

[SHRI M. SELVARASU]

In 1988, the movement of ships was stopped and the activities in the port came to a grinding halt depriving thousands of people of their livelihood. Lakhs of people were directly or indirectly affected due to the closure of the port.

I like to mention here that the port already has the basic infrastructure necessary for a port. It has light house, warehouse, Customs office and railway network. The proposal to revive the port has already been supported by the State Government. So, I request the Union Government to take over the port and declare it as a major port.

The operation of cargo as well as passenger ships should be started and a unit of Dredging Corporation should be set up.

14.59 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS...CONTD...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up motion of thanks on the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (OUTER DELHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday I placed some points before you. Without taking much time I shall make a few more submissions in brief. The Prime Minister of the Present Government is being perceived as a Prime Minister of promises. He makes too many promises which he may not fulfil. He never feels miserly to make promises but his action does not give any indication that he is serious about the promises. For example, he made an announcement from the rampart of the Red Fort that a separate State of Uttarakhand be created. The same thing he said at the time of electioneering in Uttar Pradesh. But neither any Bill has been brought nor any effort has been made by him in this regard.

15.00 hrs.

There was a newspaper report that during the last 8 months he made as many as 8,000 promises. We do not know the exact number, but it is my sincere advice to him that he should not make promises and if he makes he should fulfil them. This will increase the credibility of his Government. One more thing that, I would like to bring to the notice of his Government is about Delhi. Delhi has been given a legislative Assembly. The strange thing is that, now it is neither a Union Territory nor does it enjoy the powers of a full State. In the entire country there is hardly any other State which has no control on land or law and order. A State can not function without law and order under its control. We have heard about landless labour, but not landless Government. There is a Government; but it has

no right on land. There are small States in the country which consist of 5 to 7 lakh population, but they have been given the status of full statehood. So I feel that, the Government should enact a new Act in respect of Delhi and it should essentially be given the status of full statehood. Till such time law and order is placed at its disposal, it will be difficult for the Government to effect full control.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many a thing has been said and we were branded communalists. If a Government is constituted in violation of the constitutional provision, what should it be called? Under the directive principles of State Policy Article 48 of the Constitution states that the State shall endeavour to organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall, in particular, take steps for preserving and improving the breeds and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle. Till such time these provision continue to remain under directive principles, Cow slaughter will continue in one or the other state. I therefore, demand that the Government should enact a Central Act for this purpose and put a ban on cow slaughter. If making a demand to put a ban on cow slaughter in this country is communal, I cannot help without farmer, cow and ox, we cannot move. While Article 48 makes the above stipulations, Article 44 speaks of a uniform civil code for the entire country. The Government goes to the extent of speaking against Article 44. It may be Article 48 or 44, if the Government or the members of treasury bench speak against these provisions, what should we call it? The 42nd amendment was made in 1976. This amendment and the preamble of this Constitution state that the country will be a secular and socialistic country. Words like unity and integrity were added to it. The provisions of socialism and secularism incorporated in the preamble in 1976 have not so far applied to Jammu and Kashmir. Is Jammu and Kashmir a separate state? Is it not a part of this country? Don't we need secularism there? This type of situation is being created. It is the duty of the Government to abide by the constitutional provisions and get them implemented. It does not believe to the Government to speak against the constitution or to disrespect it.

Under Chapter-IV, Article 51(a) of the Constitution states that it will the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem. If the Government disrespects it or does not abide by its provisions, what should we do? In a democratic set up, there can be no argument for violation of the constitution by the people who are at the helm of affairs. You will also agree that it is not good for any one.

Sir, I will conclude after making few more submissions. A lot of things have been said in the Address about poors. As I have said earlier that the situation of 1971 is being repeated and crocodile's tears are being shed for the poors. In this regards I would like to state here the feelings expressed by the poor people. They say that you have shed enough tears for them but now leave them to their

own fate. In this context I would like to convey the feelings of the poor to the Government through a urdu couplet.

"Mujhe Tajurba hai khaloos ka,
mujhe baksh do mere hakimon,
mujhe mere hal par chhod kar,
na daya karo, na dava karo".

In this couplet the poor person says that if you leave him to his own fate, he would get survived and the treatment, which you are giving to him, would lead him to death.

In the end I would like to say one more thing. It is being said that they are all united against the communal forces. You may get united but one thing must be kept in mind that this Government neither have public mandate nor public support. Under such circumstances if a Government is formed that can survive only for a short period. I cannot say how long this Government would survive. But they must keep one thing in mind that they neither have public mandate nor enjoy public support and that is why their Government will not last long. They are also getting such lessons one after the other. This Government have been cobbled together and the public has given be filing reply to it in the different elections held in January and February 1997. Punjab Assembly elections, Chhindwara's by-elections, election for Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Mumbai and Cantonment Board elections of Delhi have shown that the public opinion is against this Government. These elections have shown that general public has rejected this coalition Government. They are not getting support even on a single seat. These all parties have come into existence because of splits or defections and now they are saying that they would lead this country. They should first see their own party strength before making any tall claims of saving this country.

One thing I would like to say to the Government that, first of all, they should forget that they can provide leadership to the country. They have no control over anything and they cannot give any direction to the country. Many small groups have come together to form a Government so what leadership they can provide to the country. They all have come into existence after causing split or defection in their own parties and now they are claiming to lead the country. I think it is a very difficult thing.

In the end I would like to say one more thing that recently the differences between Shri Chavan and Shri Narasimha Rao have come to light. Shri Chavan says that he wanted to prevent Ayodhya incident but Shri Rao did not allow him to do so. What is the mystery behind it? Both Shri Rao and Shri Chavan should state as to what informations they have had about Ayodhya. Why they do not say anything about it? Why they do not take the Parliament into confidence? Why they are giving statement outside the Parliament? They should come here and tell the House about the facts. All the Congress leaders including Shri Rao should tell about the information that they have had about Ayodhya. I would say that these two leaders should also be made party in the on going legal proceeding of Ayodhya Case. One more thing I would like

to tell to the so called secular forces that in 1984 this country witnessed unprecedented communal riots and at that time this party fought elections by fanning anti-sikhs and anti Punjab sentiments all over the country. This type of secularism suits them only and not to us.

Sir, Shri Sharad Pawar is not present here. Mumbai riots took place in 1993 but no such communal riots took place anywhere in BJP ruled states. Every one knows who was Dawood and who were involved in riots...*(Interruptions)* Riots like Mumbai were not there....*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD): That was the reaction of your people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: All right, if that was our reaction then why that reaction took place in a Congress ruled state and why not in BJP ruled state. If that was because of us, the reaction should have taken place in BJP ruled state. But there were no riots in those states. The Congress party had done it in a well planned manner and the consequential incidents indicate the facts...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. MALLIKARJUN (MAHBUBNAGAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this kind of allegation cannot be tolerated. How can a senior Member like him speak like this? He must know that Congress is a secular Party and it cannot indulge itself in these things.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: I have given the example of 1984 riots. After which the Congress lost its secular credentials.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (BANGALORE SOUTH): Why are they interrupting like this?

DR. MALLIKARJUN: This is your illusion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let him conclude.

DR. MALLIKARJUN: We will remain a secular and socialistic Party.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Sir, The Punjab remained a terrorist affected state for ten years from 1980. Who is responsible for the terrorism in Punjab? Who is responsible for terrorism in Kashmir? Why the Congress Party does not accept the responsibility? You tell me who is responsible for all these things?...*(Interruptions)* First you make allegations against anyone and then prove them. That is why I would like to say that in view of the incidents, that are taking place in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh now a days, we would have to think as to who is responsible for them too...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (LADAKH): When Babri mosque was demolished, your party's Chief Minister, Shri Kalyan Singh was there in power...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: The peace that was

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maintained in UP and the law and order that was maintained by Shri Kalyan Singh during his tenure is still remembered by the people of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Every one knows about it and there is no need to say anything about it.

Sir, I have to conclude with the words that this Government could neither generate employment opportunities, nor increase national income, nor it could change the fate of the poor people. If at all it has increased something, it is debt, unemployment and dearness. Therefore, such Government has no right to ask for a support on this address. Infact, they have no right to take the name of secularism.

I am concluding after making one more submission. These all parties have come together to form a Government but even then it is a lame duck Government. Therefore, the Government must go. I challenge that if all of you combine together...*(Interruptions)* My challenge is that all of you should fight our election against us on this very issue of secularism. Then we will tell you that if any leader has secular image today, he is Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee and any party which has secular image that is Bharatiya Janata Party only. We would like to throw this challenge to you and all of you should accept it. You all should fight elections unitedly, so that you may not say that you have lost because you fought with one another.

Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I oppose this Motion of thanks. This Government has no right to ask for support on this motion or expect any help to get this motion passed.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar to speak.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already given the notice stating that I would give my speech in Marathi. So, accordingly, I hope that arrangements would have been made for interpretation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It must have been made.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: So, I will start my speech in Marathi.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (MURSHIDABAD): I want to speak in Bengali.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: You are welcome to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR (BARAMULLA): Please speak in Hindi.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): He wants to speak in his mother tongue.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No intervention please. You please speak when you get a chance.

15.24 hrs.

(SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

*SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): Mr. Chairman Sir, Hon. Member Shri Sharad Yadav moved a motion of Thanks on President's Address and Hon. Member Shri N.S.V. Chitthan seconded the motion. I rise to speak on this motion. Hon. President of our country is a scholar and respectable person. As a proverb says that a learned person is respected everywhere. I express my respect for Hon. President. He has a long experience of administration. However, I rise here to express my views on the President's Address on behalf of my party.

Mr. Chairman Sir, President's Address is a document which reviews the good work done in the past and provides an outline of work to be taken up in future to this House and to the whole nation. It is also expected to serve as a guideline for the Government to carry on its administration in future.

However, after reading this Address, the thoughts which struck me were of a different nature.

The Government has completed a tenure of eight months. It is necessary to see the direction in which this Government has made the progress. If we look at page 2 of this Address, Hon. President has referred to the present situation in Jammu & Kashmir. What is happening in Jammu & Kashmir? The elections were held. The Government elected by the people is ruling that state...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No intervention please. You speak when you get your turn.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: The whole country and the world knows about the law and order situation. I am also happy that a duly elected Government is ruling that State. Elections were held and popular Government was installed in that State. But the incidents which took place after the elections are really painful. Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir said that if they wanted half of the Kashmir could be given to them. But let us solve the problem of Kashmir. The question before me is that who gave the authority to the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir to make such a statement. This is a very important question. Apart from this, recently our Prime Minister said that we are prepared to make some compromise in some respects. I am not aware as to what is the nature of this compromise. But he had made a statement to the effect

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

that we could solve the problem of Kashmir by making some compromise. But later on I came to know that he said that he had not made such a statement. If he had not made such a statement, then it is well and good. I congratulate him. In my opinion, when the question of the sovereignty of the country is involved. It is not proper for the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir or Prime Minister of India to make such a statement without taking this August House into confidence. There is no reference of this statement in the President's Address.

On page 2 of the President's address, there is an indication of economic policy of our country. What is the economic policy of our country? It also briefly dwells on economic situation in the country. I cannot agree with this observation made in President's address because it does not reflect factual position correctly.

It is also the duty of the Government to face the ground reality. From this point of view, let me point out that President's address fails to reflect the factual position regarding the state of economy.

Sir, page 4 of the President's address dwells upon power generation in our country. It is proposed to entrust power generation to the private sector for significantly augmenting power generation and meeting the power requirement of our country. Without power generation, we cannot achieve progress of our country. In my opinion, without adequate power generation industries also cannot grow. Without growth of industries we cannot also achieve economic progress. But when we seek external debt for raising power projects in our country, it is very necessary that the Government has full control over these power projects. Otherwise, slowly we may hand over reins of our country in the hands of foreign countries. We also have the apprehension that our economic policy may be controlled by those countries. Our apprehension is not without any logic. Therefore, the Government should be cautious of this aspect.

There is another statement on page No. 4 of the address which I could not fully comprehend. It says, "We are taking steps to attract long term pension and insurances, funds from abroad". The question that arises is that if you are going to invite foreign capital in this sector, are you going to hand over insurance sector also to the foreign countries? This is the doubt which arises in my mind. Insurance is a big industry in our country. We have nationalised this industry. In such a situation, it will not be proper for us to allow foreigners to intervene in this sector. If this is allowed, it is bound to adversely affect insurance sector in our country.

Paragraph No. 16 of the President's Address refers to national highways. Through an ordinance provision has been made to acquire land. There is no doubt that national highway should be properly maintained. As long as all national highways are properly maintained, communication network cannot be called to be satisfactory. As there are veins in the human body, similarly roads are veins of a country. If the highways are not properly maintained, the

progress of the country is next to impossible. If we look at the history of past 50 years, we find that only a few highways are properly maintained. Rest of the roads are in a poor shape. One does not know whether one should find a pit on a road or road in a pit. If land of poor people is going to be acquired for national highway, compensation at present market rate should be paid to the poor people whose land is going to be acquired for this purpose. If this is done, there is no need to oppose the presidential ordinance in this regard. But I would like to humbly suggest the Government that it should pay compensation at market rate to the persons who are affected by acquisition of land.

On page 15 of the address, it is mentioned that oil deficit is of the order of 15500 crores of rupees. Howsoever the Government may deny, I am sure that hike in petroleum prices is unavoidable in this year's budget. If another major hike of prices of petroleum products is going to take place within a period of six months, it is bound to push up the prices of all commodities enormously in the country and the life of the people will become miserable. If you are going to increase the prices of petroleum products, you should consider the fate of the people, especially poor people in the country. We should also try to find out which are the factors responsible for crisis in the petroleum sector. If there is deficit of 15500 crore rupees only in one sector, it only means that necessary decisions which should have been taken in oil sector well in time have not been taken. Everytime the decision was postponed. It was thought that the next Government would take the decision. This was the approach which was adopted. As a result of that today we are facing the situation of enormous hike in the prices of petroleum products. It has almost become a policy that in every year's budget, there is hike of prices of petroleum products. I am not happy about this trend and we must find a remedy for this situation. It is said that we must save fuel. But how can we do it? There is traffic jam on all the roads in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai because of which we are wasting so much of fuel. In spite of campaign to save fuel and so many banners displayed all around, we are not in a position to save fuel. Thousands of litres of petrol/diesel is wasted everyday because of traffic jams in our country. It is only leading to pollution which is adversely affecting the health of the people. On one hand pollution is affecting the health of the people, and on the other they have to bear the brunt of price hike of petroleum products. The Government should be careful about it and should not go in for further price hike of petroleum products.

Paragraph No. 19 deals with agriculture sector. Ours is an agricultural country. We have to take necessary steps to improve the condition of agriculture in our country. Water management is a basic problem. Since it is not proper it has adversely affected agriculture. In the past 50 years we have failed to have proper planning of water management. As a result this year we had to import 20 lakh tons of wheat. Instead of exporting wheat which we grow in huge quantity in our country, we have to import it. As reported by newspapers the wheat which is being imported is not of good standard. If we have to import wheat and if it is

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going to adversely affect health of our people for generations to come, it is certainly a matter of grave concern. Though there is a reference in President's Address that our agriculture should be self sufficient, more reference will not be enough. We have to formulate concrete action plan for this purpose. Even in case of urea, the corruption involved is of the order of Rs. 33,000 crores and it is needed a matter of serious concern. Since we are surrounded by corruption all around, it depends upon the Government as to how we will take up our schemes and complete them. The Government should be vigilant about corruption which has crept in our system and it should take steps to improve agriculture in our country. If we pay necessary attention to the sector of agriculture, I am sure it would go long way in improving the economy of our country. I am sure that proper water management, adequate availability of urea and other inputs needed by farmers would make agriculture profitable proposition. We have to establish proper linkages between agricultural produce and marketing. Presently we find that middlemen operating in the market are cornering the entire profit and poor farmers are left in the lurch. The farmers work hard for growing foodgrains. Yet they do not get any share of profit. They remain where they are. This is the feeling which is growing in the country. That is why there is resentment in the farming community over this issue. That is why the Government must pay necessary attention to agricultural sector and improve the lot of farmers.

We do not have proper management of water resources in our country. Recently a scheme called "Ganga Kalyan Yojana" is being implemented by the Government. Schemes of this nature should be implemented by the Government. This point is included in paragraph No. 22 of the President's Address. "Provisions for irrigation facilities for small and marginal farmers, especially those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has received impetus through a new programme called Ganga Kalyan." Different schemes are given very good names which evoke pious sentiments. When we say 'Ganga', we visualise pure water of the river Ganga. But are you really going to impelment a beneficial scheme befitting the name of the sacred river? Many schemes are announced, funds are announced for this scheme, yet these schemes are not implemented. This has become a tendency of the Government. It is necessary that whatever schemes are announced. They are implemented fully in the interest of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and poor people of the country. Any decision taken by the Government in the interest of poor people will definitely be supported by all members of Parliament and everybody would welcome such schemes. But these schemes should not remain merely on paper but these schemes should be actually implemented. Whatever planning we do, it must be executed. The funds which are allotted should be actually spent on those schemes. It is necessary to create this confidence among the people. This is the need of the hour and I hope that Government will take necessary measures in this direction.

Poverty alleviation is a major task. There is a reference to it in para No. 24 of this address. I toured three or four States of the country. I asked some questions to the Chief Secretaries of these States regarding poverty alleviation. I asked them about the exact number of families living below the poverty line in their States. But I did not get satisfactory reply from anyone of the States. We have taken a decision to provide foodgrains to the people living below the poverty line at half the price of foodgrains available in public distribution system. 33 crores of people are said to be living below the poverty line. But I have my doubts whether really 33 crores of people are living below the poverty line because the method of collecting information regarding people living below poverty line is faulty. If the schemes meant for poverty alleviation really help the poor people. I will be happy about it. But a scheme is announced and it is misused by some people. We must find out who are the people who are misusing these schemes. We must ensure that poverty alleviation schemes are strictly implemented and intended beneficiaries get their benefit.

There is a reference to unemployment of educated people in this address. The number of educated unemployed persons is very huge in our country. It is misfortune of this country that highly qualified young men of our country are wandering from pillar to post. Yet they fail to get employment or start any occupation. For combating this situation a remedy has been suggested in para 27 of this address. This raises a doubt in my mind. Lakhs of educated people are unemployed in this country. About their employment it is mentioned in the address that at least one million educated unemployed youth will be supported every year to start viable enterprises and business through better subsidy, training and credit arrangements. It is very good to write all this and read it. It appears that we would give jobs to one million people. It is like the lamp of Alladin to these people. It creates the impression that crores of people would get the jobs tomorrow. While making such announcements the Government should be cautious. Had the Government indicated the exact number of people who would be given jobs in the next four years, that would have been better. At least we would have felt that the Government is doing something concrete for these people. This is just a general statement which will only arouse hopes of these people and nothing tangible would be achieved. If this scheme is honestly implemented with proper planning, and if we are in a position to give jobs to the educated unemployed youth, I would welcome this scheme. But I have my doubts whether such a scheme would be actually implemented because our experience of 45 years shows that we give only slogan of 'Garibi Hatao'. But in reality poverty is not alleviated and the poor remain where they are. Giving catchy slogans and creating hopes in the minds of people is one thing and actually impelmenting these schemes is quite other. So Government should not merely announce schemes, but it should actually take action and implement them.

There is a mention of 7 point Employment Programme which was finalised in the meeting of Chief Ministers. Hon. Prime Minister held meetings with Chief Ministers and it

was decided to implement a programme which would help unemployed people. It is all very good. In our country the same party which rules at the Centre does not rule in the States. There was a time when a single party used to get 400-450 seats and rule the country. But today ten parties come together to form coalition Government. In the States also different parties are in power and they are grappling with the local issues. That is why a single party is not in power at the Centre and also in the States. In such a situation, Hon. Prime Minister deserves to be congratulated for convening Chief Ministers' Conference and announcing 7 point programme before them. I am happy that Drinking Water Programme has also been taken up. There are lakhs of villages in our country which do not have drinking water even after 50 years of independence. They have to travel a distance of 2 or 3 kms. to fetch drinking water and somehow quench their thirst. So a decision has been taken in regard to supply of drinking water. A programme of Primary Health Care to cater to needs of every group of 5000 persons is going to be taken up. Similarly a programme of universal and compulsory education and measures to spread literacy is going to be taken up. In this connection I would like to point out that only 40% of our people are educated while 60% of the people are deprived of education. 50 years have passed after independence. We are celebrating golden jubilee of our independence. Yet there are lakhs and lakhs of persons in our villages who have not derived any benefit of independence. They have never tasted fruit of independence and they do not know what independence is. There are lakhs of villages in the country which are yet to be visited by Prime Minister, Chief Minister or any Minister. In this background, it is good that 7 point programme to promote employment has been announced. I would only plead that it should be implemented. As this point has been mentioned in the President's address, it would be binding on the Government to implement this programme. Therefore, I hope that the Government would implement this programme.

Paragraph No. 27 mentions that 32 crore families are living below the poverty line. A provision of Rs. 2216 crores has been made for this purpose. A special Central assistance of Rs. 2216 crore has placed at the disposal of the States. Here I would like to point out one thing. This amount has to be preserved and utilised by the states. There is an item called "Special Component". We must find out how many States are spending funds under the head of Special Component. There are some instances in our country where some States are keeping the funds under special component plan in the bank and that amount was used for some other purpose. Those funds were not used for the persons for whom those were meant. So, instead of announcing the scheme and making significant provision creating the impression that something great is being achieved for these people, it would be better to implement this scheme effectively.

There is also provision for assistance to shelterless poor for housing activity. It is very good. There are lakhs of families which do not have shelter. It is important to

provide them shelter. When a meeting was held in Delhi to chalk out programmes for celebrating golden jubilee of independence, so many programmes were proposed. Crores of rupees were proposed to be spent on this programme. The programmes were to be organised in various States. Many programmes would be telecast on TV but while celebrating golden jubilee of independence, we must ask whether we have provided houses to the poor. It is the responsibility of the rulers to meet the basic needs of the people. Food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: I am the only person to speak from my party.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your party is only 14 minutes and you have taken 28 minutes. Now, you may try to conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: But there are some Hon. Members who have taken around one-and-a-half hours.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not the point. You have taken double the time that has been allotted to your party. You cannot take more than that.

(*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not expect a reply from the Chair. Total time allotted is nine hours. You get to know the time allotted to each party from the Chief Whip. Shri Sarpotdar, now you may try to conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: I will conclude, but please give me some time.

The amount meant for poverty alleviation should reach 32 crores of families living below poverty line. But I am doubtful whether this would really happen. It is necessary to raise a machinery for this purpose and see that share which is allotted to the State is spent on the poor people. This is a good programme but I would plead that its implementation should be proper. I hope that the Government would do it.

There is a proposal to provide reservation for women. Everyday there is discussion on this issue. I had expressed my views on this issue in the beginning. But there was opposition to those views. An International Conference was convened to discuss this issue. Women representatives of all countries were invited. Their opinion was ascertained in this Conference. A view was expressed in this Confer-

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ence that political parties should be asked to give maximum representation to women. It may even go upto 50%. But there is no need to provide reservation to women. This was the opinion expressed by International Women's Conference. But let me inform this House that Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Maharashtra Legislative Council have passed resolution providing reservation for women in these bodies. But International Women's conference on which crores of rupees were spent had expressed different opinion and I feel that opinion expressed by the Conference should not be neglected in this manner.

There is a reference to protection of workers, minimum wages, unorganised workers, assured wages to agricultural workers and such other issues have also been referred to in this Address. I would like to point out that many industries have become sick, many have been referred to BIFR, many workers have become jobless. The condition of jobless workers is really very bad. In cities like Mumbai and Calcutta many old factories have closed down, under voluntary retirement scheme many workers have been paid their dues and they are sitting idle at home. This has created a situation that many people are jobless and those also are having jobs are also becoming jobless. If this situation has to be improved, the Government of the day should pay attention to it. We must implement the concept of minimum wages in all the States. Government should pay attention to unorganised sector. Agricultural workers should also be paid assured wages as mentioned in the President's address.

Our scientists have done significant research in the area of space. Our scientists are second to none in the world. In fact, they are better than other scientists in the world. I congratulate our scientists who have enhanced our prestige in the world. All the necessary assistance and equipment should be made available to the scientists and see that our country makes progress in the world. Our army, navy and air force are doing commendable job. They should be given all assistance, equipment, sophisticated weapons which they need. If this is done, our armed forces can prove to be the best in the world. They have proved their valour not only once but four times so far. Therefore, the Government should use all its might in supporting our armed forces. Our armed forces are prepared to face any situation. Therefore, the whole country should rally behind them. They have the capability and will. But they lack arms. Arms should be supplied to them.

A point was made about our relationship with Pakistan. It was said that we will sort out issues by dialogue and discussion. I am in favour of improving relationship with Pakistan. But it does not mean that Pakistan will be allowed to play havoc in this country. Recently there were two bomb blasts in Delhi. Who are the people behind destabilising this country. Government has told several times that Pakistan has hand in it. If Pakistan has hand in it, then it must be dealt firmly. Our armed forces have got the capacity to deal firmly. We must therefore ensure that nobody is allowed to interfere in our affairs and have an upper hand.

The Government should ensure that nobody is allowed to destabilise this country. I request the Government to take this responsibility.

I am very happy that the problem of sharing water between West Bengal and Bangladesh has been solved. I am happy that at least one problem has been solved. But the problem of crores of Bangladeshi infiltrators ought to have been solved. I am surprised that there is no reference to this problem in President's Address. We are not in a position to meet the basic needs of our people. How will we support these Bangladeshis who are in large number in big cities. If outsiders come, they would pose a great danger to our country.

I congratulate the Government for improving relations with Israel. We did not improve relations with Israel thinking that Arab countries would be displeased because of this. Therefore, we did not have diplomatic ties with Israel. Now we will have diplomatic relations with Israel. Israel's expertise in agriculture and technology will be helpful to us. We should have exchange of thoughts and ideas with Israel and also establish friendly relations with other countries. We should make our country rich and prosperous by taking these steps. The sovereign House of Lok Sabha has a responsibility to discharge. We have resolved in the past that we would get back our land from China and also get back Azad Kashmir. We must implement these resolutions and take steps in that direction. The Government should also take steps in this regard and should not merely announce slogans.

Hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee always refers to Dr. Datta Samant. So, I would just like to make passing reference to it. Dr. Samant was assassinated in Mumbai. I would never support that assassination. It is necessary to go into causes and circumstances which led to his assassination. Investigation in this case is going on. People have a feeling that there is a party behind this murder. But I would like to point out that this is not a fact. Dr. Samant was a staunch leader. He was a close friend of mine. I had close relation with him even before he entered trade union activity. But it is necessary to find out how many people were killed because of his trade union activity. It is not necessary to eliminate people in trade union activity. I only want to point out that crocodile tears which are being shed in this context is not a proper thing to do.

With these words, I oppose the Motion of Thanks on President's Address and thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this motion.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Motion of thanks on President's Address is being discussed in the House. I have listened to the speeches of Shri Sharad Yadav, Congress leader Shri Sharad Pawar and some other hon. members very seriously and carefully.

The country is passing through a very unique situation. When we listen to the speeches, we do not find any consistency between the speeches and the prevailing political scenario of the country when Shri Sharad Pawar

was moving the Motion of thanks he did not utter even in single word in support of the so called liberalisation policy of the Government whereas in the President's Address it was this very policy for which the Government has claimed maximum credit for its achievements.

It is a unique situation that this United Front constitutes of 13 different political parties. Someone was saying that number has increased to 14. Two constituents of this Front—Tiwari Congress and Madhya Pradesh Vikas Party—have been merged with Congress Party but still its number remains 13 or may be 14 because Kishan Kamgar Party has also joined it...*(Interruptions)* It is all right but it is a unique arithmetic that its number always remain 13 ...*(Interruptions)* The biggest constituent of this Front is Janata Dal and in the last Lok Sabha they were sitting in opposition benches. So, I would like to remind them of their views that they were having at that time about the economic policies of Congress Party. Now they are sitting on treasury benches and saying repeatedly that they would continue with the economic policies of Congress Party. What are the policies of the Congress Party to which they want to continue? In the name of economic liberalisation, they are creating a situation in which doors have been fully opened for multinational companies and now any company can come to India, manufacture some products, earn as much profit as they can and take back the earning to their respective countries...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Excepting 'Chaara'.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is only Janata Dal people who are involved in fodder scam. That expertise is available in our country. Foreign people can learn such tactics from our people. Our people learn so many things from foreign countries so they should also learn something from us. We should export this talent...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb Shri Nitish Kumar. The time is very limited.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I agree with him. This suggestion of Congress Party should be accepted and this technology of fodder scam should be exported. By doing so we can earn a lot...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: All related technology should be exported.

16.00 hrs.

It has been declared by the Government that they would continue with the policy of the previous Government and would allow the foreign companies to earn as much profit as they can. I have listened to the speeches of some hon. Members and found that Congress Party is a unique party. Shri Deve Gowda says that his Government would continue with the policies of Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Man Mohan Singh. But this Congress Party change its stand on the spur of the moment. After the removal of Shri Narasimha Rao from the leadership of Congress Party a new look has been given to it. It feel surprised to hear the statement of Congress spokesman Shri V.N. Gadgil. Now Shri Deve Gowda and his Government have adopted the policy of liberalisation so the Congress has once again turned towards its past policies. That is why I have said that Congress is a unique party. It had done nationalisation. It gave a slogan of (*Garibi Hatao*) poverty alleviation. It had done so many other things also in this country. After that they became very fond of liberalisation. We realised in the last Lok Sabha and they also said it here that it appeared as if everything has gone wrong in this country. I would like to know as to who had done it. It was your party which has been running the Government and implementing its policies. But I would like to say that when there is change of leadership, they change their policies too. I do not know what is the stand of congress party regarding these policies.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. They are diverting your attention.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, in a way, they are helping me.

[Translation]

It hardly matters, yesterday I got an opportunity to listen to the speech of Shri Sharad Pawar. It did not appear me that I was listening to a speech of Congress Party leader. That entire speech was worth delivering from the Red Fort. Therefore, the United Front should understand that Shri Sharad Pawar was doing rehearsal for delivering speech from the Red Fort. They should understand this situation. The Government says that it would continue with the policies of the Congress Party but the Congress Party is itself not clear about its policies. It has been mentioned with pride in President's Address.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS (IDUKKI): Now only you are coming to the Rashtrapati's speech...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Now discussion on President's Address is going on. It is also a unique thing. The context of President's Address is prepared by the Government and

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR]

the same is read by the Hon. President. But this time when the Hon. President moved from Rashtrapati Bhavan to Parliament House, he had another copy of the Address and later on a line was deleted from it. Some newspapers also covered this news. I do not know how far it is true, either the Hon. President knows about it or the Government know about it. There was some indirect criticism of the Congress Party and that was later on deleted. It has been mentioned in the Address at paragraph 16 that

[English]

"In case of Ports, a comprehensive policy has been announced for attracting private investment and providing for automatic approval for foreign equity up to 74 per cent".

[Translation]

It means you are allowing foreign equity upto 74 per cent. It means foreign companies would invest money and build ports. During Congress regime the Government asked Cargil company to built port at Kandla. A massive movement was launched under the leadership of Shri George Fernandes against this move and a large number of Satyagrahi from different parts of country joined that agitation. Consequently the Government had to change its policy. Earlier a port was already there at Kandla but after partition that became part of Pakistan. That port was built from strategic point of view. That was very important from security point of view. There is lot of earning from this port. Cargil company was being given land there to build port. Now foreign companies can build ports anywhere in India...*(Interruption)* That was a separate case of making salt but building of port was also there. Cargil company was given contract for making salt which was ultimately forced to flee by the people. Earlier, coco cola was also forced to flee from the country but later on when Congress Party again came to power, they first brought Pepsi cola and later on Coco Cola. I would like to know from the government as to what was the necessity to call foreign companies to construct ports. I would like to know whether our port do not have enough earnings? Are they running into loss? If they are not running into loss and are able to mobilise their own internal resources, then they can do their modernisation too.

Today Rail Budget has been presented. The Railway take its developmental activities through its own internal resources. So similarly port can make its own development by its internal resources. A few days back the hon. Minister of industry was saying in reply to a question that automation is taking place all over the world and our ports are becoming out moded and the Government is bringing foreign investment for their automation. There is no harm in it. When the security matter was raised, he said that now a days it has become satellite imagery. If every thing is satellite imagery then why photography is still prohibited at the air ports. In port areas one cannot take photograph. What kind of policies the Government is going to adopt? Ports are important from security point of view and you are

inviting foreign companies to make investment there. MNCs will come here, earn profits and will go back to their countries. They may come or may not come but you have made your intention clear. You have not expressed any concern about the security of the country. Shri Sharad Pawar has said so many things about defence forces. He was discussing the need to provide sophisticated weapons to our forces. Whenever we talk about nation security, we directly link it with our defence forces only but the real threat to national security is from the separatist elements who are involved in the sporadic incidents of violence in different parts of the country and who are bent upon disintegrating this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask, through you, whether we have threat to our national security only from the people who are involved in terrorist activities or whether we have threat only at our borders from the neighbouring countries with whom we do not have friendly relations? We do have threat from them but inspite of that we are facing threat to our national security from other quarters also. Just now I have mentioned one of such threats that the indiscriminate foreign investment, which is being allowed in the country is also a threat to our security.

Secondly, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a news item appeared in 'Time Magazine' dated 23rd December. I do not know whether Government's attention has been drawn towards it or not. It has been stated that three India news reporters have collected this news at a very high risk. They have published a photograph of More which is situated at Indo-Burma border. There is unrestricted smuggling activities of heroin at More from neighbouring country Burma. All of us know that the democracy has been crushed and there is military rule in Burma. It is also a well known fact that Military Government of Burma is getting all kinds of support from anti-Indian forces. We are fail to understand as to what is the foreign policy of our Government. Burma can be our good friend. People of Burma are friendly to us but the present Government of Burma is not behaving like a friendly nation. There is golden triangle consist of Burma, Thailand and Laos where opium is grown in a large quantity and it is used as raw material for heroin. Opium is being smuggled to More where heroin is produced from it. Unrestricted smuggling activities of opium and heroin is going on at our border but our Government remains indiffererent to it. Every one knows what is the condition of Manipur State. The number of AIDS patients is rapidly increasing there. The AIDS is spreading there because of the use of drug syringes. All such activities are going on at More and from there it is being smuggled to Kathmandu, Delhi and other parts of our country. Out of this smuggled quantity of heroin, 60 per cent is being consumed in the country itself. At present 3000 tonnes of heroin is being produced in Burma. At More the cost of one kg. heroin is 10,000 dollar i.e. Rs. 3 lakh 70 thousand. In foreign countries its cost would increae by 4 to 5 times. One tonne of heroin's cost is Rs. 36 crore whereas the total production of Burma is 3000 tonnes. Even then our Government

remain indifferent to such problem. Is it not a threat to our national security. AIDS is spreading rapidly in the entire North-east areas. The number of drug addicts are also increasing. Many people are involved in smuggling. The news reporters, who have published this report, have asked whether a business on such a large scale is possible without any patronage. I do not want to say anything more than that. I also do not want to say anything about the people deployed at the border. I would like to leave that thing to the country and the Government. I would like to quote one sentence.

[*English*]

A Western drug control expert who visited the area, once asked a senior police officer what he recounts the corruption level to be on his force. "About 100 per cent", came the reply.

[*Translation*]

When Police officer was asked about the level of corruption in his force, he said, "100 percent". That is the situation on the border. No such business on such a large scale can be done without any connivance. Drug Mafia is also a subject of discussion in our country. There is hardly any film which does not picturise about the drug Mafia. It is More in the North-East from where this net is being spread all over the country and our Government is least bothered about it. Is it not a threat to national security? Corruption is widespread from top to bottom in our country. A large scale corruption is there among the upper class people of the society. Is it not a threat to the national security? If any concern is expressed about the security of the country, that must to discussed in the House. There is no mention about these things in the President's Address. The Government lack resolve and as such it is unconcerned about it.

Just three days ago the hon. Prime Minister made an announcement that people living below the poverty line would be supplied ration at half the cost from fair price shops. What does poverty line mean? Let us define the words, "people living below the poverty line". Mr. Alagh is sitting in the House I do not know what are the views of other hon. Members in this regard, but Mr. Alagh will definitely tell us the number of people living below the poverty line. The fact remains that the poverty line will be drawn according to the number of people to be shown below the poverty line. This Government has decided that the family which has a maximum of Rs. 15,000 annual income will be considered to be below the poverty line. The total number of people living below the poverty line will be counted on this basis. If this is the yardstick, the daily income of a family living below the poverty line is about Rs. 8. What is the value of Rs. 8 these days. Let anybody say what can be purchased by Rs. 8 these days. The approach paper of the Planning Commission throws light on many such things. There was an indication in one such paper that a person with an annual income of Rs. 20,000 will be considered to be below the poverty line. If Rs. 15,000 is taken as annual income, the people living

below the poverty line will be 35%. If Rs. 20,000 is taken as annual income, the number of such people comes to be 58%. This is how figures are judged about the number of people living below the poverty line. If we take Rs. 15,000 as annual income, the daily income comes to be Rs. 8/-. Similarly in case Rs. 20,000 is the annual income, the daily income works out to be Rs. 11/-. If the Government makes an announcement under the above situation, it bears no meaning. They have shown the number of people living below the poverty line as per their capacity to provide food grains to them. This is how they are manipulating the figures. The Governemnt have no direction, no thinking. They are taking it lightly. The Government is in a State of hallucination.

Yesterday, we heard Shri Rajesh Pilot's speech. Shri Sharad Pawar's speech was of different nature. It is so because he knows that if he is to assume country's leadership, he has to take support from various parties. That is why he is making a round about talk. But some of the hon. Members from the Congress Party were of the view that.....

AN HON. MEMBER: Shri Kesri is holding the post of Party Chief.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: When Kesriji is holding post of party chief, people should understand the situation. There is a saying in our State. There is no noting, no account. What Shri Sitaram Kesri says is correct. This is the fate of people who occupy posts on the basis of various calculations. There is a saying about Kesriji in Bihar. Anyhow, that is a different thing. This is a matter between Shri Pawar and him, or between Shri Chavan and him. It is an internal affair of their party. Nothing is certain about their party. It is a peculiar party.

Sir, we viewed Shri Chavan's interview. I am going to tell you a different thing...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nitish Kumar, these are very good points, but you may not get time to complete it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will not take much of your time.

16.16 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the chair*]

Madam Chairperson, this type of speech these people make, whether they belong to the Congress Party or any other party. Yesterday during the course of his speech Shri Pawar said that Shri Chatterjee had gone to Singapore. Begging due apology from the CPM cadres. I would like to make a submission. The stand they used to take while sitting in opposition benches has changed now. Their earlier stand in regards to entry of foreigners in the insurance sector is not there now. I beg your pardon. It is not known the extent to which they are going to make

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compromises...*(Interruptions)*. On the day of introduction, these people did not allow voting in the House. When the Bill was introduced and a discussion followed, these people did not participate in the division. This attitude proved that they have a mild approach to this issue. Otherwise, introduction would not have taken place at all. Bill would not have been introduced in the House at all at the situation that prevailed in the House at that time. However, it was introduced by their grace. They may do here whatever they like for the consumption of the unions and the general public, but there is no denying this fact that Somnath Chatterjee had been to Singapore. It has become a tendency with all people in power to go on tour abroad. Some people visit foreign countries for inviting capital. A few days ago I had the opportunity of visiting Mumbai. There I came to know that Shri Pawar and Shri Thakre are chalking out plans to make Mumbai another Singapore. Shri Somnath Chatterjee is visiting Singapore. When John Major comes on a visit to Calcutta all vendors and hawkers are driven out of the streets and sent to footpaths. We have a psyche of a slave. It is but natural that we will tell anguished over these things because we were governed by the Britishers. We have no objection to welcome the John Major. But he should not be welcomed at the cost of labourers. They say that all the rickshaw pullers of Bihar should be driven out and again give a call that all the working class in the world over should be united...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED MAJUDAL HOSSAIN: You can say that we have chased away the rickshaw pullers, but do not say that we have chased away the rickshaw pullers of Bihar. Being the native of Bihar, you should not say such a thing

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is all right you also know that 99.99 per cent rickshaw pullers of Calcutta belong to Bihar. I am expressing of Bihar's anguish here...*(Interruptions)*. They have gone there for last many years...*(Interruptions)*. The rickshaw pullers, vendors and hawkers have been driven out by the authorities. These people give a call to all the labourers of the world to get united. Just to welcome John Major, the city of Calcutta had been decorated in a grand way so that Mr. Major did not have any complaint in this regard and did not stop his country's capital investment to the State. There is a competition to invite foreign investment to the country. Mr. Pawar and Mr. Thakre with the help of some other persons want to make Mumbai another Singapore. We would like to know if Calcutta is being converted into Singapore. We would also like to know as to what does it mean. We have heard several meanings of Singapore. In what sense they want to make this country Singapore and the direction to which they want to take the culture of this country. They may criticise the Government to any extent, but ultimately they will continue to extend their support to this Government.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Patna is also being converted into Singapore.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You know very well what shape

Patna has taken? There is no need to hold a discussion on that here. The State Legislative Assembly is in session and the Assembly must be holding a discussion in this regard. There the situation has come to such a pass which has crossed the limits of discussions. What is there in it? People will behave in accordance with the culture they follow...*(Interruptions)*. We do not know who is their 'Guru'. Is their Guru going to convert Calcutta into Singapore or is John Major their Guru? We thought that their Guru is a labourer who gave the call to the labourers of the world to unite. It is altogether a different thing if somebody else has become their Guru. They may say Comrade or friend, but we belong to the tradition of friends and not the tradition of Guru and Shishya. They may shout as much as they can, but ultimately they will extend their support to the Government. That is why the Government takes it lightly and remains sleeping. Take any of the photographs published, you will find the Government is sleeping more than half the time. It is found sleeping during the course of the debate, during the Budget and during the Question Hour. Its leaders are sleeping. They do so because they know well that Basudeb Acharia and his colleague will continue their support to this Government despite shouting at the highest pitch in the House. Now there is no way out because the country has been divided on secular and non-secular lines. Yesterday while delivering a speech he expressed the view that there should be national consensus on certain issues. Is national consensus possible after dividing the country on secular and non-secular lines. We favour social justice, but we are against this type of political untouchability. If this is the state of affairs how there can be national consensus. What I want to say is that the present state of affairs in the country is attributed to lack of issue based politics. Some of the hon. Members from the Congress Party have rightly said that they should demonstrate this posture outside also. If they quarrel outside also, they would get the result. Mr. Acharia, your position is very strange, you are also a member of the United Front. You were a party at the time of selecting the leader, but you did not join the Government. You lost a historical opportunity. Shri Jyoti Basu has rightly said that you have committed a historical blunder and here you are following the Government you may pull up the Government from outside as much as you can, but you have to ensure that this Government lasts. If you want to see the Government run, you should talk of basic needs that Shri Lohia espouses. There are people in the House who follow Shri Lohia's principles and sometimes they take his name. Today, one person has replaced Lohia. Only one person has replaced Jai Prakash Ji. Now take the name of one person only. Now there was a reference to basic needs. There are seven basic needs. Will anybody have some opposition on this question? Everybody supports this cause. The most pitiable thing is the question of constructing lavatories. Construction of lavatories should be our first priority. Even today our agricultural labourers have no suitable site for defecation. Along with drinking water lavatory is of utmost necessity. It should be given first or second place in the priority list. Every morning our women experience a very humiliating situation. How did the

Government forget such a basic need. When walking along the road we find our women defecating in a very indecent manner on both the sides of the road. They have to stand up everytime. They fall within the focus of the light of every passing vehicle to save their modesty. What about that proposal. Did it not strike to the mind of the Government that is being run under the leadership of an humble and poor farmer. If they do a good thing, that will be appreciated. He said that the water shed programme will be approached through single window system. On 19th November he said:

[*English*]

"The Government is committed to bringing together all the sub-systems constituting watershed-based development under one umbrella to facilitate sharper focus, better irrigation and more efficient micro-level planning and programme implementation"

[*Translation*]

It is a commendable thing. We have been making this demand at the very outset. The standing Committee of the previous Lok Sabha has also made such a recommendation. Please implement it at the earliest. There is no mention as to which is the single window. Only intentions are there. Agriculture, minor irrigation and water resources also come under water shed programme.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI: When there is no door, how can there be a window?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You are right. We should have clear views in this regard. There was a discussion on providing mid-day meals. There was also a question in this regard. Where is that proposal? Where children are provided mid-day meals? At least it is not given in Bihar. After a gap of 15 or 30 days, people are brought to block headquarters with children on their shoulders and asked to lift foodgrains. There is no mention in the President's Address about areas where mid-day meals are not supplied properly. The country is passing through a very strange situation in the midst of coalition politics. It is a strange to Government. It is a front of selfish people. The People belonging to the Congress Party and C.P.M. are in league with them. They have lot of contradictions in their ideologies. One of their Chief Ministers declared in the State Capital that if somebody torched his house he will see that his opponents entire palace is torched. He is the President of their party...(*Interruptions*) Where is Lanka. Lanka is in south. It is neither with the BJP nor with the Samata Party. By this he meant Deve Gowda. It is a very strange situation. He was of the view that if the chargesheet is filed and action taken, he would dislodge the Government ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): What he meant to say is that whoever perpetrates atrocities on poor people the rich would not be spared. The United Front Government will not tolerate atrocities on poor people under any circumstances.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Yadav ji, Lanka was the symbol of the palace. Please try to understand. Lanka was in south.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It may be in your mind...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Today a man from south is sitting on the seat of power in Delhi. Your Chief Minister made a reference to him with the threat to ruin him. Simple thing is that he was hinting at Deve Gowda. Which Government's Address is this?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Please forget your principles, You may have such a feeling. But we do not have such a feeling of divide and rule.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Which Government's Address is this? Where is this Government? It is a non-Government. It is a Chief Minister of their Party will say like this, the direction of which this Government will move?

When these people made a mention of 14 parties, I could understand the arithmetic. One of the parties, the Madhya Pradesh Vikas Party has left them. One party got up to occasion in Gandhi Maidan of Patna and said that if its house is torched it would torch the house of the perpetrator. Is the vision of the people giving outside support is clear about the Governments. It is a non-functioning Government. It is a non Government. People who should have been united are separated today. Nobody has any interest in it. In the meantime many compromises are being made with the country's interest.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to make an appeal to Members belonging to cross section of the House to arrive at a national consensus and give up the feeling of political untouchability. The more this feeling is aggravated, the more they are caught. The more they try to weaken a party, the stronger it is emerging.

Madam Chairperson, recently Mr. Chavan's interview appeared in the media. When the Babri Mosque was demolished in 1992. There was a No-confidence Motion against the Government in this august House. Several hon. Members including me levelled charges that the Prime Minister was sleeping when the Babri Mosque was being demolished. Thereafter came an amendment that he was viewing T.V. at that time. He knows what he was viewing on the T.V. He knows what was being telecast over the T.V. If Mr. Chavan does not elaborate, Mr. Pawar who used to be the Minister of Defence at that time will elaborate as to what the Prime Minister was viewing on T.V. at that time.

One thing is clear that in demolishing the Babri Mosque, people who demolished it are culprit and at the same time those people are also a party to it who created a conducive atmosphere for this. No action has been taken against them. Today these people are supporting the Government. Please look at today's situation and think how to strengthen the country on the social path. The multi national companies are making this country their home. We have already become a partner of the W.T.O. with the

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acceptance of WTO membership, the Parliament has become meaningless. Please try to understand the strength of people to protect the freedom and sovereignty of this country. Please utilise that strength to build the future of this country. Do not underestimate it. Do not think that we will get foreign funds and carry out development work. Do not be in illusion. Please do justice to the future generation of the country and help strengthen the country. Then only country's interests will be served and we can do social justice to the future generation of the country.

Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

16.33 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Tripartite Agreement between India, Iran and
Turkmenistan**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Madam, with your permission, may I have the pleasure of informing the hon. Members of this august House that on February 22, 1997 in Tehran, India, Iran and Turkmenistan signed at the level of Foreign Ministers an agreement on the international transit of goods between India, Iran and Turkmenistan?

This has brought to fruition the process begun in April 1995 when the three countries signed a trilateral MOU on this subject. The three sides have worked together in a spirit of friendship, mutual understanding and constructive cooperation in finalising this agreement. Its signing reflects the traditionally close relations India has with Iran and Turkmenistan. It is also in keeping with the vision of the Governments of these countries to promote economic cooperation amongst themselves and with other CIS countries which accede to it in future.

The cardinal objective of the agreement is to provide a suitable juridical and legal framework for the multi-modal movement of goods from India to Iran and Turkmenistan, and other countries that join the arrangement in the future, and vice-versa. The salient features of the agreement are:

It facilitates, simplifies and accelerates customs and other formalities including minimising the documentation and inspection requirements for the transit of goods. For example, it provides that the goods transiting under this agreement will not be subject to examination through the customs jurisdiction *en route* except when irregularities are suspected.

It provides for the exemption of import and export duties or other taxes for goods in transit. Only charges for specific services can be levied as stipulated by internal legislation and as applicable to all other countries.

The signatories have agreed to examine the possibility of setting up a simplified visa regime for personnel engaged in the transit of cargo under this agreement.

There will be a regular joint mechanism for supervising the implementation of the agreement, for recommending changes to it and to consider any other related matter.

The agreement meets the need for developing an efficient, reliable, dependable and cost effective route for trade and other forms of economic interaction between India, Iran and Turkmenistan and our other economic partners in the CIS region. My counterparts from Turkmenistan and Iran have joined me in underlining the importance of expanding and developing cooperative endeavours between our three countries in the field of trade and industry. I believe that the trilateral agreement on the transit of goods will be a key element in meeting this objective.

I am also happy to inform the hon. Members that the President of Turkmenistan, His Excellency, Mr. Saparmurad A. Niyazov is currently paying a goodwill State visit to India. Discussions clearly brought out the identity of views on both sides on important bilateral, regional and international issues. The two sides have warmly welcomed the signing of the trilateral agreement on the transit of goods between India, Iran and Turkmenistan. They agreed that this landmark agreement would further enhance trade and other forms of economic cooperation amongst these three countries, and CIS countries which accede to it in the future. The agreement will foster a harmonious climate for multi-layered economic cooperation and strengthen the cause of peace, stability and development in the region.

In conclusion, I would like to place on record our appreciation of the cooperation extended by the Government of Iran and Turkmenistan in reaching this agreement and of the constructive spirit in which the officials of the different Ministries and Departments of the three Governments have worked together in this regard.

16.38 hrs.

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

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Madam Chairperson I rise to speak in support of the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Before I come to the main point, I would like to say something about what Shri Nitish ji was saying just now. When the people quit the treasury benches and join the opposition ranks. He said so in Shakuni's style while addressing in Gandhi Maidan. Laloo ji had challenged that he would destroy their Lanka if they dared to destroy the huts of the poor. What does it mean? It means the feudal forces who constitute 10 percent of the country's total population, who ruled the country for fifty years after