this knowledge based revolution resources are required. These resources cannot be arranged without any improvement in industrial sector. President in his Address has also expressed his concern on manufacturing sector and has mentioned about setting up of the National Manufacturing Competitive Council.

Without strengthening the manufacturing sector, we cannot strengthen the base of Indian economy. On the scale of development for all the countries, which have tried to pursue this path, a uniform pattern is that the share of agriculture sector in the GDP is gradually reduced and taken over by the manufacturing sector.

In China also, in the year 2000 industry sector was responsible for 50.9% of the GDP. In China thus, the industry and manufacturing sector has taken over the space of agriculture sector. In our country instead of manufacturing sector, the informal service sector has grown and taken over the space of agriculture sector in the GDP. Manufacturing sector share in the GDP has remained stagnant and it is a matter of great concern.

But ever since the UPA Government has taken over things have changed for the better for industries. Last year industries produced 8.4% more. Manufacturing sector, which grew by 9 %, mainly drove this. After 1995-96, it is for the first time that industries and manufacturing sector have grown by such magnitude. Our GDP thus on account of this high growth in industries grew by around 7%.

Even though in the year 2003-04 the GDP growth was around 8.5 percent, but I feel that the last year 7% growth is more important; because this growth is induced by the hard work of working hands in our industries; some policy initiatives by the UPA Government and not by invisible hands of weather Gods which induced 8.5 % growth in 2003-04.

To further strengthen the manufacturing sector, our Government has reduced custom duties on selected capital goods from 20% to 15% - 5%. This includes machinery used in textile industries, footwear industries etc.

President in his address has strongly said about new deal for rural India. In this regard, the Prime Minister under his chairmanship has formed rural infrastructure Committee. This shows a deep commitment towards rural infrastructure development.

President also in his Address has indicated constitution of National Rural Health Mission; and for this purpose more allocation for funds for health care. This is a welcome step. It is clearly depicted in current years budgetary proposal also, wherein Department of Health and Family Welfare have been allocated a sum of Rs.10280 crores against 8420 crores last year. It is an increased of around 2000 crores. For Bharat Nirman, a plan has been conceived. It will have six components namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity. In each of these areas, we have set targets for the year 2009. These targets are:

1. To bring an additional one crore hectares under assured irrigation;
2. to connect all villages that have a population of 1000 (or 500 in hilly/tribal areas) with a road;

3. To construct 60 lakh additional houses for the poor'
4. To provide drinking water to the remaining 74,000 habitations that are uncovered;
5. To reach electricity to the remaining 1,25,000 villages and offer electricity connection to 2.3 crore households; and
6. To give telephone connectivity to the remaining 66,822 villages.

Rashtrapati Ji in his Address said that for rural development, it is essential that rural development institution should be revived. In this direction, for the first time, under UPA Government, a new Ministry Panchayati Raj Ministry was constituted. This Ministry with the consultation of Chief Ministers has prepared 150 Point Action Plan under 18 aspects of Panchayati Raj.

Here I would also like to emphasize that the National Employment Guarantee Bill or National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is giving birth to a new kind of planning culture in our country. Earlier, micro-planning use to take place from top to bottom. And thus suffered from various inherit anomalies. Now with the use of these Panchyati Raj Institutions micro-planning scheme will move from bottom to top and thus inheriting grass root component.

Here I would like to state that last year, food for work programme was started in which 4020 crores were spent. And for then next fiscal year, 11000 crores would be spent on National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This shows our government's commitment for the cause.

Our Prime Minister soon after assuming office visited Andhra Pradesh to meet the family for farmers who had committed suicide. It is in-adequate availability of agriculture credit, one of the important reasons that drive our farmers to take such an extreme step. Our President in his Address said that within three years of taking over, the UPA Government will double the amounts of agriculture credit. Last year, the agriculture credit depicted the growth of more than thirty percent. For the next fiscal year also, 30% growth over 1,08,500 crore has been targeted in the Budget.

Micro-Finance Programme to link the self-help groups with the banks has also picked up in the last year. Wherein two lakhs self help groups have been linked with 560 banks. For the next fiscal year this target has been raised to 2.5 lakhs. This again will help rural India to develop.

For the purposes of planning, we use to take only ground water and surface water as resources. Since last year, for the first time, our Government has accorded due importance to rain water as a resource.

Average annual rainfall across the country is 1100 mm. If we used just one percent of the total land space available for storage of this rainfall, we can get 40 billion Cubic Metres which would result in hundred litres of water per day per person.

India has sixteen percent of the global population. But only 4 % of global water resources. At the beginning of the century, 8200 Cubic meters was available per person. In 1955 it came down to 5277 Cubic meters and now it is just 1953 cubic meters per person. Thus, the biggest problem, which India will have to face in this century, would be that of water. Unfortunately, the problem of water is linked to the problem of electricity because 30.5 % of electricity in our country is consumed to pump out water from the ground.

Ever since the UPA Government has taken over, restoration of water bodies is being given special importance. Water harvesting is being promoted in a big way. Accelerated irrigation benefit programme (AIBP) has been re-scheduled and made more pragmatic. Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) has been accorded more money and importance.

In the end I would like to say that our Government not only works but it works silently. We do not only believe in India shining, but we believe in India shining for all.

We do not believe only in India shining but we believe in building India.

We do not believe only on India shining but we believe on a new deal for rural India.

We not only believe in growth but we believe in growth with a human touch.

Speaker Sir, I got elected to the Legislative Assembly of Delhi at a very young age in 1993. Since last few years, the eroding credibility of our leaders shown to be accepting bribes has made me think whether joining politics was a right decision. But UPA chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi's sacrifice and instead putting in one of the most honest and upright person as the Prime Minister, has given me a sense of purpose to be in politics.

I thank you sir.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

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14.46 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Thursday, March 3, 2005/Phalguna 12, 1926 (Saka).*

[R1]Fld B

[r2]Cd. By c

[bnu3]Fd. By e

[r4]followed by F

[r5]fd by f

[R6]Fld by g1

[R7]h1fd

[r8]Fld by j

[m9]Fd. by l1

[e10]FOLLOWED BY M1

[R11]Fd. by n1.e

[\[krr12\]](#)Fld by o1

[\[reporter13\]](#)Fld by P

[\[R14\]](#)(fd. by q1)

[\[h15\]](#)Fd by r1

[\[R16\]](#)T1fd

[\[snb17\]](#)Fld by x1.e

[\[R18\]](#)fd by y