

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR]

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 multilayered 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

independence and who did not allow the poor, the dalits and the backward and the exploited people to rule the country, are making a lot of hue and cry when Shri Laloo Yadav fought for these people's rights and when he tried to empower them. These forces have tried to destroy these poor people and when Shri Laloo Yadav raised his voice against these forces, it is causing a heart burn to these forces...*(Interruptions)* I have just started, still I am on my legs. You are attacking the United Front Government and the Congress every now and then. But once you were also with us and we were good at that time and how we were good at that time. Have you ever thought over it? Were you supporting us or not and we did not desert you even when you demolished the Babri Masjid and now we are getting the support of Congress because Congress can imagine well as to who can strengthen secularism and who can uplift the poor masses and the downtrodden. Can your party do that? But these people can. That is why they supported us.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Why didn't you fight elections in Delhi together? If you are stopping the Communal forces then why did you fight elections separately and not together.

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SH. C.M. IBRAHIM): You run all the Municipalities and we would run the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: You may also speak. You would also get an opportunity to speak. You can clearly see that our Government has adopted the Employment Guarantee Scheme which was once started by the Congress Party. But it was a good work done by the Congress which must be appreciated. Our 80 percent people reside in villages and not in the cities. You people argue in favour of L.P.G. gas because you are urban people and reside in Delhi. You reside in municipal areas. But more than 80 per cent people reside in villages. More than 80 percent of people work in the fields. Our Government is implementing the scheme of Employment Guarantee for these poor people throughout the country. This scheme was initiated by the Congress Government but we are continuing this scheme. There is no harm in it and you must also appreciate that.

SHRI SOHAN BEER (MUZAFFAR NAGAR): The scheme being run by the Government is Corruption Guarantee scheme and not Employment Guarantee Scheme...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: You might be knowing that and the most important thing is that our Government has brought a Bill for the betterment of that Unorganised labour which was not organised earlier and there was none to look after them. When we are working through the Common Minimum Programme to organise them in better way and to provide them certain basic facilities you don't like that. Sometimes you criticise Laloo Yadav, sometimes you talk of fodder scam, sometimes you criticise Sharad Pawar and sometimes you attack Congress

and Kesari ji. You are not tolerating our Government of 13-14 parties belonging to 40-45 persons. You have to tolerate it and you must realise that you preach something and practise something else. Have you ever been to villages? Have you ever come across the poor village people? You must try to feel the plight of the village people of villages...*(Interruptions)*. This Government is bringing a Bill for the Agricultural Labour. Nothing was done by any Government earlier for them. Did you ever think about that labour...*(Interruptions)*. You will have your turn. You may speak at that time.

One of the most commendable thing is that this Government is very much concerned about the irrigational facilities for the farmers of the country. We are going to enhance the irrigational facilities under this Ganga Action Plan. I am very clearly saying that this Government complete its full term of 5 years. You just have patience and go on watching. We are committed to the cause of the poor, the downtrodden the exploited and the 90 crore people. We would bring one after another Bill for them and amend them. I am also urging the Government to change the very system. They have to overhaul the whole system from top to bottom. They have to change the collector system which is the legacy of the British Raj. There is a huge network of I.A.S. officers. All most all the Ministries and Departments are having IAS officer. Even the Health Secretary is an IAS. What knowledge he has got about the medical science? This whole system has to be changed...*(Interruptions)* I am also requesting you to please cooperate it changing this system. We have to change this system. We have to change the bureaucracy and this System.

This system is also in the country. The other day I met a Sardarji. He was an officer in the Army. He retired some years ago. When he went to collect his pension after five years he was asked to produce a proof to the effect that he was alive. See, this sort of certificate is required to be given there. Sardarji produced a certificate to this effect for one year. Sardar ji was told that this certificate pertains to this year only. He was asked to produce the same for the previous year, whether he was alive in the last year or not. He was asked to furnish the certificate for the last five years. See this is the system in the country if we are alive today, were we also alive last year? Our senior leaders have to ponder over this. They must come forward.

I am saying that our Government has will power. When in 1989 Janata Dal came to power it implemented the Report of the Mandal Commission. Reservation to the backward and the Dalits was provided. There was upheaval throughout the country. But truth is truth. Many Commissions like Kalekar Commission had been appointed earlier. If Shri V.P. Singh had not been sincere he would have appointed another Commission. Lot of change had taken place between 1977 and 1989.

Similarly Women Bill has been brought. I would urge all the senior leaders that they should not get it lapsed by appointing a Commission and strengthen your will power

[SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH]

and get this Bill passed and enforced. Whatever lacunae this Bill has regarding OBC's or minorities it should be cleared immediately by plugging the loopholes. It is the will power...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time you will take.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH: I am just concluding...*(Interruptions)* I can speak for hours together even without drinking water. I belong to a village where you have never been there. You have never come across such a situation. You must take care of Bihar. You must have will power like us. We are directly giving money for Indira Awas Yojana. We want Indira Awas Yojana to be implemented for the poor. I support all the policies of the Government and I am just concluding by emphasising over one more point that Members of Parliament are given Rs. One Crore for implementing the centrally sponsored schemes including the Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is urged that you must make it mandatory that all such scheme must invariably carry the recommendations of the members of Parliament before these are implemented.

With these words I conclude and support the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (SANGRUR): Madam Chairperson, I am grateful for having given me an opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Much emphasis has been laid on the Common Minimum Programmes. The whole stress has been laid on this and it has been mentioned that a lot of progress is going to take place as a result of this Programme. It has been stated that lot of prosperity and well being would be there. I can't say anything about prosperity whether it is increasing or not because it could not be assessed as yet but other things are increasing. Prices have increased in the country. Prices of almost all commodities have increased. You can see from these things whether prosperity has increased or not. Prices of flour, rice, clothes and pulses have increased. You name anything the price of which has not increased.

Everybody knows that poverty has increased during this period and it was also mentioned that at present 32 crore people are living below poverty line. An effort is made to provide food grains at cheaper rates through the Public Distribution System even after 50 years of achieving independence. Corruption has increased and it has spread everywhere. Sometimes we are really surprised to see how it has grown in different Departments. Day before yesterday I met several of my friends. They were going to Chandigarh from here by Shatabdi Express but they could not get ticket. They were three in number and their appointment was fixed there in the Secretariat. So it was very necessary for them to go there. When they approached the booking window they found written there that all seats were full. A man was standing nearby who told them that there was nothing

to worry and they could get ticket just now if they request the checker. They tried and got three tickets for Rs. 1200 each though the fare for chair car was Rs. 300 per ticket. When they narrated the incident to me I suggested that they must report the matter. They are complaining and of course some action would be taken. But we never imagined that corruption would be rampant in this department also. It is really surprising.

17.00 hrs

Corruption has also spread there. Similarly it has been mentioned that population has increased. The population in our country is increasing rapidly. No solution in this regard has been suggested in the President's Address as to how it can be tackled, what methods should be devised to check it. There is just mention of this problem. There would be no solution to this problem, the way it is increasing. We are perhaps competing with China which is the biggest country in the world. All the time we are busy in increasing the population but no efforts are being made to check it which is very important.

Similarly there is no mention of checking the pollution in the Address. Delhi is the fourth most polluted city of the world. So many diseases are spreading because of pollution. New types of diseases are being spread. It is a burning problem. Foreign debt is rapidly mounting. It has increased to an extent where we are not even in a position to pay interest thereon. There is recent hike in the prices of Urea. I am mentioning those things the prices of which are increasing. Prices of food grains are also increasing. I am at loss to understand as to what is the limit of all this.

If we see carefully then we shall come to know that everything is not increasing but there is decline also. Food production has fallen down and it is diminishing due to which we have to resort to import. Even yesterday it was mentioned that we are importing two million tons of wheat. Production of fertilizers which is so important for food production is also declining. Value of Rupee is also decreasing. It is diminishing as compared to Dollar, Yen and other currencies. Some things are increasing, it is bad. Other things are decreasing; it is all the more bad.

It has been mentioned in the Common minimum programme that...

[English]

It contains specific policies and guide-lines for strengthening our federal structure.

[Translation]

It has repeatedly been mentioned that federal structure would be strengthened but nowhere it has been mentioned as to how it will be strengthened. We are really happy to note that they want to strengthen the federal structure. We also agree that there must be federal structure in the country. I was just hearing the speeches of Hon'y. Members who said that—

[English]

Restructuring of the Constitution to make it really a federal system of constitution.

[Translation]

Besides this there is also mention of Art. 356 in the Presidential Address. This Article has all along been misused. There is no mention as to how the abuse of this article has to be checked. We also agree this article 356 has been frequently abused. This was frequently abused against us in Punjab. Whenever there was non Congress Government in Punjab it was dismissed. Seven times Akali Government supported by other parties came to power in Punjab but everytime after 2-3 years it was dismissed on one pretext or the other. But something else was behind this. Our Government was dismissed on the ground that law and order situation was bad but it further deteriorated under the Governor's rule. But the main reason behind the dismissal was elections in Haryana was going to be held and somebody suggested that if the Akali Government in Punjab is dismissed then perhaps they may get good votes in Haryana. But things were otherwise and the result was reverse. This made the people of Punjab against Congress because elected Government there was dismissed by using Article 356 unconstitutionally. But Congress could secure only 5 seats in Haryana. This provision was misused. Some drastic steps should be taken in this direction or it should be deleted so that it may not be misused in future by any Government. Anandpur Sahib resolution was also brought into focus here which was also criticised by the Congress people. They said that B.J.P. has committed a blunder in supporting the Akali Government in Punjab. Only those people says so who have never gone through the text of the Anandpur Sahib resolution. Anandpur Sahib resolution was never meant to divide the country but it was meant to strengthen the integrity of the country and not to disintegrate it. This resolution was discussed at several occasions and it was ultimately made an issue. Rajiv-Longowal accord was also made an issue and it was referred to the Sarkaria Commission. Both the Houses passed this but after such a long time it was wrong to say that this is dangerous and against the country. There was nothing against the country in that very resolution. Only more autonomy for states was called for. Now everybody wants more autonomy for States. It was only about the federal structure. Now all parties are saying that we should have federal structure. Present structure should be changed. Constitution should be amended accordingly. They are talking of State autonomy so that they can assert. Rights of States have been curtailed presently. All such things were covered in that resolution and it was discussed here. This resolution was referred to the Sarkaria Commission. The Sarkaria Commission has submitted its report and United Front Government is of the view that the report of the Sarkaria Commission should be implemented. We have implemented several thing and propose to implement the rest of the things. It is mentioned:—

[English]

"The Inter-State Council at its meeting on Oct 15, 1996 accepted a majority of recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission for implementation by the Government".

[Translation]

But unfortunately Congress always tried that somehow or the other people should be kept divided. The policy of "Divide and Rule" must continue. It was tried to divide the two communities. Efforts were made to divide Hindus and Sikhs. It was a deep rooted conspiracy. You must remember that Shri Rajiv Gandhi came to power with thumping majority after the 1984 elections. Misleading campaign was made. All Sikhs were branded as terrorists. Posters were pasted everywhere branding Sikhs as terrorists. You would remember the posters of that time depicting a taxi whose driver was having a turban which appears to be Sikh but his face was not visible and it was written. Can you feel safe and protected to travel with him? Such things went on deliberately to malign the Sikh Community throughout the country. They were branded as terrorists through the media and the result was the massacre of 1984.

Then the situation underwent a change. I think nothing could be more unfortunate than this. Delhi saw genocide of such a magnitude that, as per Parliament's records, three thousand people were butchered. The then Government did not consider even calling the Army, imposing curfew, or opening fire even as three thousand people were killed. That was the biggest genocide in Delhi after the one which was ordered by Nadirshah. It is regrettable that not even a two minutes silence for the tragic incident was observed here in Parliament. Our minds are deeply hurt by that episode. That nobody should have felt sorry or uttered a word of sympathy on the occurrence of such a big tragic incident in a city like Delhi, is a really sinister feature. 10-12 years have elapsed since. The reports that have come pinpoint the persons responsible for the genocide. In utter disregard of such reports, bigwigs belonging to a political party who had a hand in the incidents, were brought in Parliament through elections and even made ministers. They were not prosecuted. Unfortunately people did not get justice. This is the largest democracy of the world, but people going from pillar to post to seek justice are unable to get it. I would like to say that justice may be provided to those people who have been denied justice so far. They are now still in search of justice. It is good that the judiciary has started taking some steps. Judiciary is moving in a right direction. The judiciary had faltered after the Emergency coming out with loose judicial pronouncements, only now it is acting with some responsibility. It was decided to give Rs. Three lakh as compensation to each of the families of those killed in the genocide, but no action has been taken so far in that direction. Out of the people to be given compensation, someone lost husband, someone else lost father, but no action to give them compensation has been taken. It was said that a committee will be appointed, but no effort was made by the Government to provide relief to the people. I would like to submit that such

[SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA]

treatment has been meted out to those people who were called the sword-arm of the country, who were ever ready to shed their blood and sweat to defend the country. Even such people did not get justice. It is repeatedly said that the justice needed was not done. I would urge upon the Government to take steps to implement the judicial pronouncement as early as possible.

Much has been said about power generation that it is very much required. So regarding Punjab, we are sitting far away from the coal mines and we had repeatedly raised this question in the previous session and drawn the Government's attention thereto saying that two thermal power projects in Punjab were on the verge of closure on account of this because it is difficult to get coal coming as it does from a very distant place. Sometimes coal gets stuck up on its way, sometimes it is diverted by somebody to another place and it reaches somewhere else. It was not reaching our place even as we tried hard to take it there. We have scanty hydel power Thien Dam is in the making for the last so many years because necessary funds were not provided for that. Rajivji had laid its foundation stone. We had got the foundations laid during our own regime but the pace became slow after that. What was the result? Ravi waters flow off to Pakistan because we could not construct a dam over Ravi. The dam under construction is largely complete. The project, once estimated to be of the order of Rs. 84 crore, has now escalated to as much as Rs. four thousand crores. More than half of the work is already complete. Some more funds are still required and we will be getting both electricity and water through it. Both these are essential.

Sir, regarding power, I would like to talk of Thien Dam, the Govt. may pay attention to it so that it is complete at the earliest and water belonging to our country may be utilised within it, this is essential. We have also been trying for atomic energy asking for an atomic plant as the coal comes, from a very distant place. We have asked for the atomic energy plant several times during the last 15-16 years but with no result. This is the position regarding power.

Sir, there has been some mention of agriculture also. Punjab which is solely dependent on agriculture, has no mines or minerals, no deposits of oil or any kind of thing found under the surface. It has only farm produce, therefore, we lay more emphasis on it for which inputs are required. All these things are getting costlier now. The prices of Urea have only recently been increased, the prices of rest of the fertilisers were increased already. The prices of pesticides have also increased. Therefore, agriculture is no longer a remunerative occupation. People have become very much indebted. The prices of wheat fixed now... (*Interruptions*). All these inputs must be made cheaper to facilitate agriculture at least to some extent, otherwise it will not be as easy as it should be. Foodgrain production is decreasing because we have not been able to give incentive to farmers which they deserve. There was a time when I was in the Ministry and farmers were given

incentives which made them very enthusiastic. The Green Revolution was a resultant of that. The Green Revolution was the result of both the farmers' efforts as well as Governmental assistance. We became self-sufficient. But I am sorry to say that the policies often go wrong. Last year we saw that 22 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was sent abroad without considering what quantity thereof will be left with us, how much foodgrains we are going to produce, how much reserves of foodgrains we have. Two months later, we came to know that foodgrains are in short supply and imports thereof have to be made. 20 lakh of foodgrains is now being imported. Our Minister was telling the other day how much foodgrains have already arrived and how much are yet to arrive from abroad. It is to be noted at what price these imports are proposed to be made. Perhaps the landed cost thereof is Rs. 622.7 as I have gathered from his statement. It may be pointed out to me if I mistake. Now consider the price being given to the farmers in our own country. The procurement price has been fixed at Rs. 415. As against this the Government propose to give the farmers of Australia or Canada a price of Rs. 622. The farmers cannot but resent it.

The farmer is worried at the shabby treatment meted out to him. Through you, I would like to caution the Government that it will not be able to make procurements this year. The procurement this time will not be as much as required or as have so far been made on previous occasions. This time the farmer has made up his mind not to sell his foodgrains to the Government readily as he understands that prices will increase. When the Government expects the farmers to be content with the price of Rs. 415/- as against Rs. 622/- given to the farmers abroad and it will not be able to make this type of procurement. Rs. 40 to 45 are incurred as over-head expenses about Rs. 620/-. Therefore, this time the Government will have to make additional arrangements.

Punjab produces cotton also in large quantity. This time huge losses have incurred by the farmers due to fall in the prices of cotton but this rise seems to have no effect on cloth. The cloth has become costlier instead of becoming cheaper. The cotton produced by the farmers has become very cheap which makes him feel as cheated. It is not only the cotton all other agricultural produce are also becoming scanty. The country is unable to produce the required quantity of pulses and oil seeds both of which are being imported from outside. This has been so during the past.

The same is the case with sugar. There is dire need of sugar mills in Punjab. I have come to know that the Government has recently relaxed its policy. Punjab should get five more sugar mills. We have submitted applications for that purpose. I would like to say that the Anandpur Saheb resolution also speaks of at least some autonomy to the State. Our sugarcane which is sent to crushers gets sold at throw away prices. This is why we require sugar mills.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DIS-

TRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I respect hon. Member in the context of sugar mills. I would like to say that the previous process for sugar licensing has undergone a change. Now LOI would be issued within one month of starting of the process. The limit of 25 kilometres has been reduced to 15 kilometres. The sugar mills will be provided at the desired place even if sugarcane is not produced there immediately, if only sugarcane production takes place anywhere in the district.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I have come to know that this Government is giving some relaxation. We have been seeking sugar mills for the last five years but not a single sugar mill has provided to us. The production of sugar also has gone down due to this... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Barnala, will you please mind congratulating the Minister now for this.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: That is why I have congratulated him. Now what is happening. People ask whether this Government will survive or not. On our part we tell them that this Government should continue for some more time. They should also get an opportunity but the condition in the House and outside it makes one country because sometimes these people look like supporting the Government and sometimes they start intimidating it saying that the support will be continued only on selective items. Now what is this selective support? For how long it is likely to continue and what purpose it is intended to serve? The whole matter rests in their hands. Now we have to see how long it continues.

Madam Chairperson, yesterday the Congress displayed a very aggressive attitude here. The CPM people also had an aggressive attitude both were seen in aggressive mood. One wonders what will happen next, how and for how much time it will continue. It is our wish that the Government may continue and go on doing good things. This Government should speak of federalism. It should not go so soon. This is our thinking. Nobody wants elections at this time. These people say that we are outcast and we will not be allowed to come to power. I want the Congress and CPM to make their policy somewhat clear so that this Government may be able to work. They are always holding the Chair at their command. All their attention is centred on power and they are always worried about their exit or continuance. The policy of the party changes with the change of the head of the party and new policy takes over. Thus the policy of the party undergoes frequent changes. The existing policy changes whenever a meeting takes place. They do not pay much attention to the running of the Government. Their attention is rather diverted to the question of continuing their presence in the Government. Those who are extending their support to the Government should clarify the shape of their policy in any case. Once I had given a suggestion that all parties should put their heads together to form a national Government in order to put an end to the strife once for all. There is still time for such a thinking. Once an opportunity is lost, the whole thing gets out of hand. This should be thought

of. The suggestion of a National Government is still valid.

[*English*]

SHIR K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The President, in his Address, says that this is his first Address to Parliament after the present Government assumed Office. So, this is the first opportunity we have of taking a look at this Government.

For the first time, the regional and sub-regional parties have been given an opportunity by the people of India to play a role in the centrestage.

17.28 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR *in the Chair*]

So, we have before us a fourteen member conglomerate, which has prepared a hastily drawn out agenda known as the Common Minimum Programme. And although the Rashtrapati's Address does mention the Common Minimum Programme more than once, it does not emphasise any time limit or any programme as such, but for platitudes and pious hopes. It also hopes that a coalition Government can be stable and promote durable socio-economic development.

We had seen this before. In 1977, there was a conglomerate of seven parties. At that time—the senior most Member of Parliament, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is very much with us—for the first time, I think, he failed to get into Parliament. And within two years, the people of India thought differently and brought back Shrimati Indira Gandhi with a two-thirds majority.

Once again the people of India, the real masters of this country, gave a chance to non-Congress parties to form the Government in November, 1989. At that time, my friends on the Right, the so-called *Rampant* and the friends on the left, the *vaampant*—the Leftists and the Rightists did prop up the Government. Mr. Chariman, Sir, I think you were part of that set-up at that time. That also had a very short-lived existence of eleven and a half months. It went out. There were great constitutional, economic and social disasters which the country had to face.

Once again the people of India, by a fractured verdict have given a chance to these regional and sub-regional parties. The friends on the Right who belonged to a national party are in the Opposition and the members belonging to the other national party, *i.e.* Indian National Congress are in the Centre. So, if you go through the results of the May, 1996 elections, you will find that the Congress has representation in 26 out of 31 States, the BJP has representation in 17 States and the rest of them have representation in only three or four States. Some of them are adorning the Ministerial Chairs.

I think the debates of the Constituent Assembly also did indicate or the sense of it, I am subject to correction,

[SHIR K.P. SINGH DEO]

that it would be a Council of States or unity of States. But what it became was a unitary type of structure.

Any way this Government, the United Front Government, has got a wonderful opportunity to serve better since they come from the States. I hope that some of the States, like Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, may be some portions of Andhra Pradesh, may be some portions of Maharashtra, the tribal areas of North-East will get a much fairer deal from this Government because we have been crying hoarse in this House that the planning process has not taken into consideration the regional problems in this unitary or the holistic or the normative approach.

Just now we heard the speech of the hon. former Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Barnala, who was also the Minister of Agriculture and Food. He was my distinguished predecessor in that Department. He was speaking about Green revolution. What is the performance of my State and your State? We have not seen the Green revolution after fifty years of Independence. The President's Address talks about small farmers, marginal farmers, rain fed areas, unirrigated areas, irrigated areas and watershed development which you explained so eloquently. But why has it not seen the light of the day in Orissa? I come from a constituency which has now three districts. Thanks to my uncle, Shri Biju Pattnaik. On the 1st April, 1994 he divided my constituency in to three districts—Dhenkanal, Angul and Subarnapur. In one district the irrigation potentiality is only seven per cent; in the other it is thirteen per cent and in the third district, it is only two per cent. The all-India average is 36 per cent, whereas Orissa's average is 19 per cent. As members of the Estimates Committee, we had the opportunity to look Gandak and Kosi in your State. The projects belonged to the First Plan. The dams were complete but there was no canal system. Same is the case with Rangali, a multi-purpose project which will serve Bihar and which will serve Orissa also. The project in the River Brahmani was started in 1973. Rs. 273 crore were allotted. Smt. Indira Gandhi and Dr. K.L. Rao laid the foundation stone. The head walls are complete. Rs. 1400 crore have been spent. This year in Orissa, 26 out of 30 districts are under drought. Hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Chaturanan Mishra and the hon. Prime Minister, the humble poor farmer as you have said have visited Bolangir, Kalahandi and Koraput districts. Prior to April, 1994 seven Prime Ministers have visited. People are migrating from there.

Money has been promised like it has been promised here. North-East has been promised money; Jammu & Kashmir has been promised money; and so many others also have been promised. Why are people migrating? You are depending on the State Government to use the ways and means—whether it will be reimbursed, whether it will be a grant or it will be a loan. There is no transparency in this. We were all present here when the hon. Prime Minister was replying. He said, "Do not worry about money; money will come; we will discuss later on, about the issue of whether it is to be a loan or a grant."

Today there is water shortage. Today we had a question in Parliament about Gujrat situation. Gujrat gets less rainfall than what we get. From March to May or may be till 15th June when the first monsoon comes, people may die of thirst and along with water scarcity, there will be diarrhoea, dysentery and gastroenteritis as has happened before. This is not the first time it is happening in Orissa. Only timely action and timely monitoring about which Shri Rajesh Pilot mentioned, will help. There may be any number of Central Government Projects for Orissa, but there is no special plan for Orissa like we have for hilly areas or for areas under Schedule VI. Now it has been said that the North-Eastern States have been brought into the ambit of Nagar Palika and Panchayati Raj. But neither we come under hilly areas, nor do we come under the Special States, nor do we come under Uttarakhand area. We are not terrorists; we do not have terrorism in Orissa. We are quite far from Delhi.

For the first time, some regional and subregional parties have come. I do hope that this time, your State, my State, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, may be portions of West Bengal and the North-East will get a fairer share than what we have got for the last 50 years. Otherwise, our hopes will be belied.

Then, we talk of internal security. Here in the President's Address, it has been mentioned. 'National security' is a far greater term. There may be internal threats and there may be external threats. Yesterday, one of our stalwarts, Shri Sharad Pawar, former Defence Minister and Shri Rajesh Pilot, former Minister of Internal Security, a defence personnel, an Air Force personnel and who flew during the 1971 War to Bangladesh, did mention about the inadequacy of funds for Army, Navy and Air Force. They have also said various other things; I will not dwell into that.

Air Force, somehow, has been eased to a certain extent with the induction of SU-30 Mark II. It took five years for our good friend, Shri Mallikarjun to process it; we congratulate Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav for having clinched the deal. In the Navy a debate is still going on whether we require an aircraft carrier or not. Some people have said that the electronically guided missile has turned the offensive capability of an aircraft carrier into a defensive liability. While the debate goes on, our friendly neighbours are equipping, re-equipping and modernising. Modernisation, off-loading and economising are not a one time job or effort. It is a continuous effort.

The Britishers set up the Indian Army—the evolution of the Indian Army from the East India Company's mercenary army like the one we have now in Afganistan—for the war, for the first time as a National Army in 1947 when our nascent Independence was under threat. Today we have Prof. Soz as our Minister of Council of Ministers with a Cabinet rank. Today, he would not be here in this House had it not been for the supreme sacrifice of the people like Major Somnath Sharma, Naik Jaghunath Singh, Hawaldar Major Peeru Singh, Subedar Karam Singh and Second Lt. Rane.

A few days after our independence was achieved, the whole of Kashmir would have been cut off. Today also, we have not resolved our international boundary dispute. He mentioned about the many foreign delegations, Presidents and Prime Ministers who had come. I would like to compliment Shri Inder Kumar Gujral for having continued the good work and taken some fresh initiatives. In fact, the Agreement with Iran was a masterpiece. Today, we can have Iran and Central Asian Republics as our industrial and economic allies. But what I was trying to say is that the Britishers had evolved the Army as mercenary Army some 10,000 to 15,000 miles away. We have not changed. That leap-frogging, that teeth to tail ratio is still as high as it ever was. Today, the inventory control only under the Engineer-in-Chief's Branch has some 99,000 different items. Some have become junk. Today, we are unable to offload them because of line of least resistance. We must go with what has been handed over to us for the last 200 years.

Today, we are not bothered about manpower. Why is it that 87,000 people are short? Today, a very ham-handed news item has come out that JCOs are to be promoted to colonels. I am sure that Members of Parliament are not a bunch of nursery or kindergarten kids of swallow this. JCO is a Junior Commissioned Officer. He is not even an officer. Such an officer to be promoted to Colonel means he will be in charge of 845 men and crores of rupees worth of equipments. It is there in today morning's papers. We are not trying to do introspection to fill up the deficiencies. Why are people not coming to join the Armed Forces? Why was it that it used to be over-subscribed? Today, no youngster is coming forward, not even the children of Generals, Admirals and Air Marshals because we have not given them dignity. It is not only for money that they were coming forward. They were coming for idealism and challenge. Young people like challenges and excitement. I am sorry to say that today the Armed Forces do not have the respect which they used to have in society. We have run them down. I think this is the fourth or fifth Rashtrapati's Address delivered as the Supreme Commander. I have had the privilege of being his ADC. It is not his fault. He is only reflecting what the Government of the day is reflecting. This is a mention that they have prepared. Of course, they have prepared. The moment they join the Army, they forfeit their lives. They know that their question is not 'how' and 'why' and that their aim is 'do' and 'die'.

In the last Supplementary Demands for Grants, I was mentioning that I had gone to Ladakh as the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and I was given a presentation on the areas of Ladakh. I had the privilege of going and being at Rizang La where Major Shaitan Singh got his Param Vir Chakra. With the last grenade in his hand, the entire Company was wiped out in 1962. That is what Indian Army's men and Officers are made of. That was what Abdul Hameed was made of. That was what Albert Ekta was made of and that was what Nirmal Sondhi was made of. But what did they put at stake? While we are waving the Tricolour at Vijay Chowk, someone forgot the boundaries of this country and our soldiers are still dying and suffering in Siachen. Today, all of us are safe because

our people are on vigil in the border, whether it is the BSF or the CRPF or the ITBP or the Armed Forces or the Navy or the Air Force...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You people would not go by his utterance but, at least you can listen to him.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The other day, we celebrated 25 years of 'Vijay Divas'—1971 Operations. The very fact that we have not had a war for 25 years means that our diplomacy and our diplomatic initiatives have been successful. But is it any reason why we should neglect the Armed Forces? Today, can all of us put our hands on our heart and say that we have a credible Defence, credible in the sense that the hostile country or the adversary will be afraid of us? Is it a deterrent? We cannot say so.

Today, the Navy has become the Brown Water Navy slightly better than the Coast Guard. I am not apportioning blame to any one side. It is no use living in the past. We must live for the future. There is no use raking up the past deeds and basking in reflected glory and blaming the past administrators or the past Government. I am not blaming your Government of yerteryears or the previous Government. But what I am saying is that we are looking at the 21st century. We must have a credible Defence. Today, we must have a Defence where every Indian is proud of. Today, every Indian must be involved with defence of the motherland whether it is internal threat or, as you said, drug trafficking, smuggling, disinformation, misinformation, terrorism, militancy, crime against women or whatever it. These are all internal threats to our security and also the external security. How long is diplomacy going to avert a war? Did the diplomacy avert the low-intensity proxy warfare which Punjab had seen for the last seven or eight years? We could not do so. Therefore, we shall have to be ready for all eventualities and all emergencies. For that to happen and not to have knee-jerk reactions, whenever a scenario erupts suddenly, we must have a continuous evaluation. The continuous evaluation should be by whom? It should be only by the Members of Parliament who are not shown any documents pertaining to the Ministry of Defence or any such thing. There is no transparency there. Is it only going to be some bureaucrats or is it going to be only Generals? Someone has said, "War is too serious to be left to Generals alone".

Today, everything is economic. Shri Saddam Hussain had the finest qualities of leadership. But only because of economic reasons, he was tried to be smashed and destroyed. But it goes to his credit that he has come back.

It is not enough for modernisation; it is not enough for retrofitting and it is not enough for replacements as well.

You are going to open or establish a National Finance Development Corporation for the disabled people. You have done it for women; you have done it for the small scale

[SHIR K.P. SINGH DEO]

industries; you have done it for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and you are going to do it for many other people. But what about the 50 lakh ex-Servicemen? You could not find Rs. 180 crore from the Centre and Rs. 170 crore from 29 States of the Union over a period of five years. It is a partly sum of Rs. 350 crore to be equally shared by the Centre and 29 States of the Union—Rs. 180 crore by the Centre and Rs. 170 crore by 29 States of the Union - over a period of five years. Mr. Chidambaram while replying to the Supplementary Demands for Grants in December said, 'when I present my Budget on the 28th of February 1987, I shall tackle it'. It is not an assurance; but it is an intention only. I do not know. 28th of February is not very far off, we would see how he tackles this.

The second point is about one rank one pension. You have done it for the Judges of the High Court and the Supreme Court. Now, we, the Members of Parliament, are also getting one rank one pension irrespective of our date of retirement. What have the poor ex-Servicemen done? They fought for the freedom of this country; they maintained the freedom of this country; they have safeguarded the freedom of this country and they are still safeguarding it with their lives - the supreme sacrifice. Now, for someone who had retired in the 1950s when the pay was paltry, the pension is calculated thus : The last pay drawn for ten months - this is the qualifying criteria - multiplied by 1/33, because a civilian enters service at the age of 25 years and retires at the age of 58, from there that figure 33 is taken. Now, a poor Army *jawan* or an Airman of the Air Force or a Naval rating joins service at the age of 18 years and is relieved of his duties at the age of 33 years. At the age of 33 years, where does he go ? He is not the Centre's baby; he is not the State's baby; he is not the baby of the Armed Forces either. So, he is left at the mercy of the Almighty, *Ram Bharose*. The nation has paid for him; the nation has trained him. He is a disciplined, dedicated, motivated, a nationalist and a patriot. We only allow him to go and fend for himself in the streets. It is because he does not agitate; he does not have the power of collective bargaining and because he does not have a union, we allow him get swept under the carpet.

For the first time-in this context, I would like to thank Shri V.P. Singh; I was in the Ministry of Personnel and requested him about this and he changed the terms of reference—the subject of pension was included in the Fourth Pay Commission. The Fifth Pay Commission—of course, from whatever we read in the newspapers, we have not seen the Report—has also advocated one rank one pension from a prospective date. This was an instance which was given by late Major General Sparrow, Mahavir Chakra award winner—he won his first Mahavir Chakra in the year 1947 when he defended Srinagar; then he got it in Jajila and then in 1965 when he knocked out the Pakistani tanks in the battle of Hasaluttar and in Khemkaran. He retired from the Services in the year 1966. He was

also a Minister, I think, in the Cabinet of Mr. Barnala or, maybe, in the Cabinet of Shri Gurnam Singh Gill. He said that when he used to go to get his pension, he used to find that the difference between his pension and that of the pension of a Major General who had retired in 1984 or 1985—at that time he was a Member of this House—was three to four times.

So, here was a Major General, Mahavir Chakra award winner, who retired in 1966 and got something like, say 'X' amount. And here was another Major General who retired in 1985 or, maybe, 1986, by which time the Government had made certain improvements—on the 1st of April, 1979 some amount of the Dearness Allowance was merged with the basic pay—gets, say 'Y' amount and everytime the Government or the Pay Commission improves it, there is always going to be a wide disparity.

Sir, therefore, when the pensioner is old, when he is incapable, when he has social obligations, when there is price rise, when there is inflation, when there are difficulties due to the shrinking purchasing power of the rupee, when really he wants it, he does not have enough money. Whereas a younger man gets far more because the Government has been thoughtful and considerate. The Finance Commission has been considerate. I am concluding, Sir.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): I request you to extend the time of the House by one hour because tomorrow we will have the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Many Members want to have their say.

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): No, not today.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Do you not want to speak?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: We want to speak, but not today. It was long back decided ...*(Interruptions)* We have a meeting at 6.00 o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete first. I will then take the sense of the House.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I am very grateful to my old friend, Mr. Ibrahim.

[Translation]

Mr. Ibrahim I am admiring you.

[English]

I am very grateful to my very old and dear friend, Mr. Ibrahim. I do not know whether he is still my friend or not but he used to be my friend before he came to Information and Broadcasting Ministry. When I was there in that

Ministry, we did a small experiment. That experiment was known as the Pilot Project Field Inter Personnel Experiment, conducted by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. All the segments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Doordarshan, Akashvani, Field Publicity Unit, Song and Drama Division, Indian Institute of Mass Communiation, Photo Division and Film Division, were involved in that experiment. What did we do? We were not agricultural experts. Some excellent work was done by ICAR and CRRI, where my friend Shri Ram Kripal Yadav is also a member. He was a Member of the Consultative Committee. They have done some yeomen work for 30 years but there was no transfer of technology from laboratory to land. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry became Dr. Goebble of Hitlerite fame. For four months instead of broadcasting, it narrow-cast and one low power transmitter was put in a stand down of stand alone mode and gave only one programme, from 6.00 o'clock to 7.00 o'clock, on rainfed high land paddy increased rice production in high-land and up-land areas—because in Orissa there is no irrigation. Because of this interaction of inter-personnel, after four months...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to continue tomorrow or you want to finish it today?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I have come to the end. I will conclude by 6.00 o'clock.

[*Translation*]

No, I will not speak tomorrow. Tomorrow I have to attend the meeting of the standing committee of the Railways, which is to be attended by the cabinet secretary.

[*English*]

So, I have to be there otherwise our Chairman, Mr. Acharia will get angry.

It was a communication exercise where the farmers of Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, the Professors of Orissa University of Agricultural Technology, Bhubneswar and the farmers in 15 villages which were under the ambit of low power transmitter, Dhenkanal, were involved. About 237 farmers were given mini-kits by the Agriculture Department but at a price, it was not given free. They interacted in the local dialect through the Song and Drama Division. Every evening they would ask questions to the scientists who in turn would reply in their own dialect. In these four months, we found that per hectare where we were getting only half a tonne of rice, we got about nine-and-a-half tonne of rice, that is, 19 times more rice was produced in those 15 villages. I have been writing to Mr. Ibrahim, Prof. Dandavate and also to Mr. Chaturanan Mishra. I am waiting for the reply so that we can share that experiment. The Green revolution, which Mr. Barnala was mentioning, has not gone to the rest of India. So, at least the rain-fed, dry land tribal areas of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput, Angul, Dhenkanal and Phulbani may also get some benefit of it because they also deserve to get the benefits of Science and Technology.

18.00 hrs.

Lastly, I would like to say that Orissa is a drought-affected area. This is an year of the worst drought for Orissa. There is drinking water sortage everywhere.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (MURSHIDABAD): It is so in Bihar also.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Yes, it is there in Bihar also.

We should not leave it to only the State Government to tackle these problems. Rashtrapati Abhibhashan also mentioned that there should be cooperation between the Centre and the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Railways is my last point, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In that case, you may have to continue tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I will conclude in just one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had assured to conclude by six o'clock. Please conclude in two minutes.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the Talcher-Bimlagarh, Talcher-Sukhinda railway line which will connect Haridaspur and Paradip. Surveys have said that the internal receipt of revenue on this line would be 29.83 per cent. Six months back, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan made a solemn promise here that he will send it to the Planning Commission and will take it up after technical evaluation is done. The technical evaluation is already done but it is being delayed. This delay is happening in a project which will get back a revenue of Rs. 577 crore in two years' time. It is because six steel plants and a cement plant are coming up. That line and Bolangir-Khurda line, which had been promised last year on the floor of this House, should be taken up to let Orissa up amongst the comity of States. This would help ensure that the 55 per cent people—our Chief Minister says that it is 38 per cent, Shri Biju Patnaik says that it is 55 per cent, the Planning Commission says that it is 48 per cent; whatever the statistics are—living below the poverty line in Orissa are benefited.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, tomorrow is the last date for this discussion. The Prime Minister is supposed to reply to the debate at four o'clock tomorrow. If we adjourn now, tomorrow there will be hardly one hour left for Members to participate in the debate. Therefore, I request that the suggestion given by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev be accepted. Let us extend the sitting by an hour today so that more Members can participate in the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you have come into the

House at the fag—end of the day and saying this now.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I was thinking that since the Members are taking a little more time, if you kindly extend the sitting ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If Members take more time, what can the Chair do?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, I am just requesting you to ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: You started thinking about it very late Mr. Jana.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have come here earlier and requested others also.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I think everybody will accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Extend the sitting by one hour.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: No, Sir, not today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, we will extend the sitting by one hour.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: We strictly object to this. The reason is the Minister came and on the spur of the moment asked for extension.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A majority of the Members are saying that the sitting be extended.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: We have a meeting of all Members at seven o'clock. At the most extend it till 6.30 p.m.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (MUMBAI NORTH-WEST): The Minister should have thought of it in the morning. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Singhania, Members can come and go. Those who are interested in speaking are sitting here. Very few Members are listening.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: There is no compulsion but people should be sitting here to listen also. If they want to address an empty House, they are welcome to do so.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: The hon. Minister intervened at the last moment to say this and it is basically wrong. He should have done it much before and not at six o'clock.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I had told the Parliamentary Affairs Minister that he had entered at the fag end, he should have come earlier to make his statements.

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: This is not the way to conduct business in the House. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should have been present in the House before.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: In your turn you spoke for more than an hour.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Some people have taken one and a half hours.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: It is not fair that every time you will dictate your terms. What is this? Some Members of the small parties have not spoken at all.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Where is the question of dictating?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you may please take your seats. The time of the House has been extended by one hour.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: But all other people have set an example before that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: That is why we are not discussing that. ...*(Interruptions)* Let us listen to them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR: Let us strictly adhere to the principle. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only what Shri Dileep Sanghani is speaking will go on record. Why are you wasting after having got it extended?

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (AMRELI): I rise to express my views on the Presidential Address. I am looking for a name which can be given to this Government. The way the Morarji Desai Government was working for the poor, these very Congress people were calling it as a Khichri Government comprising various parties. Currently there is a 14 party Government surviving on the Congress support. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What do you mean by the Khichri Government?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Khichri is a very digestive food for that matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bhelpuri is also very delicious in taste.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I fail to understand the negative sense in it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: There is not one single idea of a coalition Government. In a democracy whenever elections come, various parties combine to seek public support with a single elections symbol and a single ideology. The views of a combination of 13-14 parties cannot be similar. What George Fernandes spoke while asking for support for the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, was a very nice thing. I do not want to go into that. The results of the parliamentary elections held last and the Punjab elections are before us. Even today various parties have combined just for the sake of power after having fought the elections on different party planks. The Congress misused Article 356 of the Constitution in Punjab and elsewhere, in U.P., in Gujarat. In my view it is high time to think over all these issues. You know that in the entire country.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time has been extended so that all Members from all parties may be given some time to speak. Members from your party also are to speak. A decision has been taken in the House, otherwise as you wish. You have been told if speakers take less time, more Members will be able to have their say.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: (LADAKH): It would have been better if had been timely implementation of rationing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have told them so that more Members may have their say.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: I was saying that no discussion has taken place regarding the use of Article 356. The reason being that there was Congress rule in the Center and States for 25-30 years and no cause for dissent. This question then was always resolved on party line, but that is not the situation today. Today we have Governments by different parties at the Central and State levels. Therefore this particular Article is being used through the Governors to prevent proper functioning of the State Governments. The whole scenario is being watched and disliked by the people of the country. All are aware of the situation obtaining in Gujarat. The Members from the Bhartiya Janata Party went to the Governor's house in order to prove their majority, but the Governor said that the majority cannot be proved at his residence. That was not going to take a headcount there. Those people then approached the President in Delhi and got disappointed here also. Thereafter, the Prime Minister, Shri Deve Gowda, the party leader and Congress held a joint meeting. In the situation that was obtaining, majority was proved before the Governor after contriving defections of MLAs of the Bhartiya Janata Party. This role of the Governor was improper. I would like that this matter may also be discussed. Frequent use of this Article should be prevented.

The Presidential Address also speaks of the elections held in Kashmir. I would ask whether conditions have improved there. Recall the time when our country became free and even when it had not become free, anybody from any corner of the country could visit Kashmir as a tourist. Today, with the elections over in Kashmir, nobody dares to visit the State. When we were young, we would imagine Kashmir as a paradise. At least for honeymoon the youth of the country used to visit Kashmir.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You can still go there for that purpose.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Can go. It is because of the wrong policies of this Government and the Congress that even the Prime Minister cannot go there on 15th August and 26th January to hoist the national flag. I tried to visit that place as an MP. I regret to say that I contacted four departments on telephone in connection with my visit, but I was told that I could not go there. I was told that I can visit a foreign country but I cannot go to Kashmir. One can safely come back from a foreign country but not from Kashmir. The situation today is so worse that provisions enshrined in the constitution are not being properly implemented.

Sir, unless the article 370 is abolished chaos cannot end. Peace cannot be restored. I would like to add that Pakistan is training the terrorists. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav had said that India and Pakistan should be merged together again, i.e. pre-partition position. We do not have objection to that provided there is united India and peaceful atmosphere as was prevailing before partition. In that situation anybody can go there. But it is a dream. We know that this Government is unable to achieve it. This Government does not represent the will of the people. Just now someone mentioned about the Wage Board. There is no mention of the Wage Board in the President's Address also. He should have made a mention of it.

Sir, I am pained to point out that casteism is being flared up in the country. Unless casteism is wiped out, this country cannot become strong. To bury casteism we would have to give priority to policies and not to any particular community or caste. In Bihar and many other States atrocities are being committed on Scheduled Castes and untouchability is being practiced even today. That is why a legislation was brought about in this regard and the founding fathers of the Constitution would have never thought that this legislation would be misused. Because of untouchability many innocent people have been framed up in police cases in Gujarat and they are being unnecessarily harassed. Therefore, it should be categorically made clear where the legislation in regard to atrocities would be invoked and where some other legislation is to be invoked. The need of hour is to reconsider all these issues.

Sir, the Prime Minister was speaking about agriculture. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for agriculture produce like cotton and other crops. The MP Quota for LPG connection has been cancelled today morning. I am also in its favour. Here I would like to mention

[SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI]

one point that through this MP Quota we could give LPG connections to poor people in rural areas within a range of 20-25 Kms. Therefore, my point is that the rural people should get an LPG connection conveniently, wherever a gas agency is available within 25 Kms. range. There are some policies of the Government which are basically against the national economic policies. There is abundance of coal in Bihar which is supplied to Gujarat similarly the gas available in Gujarat is supplied to Mathura. I demand that the gas available in Gujarat should be first supplied to those industries in Gujarat which are gas based. They should get priority in this regard.

Sir, the Narmada Project of Gujarat is an ambitious project. During the last few years the World Bank used to give assistance for the project. The Central Government gave an assurance to the State Government that they should not take the assistance from the World Bank because whatever assistance they need would be provided by the Central Government and the Narmada Project would progress. The Central Government should declare this scheme as a national scheme and provide assistance on the same terms and conditions as was given by the World Bank. The Central Government does not provide assistance to Gujarat on the same pattern as is provided to other two partner States namely Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Therefore, we demand that Gujarat should also be provided its share of financial assistance.

Sir, there is abundance of salt in Gujarat. There is Salt Office in Jaipur. I demand that a Salt Office should also be opened in Zaffrabad in my constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly leave a few issues for the budget discussion also.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: The Cooperative Banks have been given exemption under Section 80 (P) of Income Tax Act. I am the Chairman of Amreli district Cooperative Bank also the area MP. The Income Tax Officials harass and humiliate the Cooperative Sector Banks because they want their palms to be greased. I had written a letter to the hon. Finance Minister and requested him to conduct an inquiry in this matter. On page No. 7 of the Address the scheme to cater to the basic necessities is mentioned. On Page No. 4 there is a mention of providing housing to the homeless and poor people. I was surprised to find out that the Government has already started implementing the schemes mentioned in the President's Address. The beginning has been made by allotting House No. 35, Lodhi Colony to Priyanka after her marriage. Now it is to be seen how far the poor in the country could benefit from the housing scheme. Now I come to my last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are more interested to know how many minutes you would take to conclude.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: When the BJP was in majority in Gujarat the Prime Minister himself informed that there has been lot of hue and cry in the State Assembly. It was also stated at that time that the BJP Government

would be dismissed and article 356 would be invoked. But worse than that yesterday in the State Assembly an Ex-Minister and the family members of an MLA of Saurashtra who are charged of murder came and beat a Minister in the Assembly. But no action has been taken in this regard. There is no law and order in Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everything is happening there but not walk-out.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: The Central Government is withdrawing from its earlier stand of providing gas to the people of Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for 25 minutes.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Kindly give me 5 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 25 minutes. There are members from other parties also who have not spoken so far on this subject. You were on the last point and still you are on the last point.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: With these words I thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I accept your thanks.

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: The Government should have coordination with all the parties so that it can smoothly function and work according to the provisions of the Constitution. I do not support the President's Address because there is no mention of the points therein which I have mentioned here.

SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA (SATNA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for providing opportunity to even small parties to speak on the President's Address. After Independence, the people had lot of aspirations that the new dawn would improve the lot of the down-trodden, under privileged the exploited and the Dalits. There was a hope that they would get equal opportunities of development according to their merits. The ideal at that time was "Bahujan Sukhai, Bahujan Hitai". This was our resolve. Unfortunately, even after 50 years of Independence, all these promises have merely remained on paper. They have not been implemented.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many hon. Members have spoken in favour and against this Motion of Thanks. I have been elected to this House for the first time and therefore, I want your protection. I should also be given a few minutes time. The President's Address has rightly admired the U.F. Government as it is a unique experiment in the world where those championing the cause of the exploited, the down-trodden have come to power. I had great hope that this Government would take steps to ameliorate the conditions of the poor and the helpless people of this country but they have not taken any positive steps in this direction. This Address reflects false promises and mere illusion. Nothing is stated which is down to earth.

The all round development in socio-economic and

political fields is the basis of all round development of the people of any country. I am pained to point out that our ancestors have been punished because they were illiterate. Before the Constitution was framed by Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the Black Law of Manu used to hold its sway in this country. According to it "Stri Shudho Madhi Tamti Shruti".

A few examples of our illitracy because of which our ancestors suffered are the cutting of throat of Shambuk and the cutting of thumb of Eklavya. Even today tall claims are made of providing facilities to the Dalits and the down-troddens but all these promises have turned false. The portals of education have been closed on us just as they were closed on our ancestors. It was for the first time in 1848 in Pune, Maharashtra that Mahatma Jotibarao Phule was born and he opened these doors for us. I belong to the Scheduled Caste and I am proud that it was because of the sacrifice of that great soul of Mahatma Phule that thousands of our youths have got education. Several Committees have been set up to bring about educational reforms in the country. Many Commission were also set up for this purpose but their reports are lying in the dustbin. No report has been implemented. We had great hope that this U.F. Government would bring about basic changes in the colonial system of our education but in vain, nothing has been done. Even today the Dalit and the down-trodden are getting opportunities but they are not coming to the fore-front. This is all because of inherent flaws in our education system. I would like to cite an example here. We often say that science has not progressed in this country. It is because we have not produced scientists. When an Indian goes abroad, he becomes a scientist, but in his own country he has no value. This is because of colonial system of education. Today the student is confused. When he studies different subjects one teacher tells him that the water boils at 100°C and the distance of Sun from the Earth is crores of miles and the Sun is 13 lakh times bigger than Earth. Whereas the teacher who teaches Hindi tell, the student about the fiction of Hanuman who gobbled the Sun and there was total darkness in the entire universe. The student gets confused this is an irony. We have to spare the student this confusion. Therefore there is need to bring about reforms in the colonial system of education but there is no mention of it in the President's Address.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the time is short and I do not want to go into details but I would like to specifically mention one point. Lot of schemes have been launched for the welfare of Dalits, Backward Classes, SC/STs but the benefit has not reached them so far. All these schemes are illusory and hollow. We should try to build a society which was the dream of Baba Saheb Ambedkar—an egalitarian society. The mask of 'Manuwadi' society should be thrown off the face because the dalits, the down-trodden are victims of this Manuwadi society and they suffer from inferiority complex.

There is a conspiracy in the 'Varna' system to crush the backwards. We are also part of Hindu 'Dharam' where-

in all of us are divided in four varnas viz., Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra. There is a distinction between 'Varna' and caste. Among the Brahmins there are Pandeys Tiwaris, Shuklas, and Sharmas but when it comes to 'varna' they are all Brahmins. Similarly among the Kshatriyas there are such castes as Bhagel, Parihar, Chandel, Chauhan, Rathor and Rajput but all of them constitute one varna i.e. Kshatiya. Throughout there is no other country except India where this 'Varna' system is in vogue even today. There is strength is unity 'Sanghe Shakti Yuge Yuge'. That is true today because all these sub castes get together is the name of Varna.

Third is the Vaishya Varna, in which also Hotwani, Kesarvani, Gupta, Aggrawal, Lalwani, Advani, Patwa, Jain all are mingled into one by being given an omnibus certificate of Vaishya and they live in peace by taking over the trade all over the country. But it comes to the fourth Varna, they are taken to Ayodhya and made to sacrifice their lives in the name of Hindu, they are abandoned on the roads only to be killed by spreading communal frenzy. but when the name Sukhlal Kushwaha comes, it is certified that he is a Kachi. Budhsen Patel is certified as a Kurmi, Ram Vilas Paswan as a Chamar and a certain Yadav as Ahir. All of them are called as belonging to the Shudra Varna. I would like to say only this much that we do not require any refuge in this country, nor any employment guarantee scheme. We do not need anybody's mercy or compassion. You know that there are as many as 6743 divisions of castes in the society. If Sukhlal Kushwaha is certified as a Sudra in this country as a Pandey is certified as Brahman, Baghel as Kshtriya and Patwa as Vaisya, then, of course I cannot say whether it will be a religious or an irreligious act, but certainly, the day these 6743 castes are certified as Sudras, the helpless and toothless Government of today will not be a minority but a majority Government needing support or mercy from none in the House. He who the reins of power is the society, has the key to social change. That will be the day when Shudra community will hold away from Delhi to Lucknow, Patna, Bhopal, Bangalore and all around and that will obviate the necessity of any kind of reservation, assured employment scheme or mid-day meal to them. By making their children beg with a begging bowl in their hand is nothing but an insult to them. It is not a reward for their service rendered by them. 80 per cent of the people constituting Dalits and labourers in this country who have sweated and toiled for this country, who have added to its glory by working for it with devotion and dutifully but have got nothing in return except the begging bowl in the hands of their lads for receiving mid-day meals. This is what the Government intends whereas there is no dearth of anything in this country. Nature has endowed us with plenty of mineral resources as free gifts. We have no shortage of anything. Iron ore is produced here only to be exported to Japan. Japan is ahead of us whereas there is a beeline of beggars in our country and this is where we are lagging. We are not lacking in resources. There is no need of shedding crocodile tears for the Dalits and backwards in our society, what is needed is firm determination. If we want to have peace in the country and see smile on their face, then

[SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA]

I would only say that the country has borrowed millions of rupees from the World Bank for land reforms and environmental purposes and consequently, is neck deep in foreign debt. But there is 40 lakh hectares of land in this country which can be made cultivable and distributed to the poor people. If a labourer who is landless and houseless, gets just two hectares of arable land, then his son no longer have to take to begging or depend on mid-day meals. But for that to happen, firm determination is required.

I would like to say one more thing that several times I have written to Hon'ble President, Hon'ble Prime Minister and Law Minister. It is my opinion all the leaders sitting here, with some possible exceptions must have suffered imprisonment sometime or the other in recent times. Patwa ji has just gone out, when he was the Chief Minister he had put me into jail as a reward. I study in the jail for three years and I know the miseries and pains and the real story of the inmates of the jail. I had not gone to jail as a political prisoner. To be put in 'B' Class category. I underwent imprisonment as a ordinary inmate for three years and saw the miseries, sorrows and difficulties of fellow prisoners from close quarters that is why I wrote to the about dignatories. I was hoping that in this House the Government of hon. Deve Gowda ji will think of lakhs of helpless prisoners, under the imprison for 20-25 years. The Human Rights Commission set up in this country delivers no fruitful results. I had written to the hon. President that with the enactment of Section 433 in the Cr. P.C. with effect from 18.12.78, in the Constitution, the prisoners have been deprived of the respite or remittment in sentence which use to be available to them on 15th August or 26 January by the Superintendent or Jailor, the life prisoners have no benefit of the same because having undergone imprisonment for 20 years, the said respite has got no meaning for them. They get no remark irrespective of whether they have been of good character, restraint and discipline during their jail term in the eyes of the Superintendent or Jailor. Otherwise the Jailor or Superintendent release the prisoners having undergone so much imprisonment. But prisoners for 20 years term come under the jurisdiction of the State Government which fails to look after them. You see that the State Governments has many challenges to face in the present situation and therefore, no time for looking at the jail affairs. That is why I had wished in this House and urged upon Hon'ble President to provide justice through the agency of this House to those people who have undergone imprisonment for 20 years. Therefore, I would urge upon that for the prisoners who have been in jail for a period upto 28 years, the jail superintendent, the jailor and the officers in-charge of the jail should be re-empowered to release those prisoners by deleting Section 433 of the Cr.P.C. so that such people may also get the benefit of 50th Anniversary of our Independence on the auspicious occasions of the coming 15th August and 26th January and such helpless persons may be liberated from this horrible life of slavery and may return to their homes to the cheering of the helpless

children wife and parents at the fag end of their life. With this expectations, I would like to say one more thing that I have gone through the President's Address which contains 52 points. I have pleasure that today we have a Government representing 52 per cent of the population. But I am constraint to oppose the present Motion of Thanks because I speak of 85 per cent of the population by rising above the figure of just 52 per cent.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having giving me the opportunity to speak and with this I conclude.

SHRI RAMSAGAR (BARABANKI): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The House is aware that in the recently held Lok Sabha elections no party, whether national or regional, has got majority in Lok Sabha. Therefore Bhartiya Janata Party was the first party to have tried to come to power by forming a front with Shiv Sena, Akali Dal etc. The reason why I point to this is that the 14 party front ruling here has been criticised much while efforts at forming a United Front were made on both sides. It is good that various parties other than three or four allied parties did not lend their support to Bhartiya Janta Party. I owe my thanks to them as it was they who made it possible to bring about a 14 party Government. I understand that these parties belong to different parts of the country speaking different languages and in a way symbolise unity in diversity. Before the formation of the National Front Government, the Bhartiya Janta Party, which is disintegrating force, had generated hatred among the masses by its deeds. It made brothers thirsty of blood of one another resulting in the spread of disharmony all over the country. The President in his Address has today given top priority to the atmosphere of brother-hood, end of hatred and peace brought about by the United Front Government, this is our achievement. What has been happening hitherto is that whenever elections were due in any State, the Central leadership always thought in terms of votes likely to be got by it in that particular State and it used to have elections there only if there was likelihood of its getting enough votes. Otherwise election were postponed on one pretext or another. But this has never been the intention of our National Front Government whether it was the case of Punjab or Jammu-Kashmir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: National Front or United Front.

SHRI RAMSAGAR: National Front. Many thanks to you. The country cannot afford this feeling. Our own party may not have got seats there but as is evident from the election results in Maharashtra it will be seen how this feeling of ours was responsible. You would be glad to know that the Smajwadi Party has created an important place for itself there. It won 21 seats in the elections to the Nagar Parishad. This is a tremendous achievement.

Mr. Chairman Sir, day before yesterday, I heard many hon. Member, especially Dr. Murlī Monohar Joshi, saying during their speeches on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address that this Address contained nothing.

I had attentively listened to the speech of Shri Nitish Kumar, leader of the Samta Party who is in the Chair right now. This is true that our Government accorded top priority to providing drinking water. He has lightly said that there is no arrangement for toilets for women in rural areas. The problem should also be added in the Address. The Government has done right thing by according topmost priority to primary education and by targetting those children who do not have facilities for education, mid-day meals and health. In my view, the issues to which priority has been given in the President's Address are all very important. The people understand the importance of these issues. It is another matter that some people who do not believe in the good of the poor do not realise it. Our farm workers who have made an important contribution in increasing the agricultural yield really deserve congratulations.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev of the Congress Party is present here. A promise was made by the previous Government that funds would be provided to the backward rural areas under the Employment Guarantee Scheme so that assets could be created there through the workers. The workers employed under this scheme would be paid wages as per the Government norms and they would be assured of 100 days employment in a year. This would provide employment to the poor on the one hand and would pave way for the development of backward villages. We consider it to be a good programme. Our Government has increased the allocation of funds to expand this programme. Last time 3-3, 4-4 blocks of the district were selected for this scheme but this time the number of blocks has been increased 2-3 fold. Not only this, there is a provision to provide housing facility to the poor homeless. The work relating to tree plantation, construction of check dams and levelling of uneven and uncultivable land are all well-intended schemes because under this scheme the land can be made fertile and distributed among the poor and creating employment thereby. These are the good programmes of this Government. Today we are happy to note that our Government has taken a number of steps for social justice. Just now, my colleague was speaking and the direction to which he has hinted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you could conclude early, one more hon. Member could have been given a chance to speak.

SHRI RAMSAGAR: I am concluding. The women belonging to the oppressed classes of the society were not getting representation in Panchayats, Parishads, Nagar Panchayats, Block Area Committees. Now that they have got the representation in these bodies, they are not being given charge at many places on the pretext that they have no experience. But the good thing that has happened in that the people belonging to backward communities, minorities, oppressed classes have all started getting representation in the local bodies. Now they can explain their problems, they can speak about the development of their localities. Thus, the policies of our Government are aimed at creating an egalitarian society, all round development

of the country and strengthening the unity of the country. These policies will also help in removing the feeling of hatred and inculcating the feeling of brotherhood which can make the country strong.

But there are some problems too. For instance, the problem of corruption is there. We allocate funds for the Employment Guarantee Scheme, but by the time it reaches the villages, a major part of these funds is siphoned off. These are some shortcomings in the schemes relating to housing. Although our P.D.S. is okay, yet the Government has given some hints about improving it. The United Front Government headed by Shri Deve Gowda and under the leadership of Shri Mulayam Singh and leaders of other parties is going in the right direction. The President's Address, in fact, points towards that direction. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Member has spoken from the DMK Party so far.

SHRI RAMSAGAR: Only by taking this direction, the farmers and villages of this country can be made strong.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is understood that you will support it.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. RAMANATHAN (COIMBATORE): It gives me great pleasure to take part in the discussion on Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address delivered to both the Houses of Parliament. I thank you for having provided me with an opportunity to speak on this Address that pronounces the policy of the multi-party Government at the Centre.

After fifty years of independence, at a time when we celebrate the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our free country, we have a coalition Government at the Centre. At the recently concluded elections, people have given a verdict for a Government by the federation of various parties. I thank the President for having sound echoed the sentiments of all the 14 parties which have come together to provide a secular and stable Government. The essence of the principles of all the parties is emphasized in his Address to the Parliament.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramanathan, you will continue your speech tomorrow. Please take your seat. The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

19.00 Hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February, 27, 1997/Phalgun 8, 1918 (Saka)

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.