

[Shri Brahamanand Mandal]

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Tourism to declare Monghyr as tourist centre and provide adequate financial assistance to develop it as a tourist centre of international repute.

(viii) Need to take concrete steps to stop poaching of Leopards and Tigers

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : According to a WWF - India Study, leopards in the country are facing a threat to their existence more than ever before due to unabated poaching. The sources say that 262 leopard skin had been seized from various parts of the country between July 1993 and January 1995. The leopard skin is being sold without any check in tourist spots such as Kullu, Manali, Dharmashala in Himachal Pradesh, Darjeeling in West Bengal, Surat in Gujarat and in Shimilipal in Orissa. The matter has been raised in various forums by different prominent individuals and the Members of Parliament. But very little has been done to check such illegal trade.

Skins and bones of tiger and leopard are in great demand in the underground market in Calcutta and several other cities. These are in great demand as substitutes for tiger parts command lucrative prices. As a substantial number of leopards are found outside the network of protected areas, they are vulnerable to poaching. According to the census done in 1993 the leopard population stands double than that of the tiger. The number of tigers in the country was 3750 whereas leopards was 7500 according to the census of 1993. But the rate of leopard poaching has increased five times during the period mentioned above.

Unless deforestation activities are stopped, the leopard will continue to fall prey to the poachers. I urge upon the Government of India to ask the State Government for proper preservation of existing forest and also to undertake appropriate and adequate afforestation measures forthwith so as to stop poaching of leopards and tigers.

14.55 hrs.

[English]

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(GENERAL)—1997-98-Contd.**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us move on to item No. 7 of the list of Business, that is, further discussion on Demands for Supplementary Grants (General).

In this respect I want to inform the hon. Members of this House that the time allotted for this discussion was two hours and we have already taken one hour and 57 minutes. We have got only three minute left. On the other hand, at least, there are about nine Members to participate in the discussion. Therefore, I request all the speakers to be very brief so that the hon. Minister of Finance can complete this business of the House and refer it to the other House.

I would further request that every speaker should confine himself to the Budget papers.

Prof. Om Pal Singh Niddar was on his legs.

[Translation]

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (Jalesar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday when I started speaking, immediately another matter was taken up. As per your calculation if I speak for 10 seconds, 3 minutes time will be over. I am speaking on budget for the first time and, therefore, I would like to take a few more minutes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that our Government wants to get approval for buying opium worth Rs. 60 crore. I could not understand that. On the one hand, they make efforts to enforce prohibition and on the other hand, a large quantity of opium is seized and if that quantity is exported, foreign exchange worth rupees sixty crores could be earned. I could not understand it. Apart from it, demand no. 14 pertains to the Department of Tele-Communications for which a provision of Rs 26060.96 crores has been made and even then the position of this Department is not good and, perhaps, the members belonging to the ruling as well as opposition parties will agree to it. No norms or policy is being followed in this department and the people are compelled to pay bribes to get their work done. Such is the situation in the society which should be checked and the work should be monitored.

Demand no. 22 relates to the forest and environment. I don't understand what the Government wants to do for environment. There are 80 many people in this country, who do not feel necessary to set up industry under American pressure or of their own. Small scale industries earn a lot of foreign exchange and provide employment to crores of people. There is a racket. I am not levelling allegations against anyone but the Constitution is being violated. A number of small scales industries are being closed down in the name of enviroment and Government is watching as mute spectator. There is no persuasion. Nobody raises question in this regard. Great injustice is being done to Ferozabad, Etah, Mathura, Bharatpur and Dhaulpur districts in the name of protecting Taj Mahal. I do not know whether Government has any project to save there cities from pollution. I feel that those who are themselves

polluted can not check the pollution of others. As George Sahib said, Rs 40 crores are being provided to Bhutan. In his opinion this money should not be provided until democracy is restored there and they should give guarantee to this effect. Our country is a democratic country and we support Gandhism, democratic values and humanism. We are also opposed to the policy of apartheid. I do not understand what kind of national interest we are serving if we give money to the murders of democracy. In this context, mention has been made here about direct taxes. We have a peculiar tax system in the country. I think for taxes, we make same nexus and earmark the amount of tax keeping in view personal benefits. In my opinion the tax system should be such that people of their own volition pay the taxes without any middleman.

15.00 hrs.

There is also a racket in this field too. If tax is assessed at rupees one lakh, rupees twenty thousand is deposited in Government accounts, rupees twenty thousand is taken away by middlemen, rupees twenty thousand is taken by the concerned officer and the Government has to suffer a loss of rupees twenty thousand. Funds are being demanded for sugar. Money is sought for intelligence services. It is not a bad thing but some benefit must accrue from the intelligent services. Secret informations are passed on to the foreign countries. If the money is incurred for these, I cannot support it.

As regard the demand for power sector, I do not understand what is to be renovated and modernised. Billions of rupees are incurred but the problem remains as it is. Power shortage but as we go out to the big cities, whether in Uttar Pradesh or in the other states, we find them in dark. No body cares for the villages. The poor farmers on whose votes we become Members of this House and who continue to be the centre of our discussion, must receive Government's attention.

The demands to the Ministry of Labour are also not reasonable because they do not fulfil their objectives. I would like to say one thing more that the state of Uttar Pradesh has been totally neglected in the Budget as well as supplementary Budget. The population of the State is about 16 crore. The Tenth Finance Commission had given certain recommendations for special assistance, but the same have not been implemented so far. The State Government had forwarded about 90 projects and other important matters for clearance of the Central Government from the year 1995-96. Out of them 16 projects are under the Ministry of Agriculture and of the remaining projects, two projects relate to Fishery Department, four projects to the Forest Department, one project to Rural Department and one project with an outlay of Rs 5 to 7 thousand crore

relates to trapezium. The Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders to the effect that no industry which emits smoke will be run here has adversely affected the glass industry, foundry industry, Bichhua industries. In that order it was also said that gas and electricity would be supplied continuously round the clock. But our Government had implemented one part of that order and they had closed the industries due to which about 10 lakh workers have been rendered jobless. On the other hand, some funds have needed to revive the Industries which could give employment to unemployed people. Ferozabad which alone earns foreign exchange worth rupees twenty crores for the country has been neglected. The above decision was taken three years ago but the Government does not want to do anything besides six irrigation projects, five public works department projects, Seven Energy projects, four heavy industry projects, six Small Scale industry export promotion projects and about 90 other projects are there but the Government has not taken any decision on these projects so far. I donot know what are the difficulties before the Government in implementing these projects. I would like to reiterate what I said yesterday that whether it is the discussion on the full Budget or supplementary budget, I do not want my colleagues to thump the desks in my support. What I want them to see whether or not this is covered under the Budget. If I am wrong, I am open for a challenge.

First thing that comes to my mind is that no relief has been provided to the farmers in the budget. There has been a record production of potato in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in district Farrukhabad and Khandauli region of Jalesar. But about 40 per cent of the produce got destroyed in the field and the rest which was sent to the cold storage is lying unattended. There is no crop insurance facility. No effort is being made for the export of potato. Had the Government announced that Potato will be exported, this could have saved the farmers to some extent.

If some companies are allowed to work in the field of exports, the farmers can be benefited to some extent. Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that the major problems of the country are sidetracked due to technicalities. One hour of the House has since passed as a result of a pandemonium. When the problems of the country are raised, the technicality comes in the way and the bell is rung. This is not my voice, but it is the voice of the nation. Hence the timings of the House should be used properly. I want a few minutes to say something in this regard. The other things I want to say is that this will not provide any relief to the labourers. You please tell me if there is any relief to the labourers. If you want to incur expenditure on retirement or for retrenchment, it cannot be taken as relief. The factories

[Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar']

should be kept in running condition for which you can even engage the workers on lower wages. On the other hand, the factories are being closed. We people are importing many items while the other countries are dumping the goods. I had also raised this matter the other day. The paper which is available @ Rs. 22/- per kg. in our country is available @ Rs. 30 per kg. in Sweden, US, Canada and Russia. They are bent upon ruining our industries by dumping their goods at a margin of one percent. When the anti-dumping duty was imposed, all of them opposed it and our Government could do nothing. The same situation prevails everywhere. Lakhs of people are engaged in cable industry, but a single businessmen of US, who is a media king, is trying to make the entire Government been formed to make the country bankrupt. We are here merely to deliver speeches. We shall have to resort the struggle and we shall have to cooperate with our industrial workers and the public. We will have to take into consideration all these things. There is no relief for the salaried class. There is no relief to the traders and shopkeepers. No arrangements have been made to protect the industry. Undue weightage is being given to the imported articles. There is no control over rising prices. In the budget the policy seems to be favourable towards militants. There is a lack of development in villages while the water resources are being misused here. A particular section of Dalits called Balmikis are not being provided drinking water.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude, you are a sincere member.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : I would take one minute more. There is a lack of health services. There is a lack of transport facilities. The corruption is at its peak in Government undertakings. Corrupt and dishonest officers are being protected. I am talking of the Chairman, ITDC who was appointed illegally and now a conspiracy is on to extend his services. This is the ground reality while you want that there should be development. Efficient officers are being removed from service. The prevailing situation is that the officer who detected a theft of 80 crores was suspended. I would name the officer if the hon. Minister desire to know the same. He was suspended last year i.e. 1996-97. This is the situation which prevails in our country. No efforts are being made for self-reliance. There is lack of will in the administration. Each and every item of the budget lacks the objective of social service and productivity. I had put forth a few things in regard to this budget and before I conclude, I would like to say a little more in this respect and I would also like the House to support me. If we are committed to something merely in our speech, it will not do any good. We can achieve the goal only by practising the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Proferssor, now you conclude.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a few lines of a poem and I will read it out here. I do not say that I am the most disciplined person. But you might have not seen me to create a pandemonium.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I am trying to make you understand.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : I am reciting a few couplets of the poem and by doing so, I am trying to analyse this budget.

Aalishan Mahal ke wasi,
Ho galiyon ke faag naheen tum,
In Andhiyari jhonpandiyon ke
Jaltay huge chirag naheen tum,
Ho kewal shoshan ke fande,
Deeno ke Anurag naheen tum,
Sun lo O' madira ke piyalao,
Ho utkrisht parag naheen tum,
Saath ujalon mein chalkar hee,
Khud ko meet samaajhane walo,
Mein to meet tabhi manoonga,
Andhiyaron mein saath chalogay,
Saath kinaron tak chalkar hee,
khud ko meet samajhane walo,
Main to meet tabhi manoonga,
Majhdahron mein saath chalogay.

With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I could not hear the initial remarks of the hon. Minister of Finance as I was busy with another Parliamentary Committee meeting. I do not know whether it is an advantage or disadvantage. The normal procedure is that while we discuss the General Budget first we pass the Demands for Grants and then we take up Finance Bill. In the background, there is, a Budget speech on the basis of which we try to appreciate whether or not the Demands for Grants which we are passing would be able to meet those demands. There are reports which cause anxiety in our minds to the effect that the collection of revenue during this year upto now present a dismal picture. I want a statement from the Finance Minister about that. This is one demand that I am making. What is the present state of revenue collection from which we are supposed to provide some Rs. 1,900 crore as additional out-go. I would request the hon. Minister to make that kind of statement while responding to our demands.

It is said that half the amount would be financed by savings. Every year the PAC concerns itself with the savings at the end of the year which are not noted

earlier. We have passed several Demands for Grants. Is it not correct for the hon. Minister to come before the House to indicate whether the savings are taking place? We will know whether the modification is taking place from what we have considered to be appropriate while passing the General Budget. So, that kind of indication should be given to us. Where are the savings? It is because I may have a point that money in that important area should not have been saved. It is not merely a collection from the National Renewal Fund but savings *per se*. So, I want a statement from the hon. Minister on that.

I will not comment on what has been proposed. My comments will be on what has not been proposed. Though I do not know the financial constraints adequately, I would like to put forward some proposals. I want the response of the Finance Minister though there may be some financial constraints, whether or not these things would be considered on priority basis.

One is regarding the Indian Bank which has lost Rs. 1,300 crore. I am told that the customers are fleeing away from the Indian Bank putting it into more difficulty. In spite of that there is no provision in this Budget for the Indian Bank. I want the Finance Minister to respond to this. It is because this is very important for the banking sector.

In his own statement on the Pay Commission he has mentioned that Rs. 2,000 crore would be the additional out-go.

If there are revisions, if justice is done to Group C and Group D employees in terms of reformulation of the scales which I mentioned as really a retrograde one, there will be further outgo. But additional amount has not been provided for this. I want to have a response to this.

It is well-known that the United Front is very keen to see that the public distribution system is targeted to people below the poverty line. We have provided for it at a minimal level, that is, up to 10 kg. The demand was that it should be 30 kg. It would be improved as and when the position of stock of foodgrains is improved. The decision to give 10 kg. was taken when the food stock position was at a very low level. Now that it has improved, they would give more and that again means further outgo. But a provision has not been made to that in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Let me mention one more thing. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Chaturanan Mishra and others come here and tell us, "What can we do? Funds are not there; the Finance Ministry is not providing funds." This kind of expressions come from within the Cabinet. The Railway Minister has promised that all the casual contract labourers will be absorbed. But still they are

not able to do it and the process is going on. Why should we not provide more funds to the Railways so that the promise of the Leader of the House is fulfilled as quickly as possible?

There is a similar thing. A deputation from all the airports met the Civil Aviation Minister. There is also a Supreme Court judgement. According to the Supreme Court judgement, the contract labourers of various airports including the civil aviation ones, should be absorbed. We said that if this is not done before the 31st of August, we are going to serve a notice of strike. I am told that although the promise was there, there are difficulties in implementing that due to lack of resources. I want to know his response to this.

On the other day there was a reference, during the Question Hour, to pulses. Not enough funds are being made available in that sector, and not enough is being handed over. What is provided in this Supplementary Demands for Grants for strengthening the output of pulses within the economy? Pulses are considered to be poor men's protein.

I will come to the last point. About transfer of funds to the States due to the Pay Commission's recommendations, I would say that the impact on the State would be enormous. Why has he not provided anything additionally for transfer to the States? One argument could be that 75 per cent of the amount collected through the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme would go to the States. That will be an additional resource, but I do not know the fate of VDIS. I do not know whether it is ADIS or VDIS; whether it may be, we want to have a statement about this. We want that additional provision should be made for that, at least on that ground.

What I am going to say is really the last point.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, in the Inter-State Council Meeting, the hon. Finance Minister had assured that he would provide additional financial resources to the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He would reply to it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Maybe, he may come up with another Supplementary Demands for Grants in December.

The other point is this. Absolutely nothing should permit the public sector corporations to deny the retirement benefits to people who have retired three or four years ago. It is an impossible situation for this House and for the country at large. Where is the provision for reserve? They are not getting the retirement benefits. It is no use arguing that the corporations or companies are responsible for that and they can be hauled up in the court for nonpayment of retirement benefits.

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

Ultimately, the responsibility is that of the Government of India. So, on these retirement benefits and wages are due but they are denied, I agree that prices are coming down in terms of the wholesale price index. Nobody says that it is as reflected in the manner as the consumer prices envisage. Let us remember that the workers at the lowest level are denied their wages. What are they working for in the House for the growth of economy? So, this is also omitted in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. It hurts me. I am in a dilemma which the Finance Minister also faces and I am sure that he will say that. At the same time, I want to know this. Are these not, in order of priority, superior to whatever he has provided for? What would be his response to this point?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Without any dilemma, even though my party is supporting this Government from outside and Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is supporting from within....

MR. CHAIRMAN : His party is also supporting from outside.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : But there is some difference as we see things. We do not even indulge in back seat driving. So, that is the difference probably.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is like inner lobby and outer lobby.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I said 'back seat driving', I think you enjoy back seat driving but we do not enjoy that. In spite of that, I have no hesitation in supporting the Demands for Supplementary Grants moved by the hon. Finance Minister to the tune of Rs. 4000 crore.

I want to quickly deal with some of the points because I know you cannot permit me the time you have permitted Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not compare. You shall get it. You are also conscious of the limit.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Yes, Sir.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : He is no less respected than I am.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You speak having regard to the limitation of time.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I understand and I appreciate it.

Coming to the point, one sentence is still ringing in my ears which was made the other day by the hon. Finance Minister, even though it was very casually made to retort to a remark or in reply to Shri Mullapally Ramachandran when he was making a comment. It

was about the policy of the Minister's party. He quickly retorted that he represents the party which was born in fire and his policy reforms. I want to appreciate that even though I cannot fully appreciate liberalisation of reforms which I used to share very much with Shri Chidambaram since 1991, I have become a suspect of late because I cannot fully support this open-ended liberalisation policy. It is because we are living in a society which is, to a large extent, primitive in certain areas. I do not know whether I can use that word or not. In a society like ours which is backward in many aspects and ways, probably the kind of liberalisation which is being pursued by the Government is not correct. I remember and I recollect that since 1991, the country's coffers were practically empty and it was managed by people whom Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee's party was also supporting. When it was almost bankrupt, a Government came to power and that Government could build up a substantial reserves and today, Shri Chidambaram is sitting comfortable with a foreign exchange reserve of 25 billion US dollars. That is India's foreign reserve.

We all feel proud of that. At the same time, I want to point out one thing. If you take the last fortnight or a month, our foreign exchange reserve is not growing. It is going back in the reverse gear. It is depleting. If the figures with me are correct, it has gone down by 1.2 billion. The Minister of Finance is denying that. I am happy. I wanted it to be denied because I wanted it to happen the other way. But the figures say and the world report says that India is no more a favourable destination for the world for investment. The people from various other countries or the multinationals who can invest no more consider India as a favourable destination.

I have seen a Study Report published recently in the *Far Eastern Economic Review* that if you take 18 countries of Asia, the rank of India is thirteenth. There are very few countries like Pakistan or Myanmar or Sri Lanka which are behind India. So, India is no more a favourable destination. Money is not coming. We have liberalised the economy. We have opened it up. We are speaking about the rate of growth. I heard the Minister of Finance saying the other day that the only solution for alleviating poverty in this country is to achieve a rate of growth which is above seven per cent.

I remember Shrimati Indira Gandhi was also one of the most forward reformists this country has seen. She once said that the rate of growth alone cannot be the criterion for eradicating poverty. So many other aspects also to be seen. What the Minister of Finance is expecting can only be proportionate to the rate of investment. What is the rate of investment in this country? I have no

time to deal with many areas. But I want to bring one point to the notice of the hon. Minister of Finance.

In the power sector, about 80 companies signed Memoranda of Understanding with various State Governments in the country for nearly 35,000 MW of power. One MW of power would cost Rs. 5 crore. Thirty-five thousand MW of power would involve a huge amount. From where would this money come? There are 20 companies producing almost 11,000 MW of power. Almost all the formalities have been completed. But are they coming? What is happening to our system? The people are going to China for investment. I may differ with the party of Shri Nirmal kanti Chatterjee on many things. But I think, we can jointly request the Minister of Finance that at least the process of reforms which is taking place in China should be copied by India. This is probably the first time that I openly admire him.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : He would not accept it.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, he would agree privately because the best destination for the investors in the world today is China. How is it happening? They may oppose these in this House. That is for tactical reasons. The old habits die hard. You know that very well. It will take some more time for them to admit the truth. But very few people are coming to India because of the delays. That means, it is a loss. More and more agreements are signed; MOUs are signed and all the clearances are obtained. But the people are not coming. They are still not prepared to come and invest in India. It is happening everywhere except in the case of one or two projects in Maharashtra. Nothing has materialised so far. There have been tall talks in the last four or five years in this country. This is not one sector but in every sector of the economy it is happening in this country. That means, do not dream of a rate of growth above seven per cent without any substantial investment. The investment should come only in proportion to the investment. That way, you can achieve the rate of growth. So, dreaming is good. It is one thing. But at the same time, what is happening in this country is entirely different. Corruption is continuing among the political leadership. Corruption is deep in the bureaucracy. The delay is due to that. Because of all these things, the investors are shying away from India. That kind of a situation is at the background of all these things.

The hon. Minister of Finance has moved for certain things in this country. I support and admire him on three things. I have seen all these things quickly. He has demanded Rs. 50 crore for scholarships for the Indian scientists. We have a scientific community which in number and quality is far better than that of any developing country in the world. So, the Indian scientists are not getting their due share or the recognition they deserve. They have made India self-sufficient. They took India to the space age. Our scientists are not getting

encouragement. If there is anybody to oppose these Demands for Supplementary Grants, I think, he will surely agree on this count.

It is the 50th year of Independence. We remember the great struggles and sacrifices by our great forefathers who fought for this country. Many of them ended up their lives in the cellular jail. So, here is a supplementary demand to modify the cellular jail. It is also a national memorial. The *Samadhi* of Shri Morarji Desai has also been included in these things. In this hectic process, probably these things have come to my notice. I congratulate him for these things.

I have some very serious criticism also. Let me do it very quickly. There is Demand No. 2 for creating the Aquaculture Authority. The Supreme Court has issued a stay for the entire aquaculture activities in the country. There are not always big people. Many small people have invested the savings for their entire life in aquaculture. Now there are environmentalists' movements in this country. You know the history. The Western countries are now sitting pretty. They are encouraging the environmentalists' movements. I am not criticising all the movements. But at the same time, many of the movements by environmentalists are in a way misled or instigated by the Western powers also to block our progress.

Aquaculture activity in the country has come to a grinding halt. What is being done by this Government in this regard? The hon. Finance Minister is asking for money and we are prepared to give it. But let him say as to what has happened to the Bill. Sufficient priority is not accorded to the Bill. For the first time in this Session, this Bill has figured in the agenda today. We all know as to how many of the items on the agenda see the light of the day. Enough priority is not given to this industry in which hundreds of crores of rupees are invested. It has completely come to a grinding halt because of the Supreme Court order. Aquaculture should be regulated to safeguard the environmental problems. That Bill has to be brought into the House as early as possible, if not in this Session. Otherwise, a great injustice would be done to aquaculture in India.

We have a Finance Minister who wants total independence. As he once said, it is in connection with the midnight's children, those who are born in the year of independence. Demands No. 10, 11, 14, 15, 88 and 89 deal with the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. How much employment could we create in the country after the scheme began to be implemented? We are silently witnessing a situation in which people are offered golden handshakes and are sent away. If employment is being lost and new employment is not being created, probably there should be some other alternative. I would request that more and more money be allotted from the National

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

Renewal Fund for such golden handshakes with employees. After accepting a golden handshake, where do they go? Children of most of them do not have any money to fall back upon. Many families are going to be impoverished after this. After a whole life's struggle when they go out of employment they will have to come on to the streets. That kind of a situation is developing. We want more growth in this country so that more employment is generated and employment is stabilised for those who are already working.

One very important thing recently announced by the Finance Minister is the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme. The Income Tax Department is monitoring this scheme. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee has mentioned it and I am also an optimist. The Minister has come out with a very attractive proposition. He said, "30 per cent tax and 100 per cent peace of mind". It may be too early for the hon. Minister to disclose the progress of the scheme. But I would like him to tell me at least if he is confident about the progress of the scheme. This probably is the last experiment of this kind in the country. Many times in the past we had experimented with such schemes and they never yielded any result. If a good result does not come out of it now, what will happen to the parallel economy in the country in future? I only want a simple answer from Shri Chidambaram. I know that he is a capable person. Let him say that he is confident about the progress of the scheme. I do want him to disclose anything else.

Here is a demand for providing vehicles, computers and equipment in the Income Tax Department. The Department is directly under the administrative control of the hon. Finance Minister. The total expenditure of the Department is less than 1.5 per cent, considering the service they are doing to the society. How can he be so stringent in giving money to them? He has provided same money to them. But even an Assistant Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax does not have a vehicle in this Department. Can the hon. Minister feel comfortable of that when the Department is directly under him? One cannot be penny wise and pound foolish. All his predecessors probably were penny-wise and pound foolish on this. Let the Department be given more facilities. They are monitoring a scheme which is probably the last of its kind in the country.

I have a very big concern. I see that Demand No. 38 is a good one. It provides for maintenance of 10 lakh tonnes of bufferstock of sugar. I am very happy that the sugar farmers are helped. We have made a request before the hon. Finance Minister and I am sorry to say that it fell on deaf ears. My State Kerala is producing

99.9 per cent of the natural rubber in the country. The price of rubber is falling. When Shri Chidambaram was the Commerce Minister he helped the rubber farmers. The price of rubber which was Rs. 60 per kg this time last year, is Rs. 40 per kg today in Cochin. Imagine how much would be the loss suffered by rubber-growers! Five lakh tonnes of rubber was produced in India. If Rs. 20 per kg is lost, how much would be the loss incurred by the rubber-growers in the country? But the prices of tyres have not come down. The tyre manufacturers are calculating their prices taking into account the price of raw material at Rs. 60 per kg or even more than that. When the price is falling, farmers are the only people who are suffering losses. I would be very happy if the hon. Finance Minister sets apart some amount to create a bufferstock for rubber. This problem is known to the Finance Minister better than me. If 25 tonnes of rubber is collected and made into a bufferstock for six months, the market will improve and become steady. Demand and supply is the theory. Market conditions will improve, the prices will go up and the farmers will be helped if at least 25,000 kilogram of rubber is brought. At Today's price, Rs. 40 a kilogram into 25,000 kilograms less than Rs. 100 crore. For Government of India it is not a big thing. STC should be able to build a bufferstock. We all represented.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : The Cabinet committee on Prices under my Chairmanship has already instructed STC to buy rubber. Rubber is being bought. It is not proper to disclose the quantity because that would affect the market price. But, there is a benchmark price and rubber is being brought at that benchmark price.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : But benchmark price was decided by the...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Not that benchmark price. We have a new benchmark price and rubber is being brought at that price. Details if you want privately, you can either talk to the Minister of Commerce or to me. I will tell you the details privately because I do not want market to be affected announcing the details here. Sir, these instructions were given a few days ago.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : If it is recently priced, I am happy. But at least the farmer should get an economic price for the rubber.

My hon. friend, Shri Nidar was saying that when there was a bumper crop of potatoes in Uttar Pradesh and of tomatoes in Karnataka, has the Government come to the rescue of the farmers? I want to ask this question. Fifty paise per kilogram and 20 kilogram carton was sold for Rs. 10 in Karnataka. Can you believe it? Are they not Indian citizens? Are they not entitled to get the benefit of this liberalisation? If liberalisation is nothing to the farmers of India, than I hate liberalisation.

When the price of tomatoes is falling to 50 paise and below with a heap of potatoes, disposal is a problem.

Cholera is spreading in areas in Uttar Pradesh where this harvest is going on. You might have seen that report. Has this Government come to the rescue of the farmers? Is this what we expect from liberalisation? Farmers should be helped and protected. So, I wish that some steps are to be taken in this direction.

Now the Hon. Minister has given an assurance to Shri Mahajan and the Members from Himachal Pradesh that the Central Government would stand by the Himachal Pradesh Government. One hundred and forty people killed in the landslide in Himachal Pradesh. In Idukki and in many places in Kerala, due to landslide hundreds of people died. The total death toll was 125. What is the policy of the Government of India regarding calamity relief? We are providing an amount for the calamity relief where there is hailstorm, where there is rain, where there is flood and where there is landslide. This is the amount you take it whether there is calamity or not. This is not the attitude where no responsive Government can behave like this. I wish that the Minister makes a special grant, ask for the permission of Parliament to help the people who suffer due to natural calamities.

In the recent floods, droughts and landslides, we have asked the Central Government to send a team. A team came very late to see the floods. After 15 days if any team visits the State to see the floods, floods will come and floods will go. What will they see? What kind of report, will they make? They are not even getting infrastructure for agriculture. It is being washed away. We have lost hundreds of crores. We are getting a pittance when you compare it the regular share is and as to what is provided to us under the Natural Calamities Relief Fund.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to think afresh. This is not the way to administer the country, especially the finances of the country. At least natural calamities should be given their due share and consideration.

With these words, I support the Supplementary Demands.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the supplementary budget presented by the Union Minister of Finance in regard to the Demands for Supplementary Grants. When this Government came to power, it had a Common Minimum Programme and it contained certain things while main budget and the supplementary budget of the Ministry of Finance has policies of the Government which will disturb the national economy and will result

in closing down of the domestic industries in the name economy based on exports.

15.40 hrs.

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

India has a lack of employment opportunities. The United Front Government which poses itself as the well wisher of farmers has included certain programmes in its Common Minimum Programme in regard to rural development, agricultural development and to augment power generation. But when the budget is presented, it has nowhere been stated to increase the employment opportunities. Employment opportunities are declining day by day. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Finance to take care of this major problem i.e. employment. The Demands for Supplementary Grants presented by the Minister of Finance contain 47 demands. These demands have been put for the approval of the House. As I have already stated, the supplementary demands and the main budget both have affected the domestic industry. The budget is encouraging the foreign companies. The common man living in rural areas do not get benefit of the schemes like new Targetted Public Distribution Scheme meant for them. Common man and farmers are directly targeted for this scheme. These schemes were introduced to raise the standard of living of the common man. The Ministry of Finance should have taken care of the New Targetted Public Distribution Scheme in the supplementary demands for grants but it could do so. Our exports have come down. The exports have come down from the day when the United Front Government came to power. What are the reasons therefor? It is a matter of great concern. The funds meant for rural developments should be enhanced. The Ministry of Finance should ensure that the funds meant for a particular purpose should not be diverted to another item of expenditure. The same should be incurred on the item for which it is actually allocated. The Minister of Finance should take care of it.

Ministry of Finance should control the non-plan expenditure because it is very necessary to check it. After 1980 our budget deficit has been increasing continuously. It is a matter of great concern. While speaking on supplementary demands our senior most leader George Fernandes made a mention about foreign affairs. Irrigation Projects are pending in our country for the last many years and have not been completed. Our country is burning and we are going to save the other countries. I oppose the allocation of Rs. 40 crores which has been made for Bhutan. Adequate fund has not been allocated in our supplementary demands to boost agriculture in our country. There is shortage of electricity

[Shri Suresh R. Jadhav]

so we cannot make our industrial development. Therefore, provision of fund, should be made for electricity in this supplementary budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell the Finance Minister through you that Vidarbha and Marathwara are backward areas in our Maharashtra, where so many projects are pending and the cost is escalating. Unless we encourage our agriculture policy, our economic condition will not improve. I request you to increase employment, village development and agriculture. You have started new T.P.D.C. which is beneficial. Had provisions been made, for this, in supplementary budget, it would have been better. But it is not so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government/advocates the policy of liberalisation but actually it is suppressing the foreign policy. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Swadeshi. Today we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our independence. Therefore, it was necessary to make allocation in supplementary budget. But it is not done.

I conclude my speech by opposing this supplementary budget.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Supplementary Grants. Nobody can deny the fact that India is an agricultural country, but only those who come from agriculturist families or background can realise the problems of farmers. We are celebrating the 50th years of our Independence and are spending millions of rupees on it. Two years ago, price of Jute ranged between Rs. 1800-2000 per quintal in North Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. Today it is four hundred to five hundred rupees per quintal. You can well understand the plight of farmers. If we explain the actual condition of the farmers, a lot of people will feel the pain. Jute crop requires lot of labour and capital. Despite investment of so much capital and labour we are giving least profit to farmers.

During the eleven months period of V.P. Singh Government, the prices of fertilizers did not increase. But after that, when Congress was in power in the Centre for five years, there was no fertilizer which did not register an increase. We want to thank the United Front Government for increasing the prices of fertilizers. Even then farmers have to face several problems.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are celebrating the golden jubilee of Independence and we have yet not been able to make provisions in the budget for providing drinking water in the villages nor have we chalked out any programme in this regard. It is stated in Common Minimum Programme that it would be chalked out but

we don't hope that the arrangements of water and electricity will be made in the villages in stipulated time limit. Millions of rupees are spent on fountains, electric equipments and on beautification of big cities of the country but even after fifty years of Independence, we are unable to provide water and electricity in the villages. We could not make any arrangement for providing education in the villages. Whatever the problems are, they are in villages only. No such problems are there in the cities. If foodgrains are not supplied from the villages there will be a hue and cry in the entire country because most of the things, are produced in villages and then sent to the cities.

Mr. Chairman, crores of unemployed people are wandering. No such programme has been formulated, which could solve this problem of unemployment in the entire country. Situation of the unemployed is pitiable as even after receiving Master degree, they are ready to accept a class IV job. We want to request, through you, the honourable Finance Minister and honourable Prime Minister, that Central Government should prepare a plan which may solve the problems of unemployment. Finance Minister is here. I want to tell him that unemployed who have taken loans from Bank. After hypothecating their certificates warrants are being issued against them and attachment is going on. They are puzzled. When we people go to our constituency, large number of unemployed youths urge us to solve the problem of unemployment. Finance Minister or Prime Minister should issue instructions to the banks to write off the interest which is to be recovered from those unemployed youths, who have taken loans after mortgaging their certificates, so that they may be able to pay capital amount. But we are unable even in making such arrangements.

Sir, Bhimnagar Barrage has been constructed on Indo-Nepal Border. Due to this barrage, farmers are being ruined and destroyed. Main canals as well as all the branch canals are filled up with sand and it has been filled up in such a way that the required quantity of waters is not being absorbed in the canals. Financial condition of Bihar is so critical that it is not in a position to get the sand removed from the main as well as branch canals. Therefore we request the Central Government to consider it seriously. Actually farmers of North Bihar can get water from main canal and if arrangements are not made properly, apprehension of breach in main canal are there. Definitely, Bihar will be submerged. So I want to request the honourable Finance Minister through you, to consider the suggestions that I have made, seriously. Thank you very much for providing me an opportunity to speak.

*SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1997-98. Our hon'ble Minister Shri Chidambaram is holding a key portfolio which would determine the progress of our nation. He hails from our neighbouring State, Tamil Nadu. He is doing his best for the improvement of our economy.

70% of our country's population consists of agriculturists and agricultural workers. Hence it becomes inevitable to allocate budgetary funds in accordance with the population. That is, 70% of the total budget should go to the farmers. The main problem before the farmers is water scarcity. In fact, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi had stressed the importance of providing water to the farmers. They had suggested the linking of important rivers like Ganga, Cauvery, Mahanadi, etc. By doing so, crores of unemployed educated youths would get jobs. As the father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi had stated we would be able to provide at least two square meals to all the citizens. In Karnataka, 8 to 10 districts are facing water scarcity. In my own district, the water table has gone down to a level of 600 ft. The Government of India spends more than Rs 50 crores for drought relief and flood relief programmes. A substantial amount is being spent on various areas every year under Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. I would like to suggest to the Government of India that if they spend another 50 crores of rupees more in each district they can solve the water scarcity problem of our farmers once for all. We have to give importance for disiltation of tanks throughout the country. Top priority must be given to sprinkling irrigation system. Deforestation must be checked and afforestation programmes should be expedited. All these programmes require a substantial budgetary support.

16.00 hrs

Our hon'ble Minister Shri Ramoowalia is doing an excellent job in the field of welfare. It is gratifying to note that our Finance Minister has provided about 250 crore of rupees for setting up Kasturba Residential School for girls. I urge upon the hon'ble Finance Minister to set up residential schools for boys in all the district headquarters of the country in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. This would be a wise decision to respect the father of our nation while celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. These residential schools should function on the pattern of Navodaya Schools. This would benefit most of the students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and economically weaker sections of our society.

Liberalisation policy has affected our silk industry to some extent. The duty on import of silk has been brought down to 30% from 60%. This leads to the dumping of imported silk goods in our country which

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

would destroy our indigenous silk production specifically our small scale silk industry. This import policy would affect the whole indigenous industry in the country.

I am happy that the Hon'ble Minister has reduced the excise duty on soft drinks. I would stress that this kind of exemption should be given to the swadeshi soft drinks like Rasna, Sudha, etc. More than 25 hon'ble Members of Parliament met the hon'ble Finance Minister a few months ago and urged upon him to exempt duty for these soft drinks. These soft drinks are cheaper when compared to other drinks like Coca Cola. These soft drinks are fruit based and the farmers use these drinks in marriages and other important functions. Hence I once again request the hon'ble Minister to consider reduction in the excise duty for these soft drinks. I thank the hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram for bringing down the excise duty on fruit based soft drinks from 18% to 10%. Rasna and Sudha soft drinks also under fruit based soft drinks. I therefore request the hon'ble Minister to extend the exemption duty to these soft drinks also.

The House is well aware that our former Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh has earned a great name as the most efficient Finance Minister at the international level. I am sure our present Finance Minister, hon'ble Chidambaram would also rise to this level. For this, as I mentioned in the beginning, he has to allocate more funds for the agriculturists and agricultural workers. I also urge upon him to continue subsidy on fertilizers. This key portfolio of Finance Minister would be a meaningful portfolio only when the farmers due share of 70% of budget allocation is made to them. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the last days of the last budget session, I had handed over a reminder letter to the hon'ble Prime Minister wherein I had requested him to solve the problem of famine stricken Kalahandi, Nayapara and western areas of Orissa. I had suggested several schemes and medium irrigation projects to save the people and the farmers from famine and I believed that some of the demands would be included in the supplementary budget. But I am sorry to say that none of the demands was included in the supplementary budget. I had sent a copy of that letter to the Finance Minister too.

This year, when we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Independence, our Finance Minister is giving importance to liberalisation and privatisation but I do not know to what extent it will be successful under the present bureaucratic system and the present Government machinery in our country. Our hon'ble Finance Minister should lead the country in the matter

[Shri Bhakta Charan Das]

of liberalisation and privatisation but at the same time he also leads the youths of this country. We hoped that he would make announcements to remove frustration and despondency prevailing among the crores of youths of the country and would announce for organising vocational training camps for them to remove unemployment but nothing was mentioned in this supplementary budget. Today, we are happy that we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our Independence and the whole country is involved in this process.

Now, what is the position of health of the rural people? Even today, there are 70 districts in the country where pregnant women are taken 40-50 kms. away for delivery due to which some of them pass away while on the way. Even ordinary medicines are not available there. The arrangement for rural health has been involved. There are several unaccessable areas in this country. The rural conductivity has also not been given any place in this supplementary budget. Earlier, you used to include rural electrification in your plans but even today there are lakhs of villages which have not been electrified so far and as it seems these are not going to be electrified in the near future.

16.06 hrs.

(COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*)

I, will request Chidambaram Saheb through you, to look into it. There is a State Land Development Bank in Bihar which sanctioned loan-amount in 1996-97 to provide loans to the farmers. It also took the signatures to sanction loan and received the amount from NABARD. But the amount of loan was not given to the farmers whereas it has been shown in the register that loans have been given to them. Later on, when some hue and cry was made then some farmers got the amount but still there are such people in Bihar who have not got the amount from the Land Development Bank. I would request Chidambaram Saheb to order a special enquiry in this regard.

There is a regional Rural Development Bank in our Western Orissa. The loan of the farmers was waived by it in 1986. At that time, the bank did not waive the loan of the farmers belonging to Sannapali, Bordan and Nayapara blocks. The loans have been shown as outstanding against the farmers in the ledger book and the amount of loan is being recovered from them. I would also like to request Chidambaram Saheb to pay heed to it. Today, we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of our independence. I expect that next time the unemployed youths of the country will be employed for making the barren land fertile in the country. I hope that hon'ble Chidambaram Saheb will make provision for it

in the next year's budget. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the supplementary grants. I am happy to see that Government of India has made a provision of Rs. 108 crores in the supplementary grants as announced by it for waiver of loans of the loanees in Jammu-Kashmir. I welcome it but at the same time I want to tell the Finance Minister that there is a rumour in Jammu that the loans of the factory owners of the Kashmir valley only will be waived and Jammu region will not be included therein. I think that when the hon'ble Prime Minister had made the announcement, it was for the entire state. All the districts of Jammu such as Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Kathwa, Udhampur and Doda are disturbed districts. Therefore, Chidambaram Saheb should ensure that the whole state comes under the purview of this loan waiver scheme. If any region is not included in it, then the result would not be good. He should pay attention to it. At the same time, I am happy that the Punjab Government is constructing the Dulhasti project in Doda, Uri project and Ranjit Sagar project. A provision of Rs. 300 crores has been made to complete these three projects. It is a good thing. I want to say that the work on Dulhasti and Uri projects should be expedited and with the construction of Ranjit Sagar. Their dam, the people of Basauli will have to make the journey of 42 kms. more. I would like to say that the Government should pay its attention towards construction of a bridge on Ravi river near Basauli so that the local people are benefited and they are saved from making unnecessary journey of 42 kms more. Therefore, I want to say that the Punjab Government should be asked to take up the construction work of the bridge so that the people of Basauli and Kathwar areas are benefited. At the same time, I would like to say that proper arrangements should be made for laying transmission lines with the funds provided for the power grid so that we may transmit the surplus power to the areas and States where there is shortage of power and thus the whole country will be benefited. I also feel that on Poonch, Rajouri and Jammu & Kashmir border districts, there is frequent firing from Pakistan side. Therefore our forces should be well equipped with the latest weapons so that they can properly retaliate any such action initiated by Pakistani side. I welcome the provision made in it for Defence.

Sir, I would also like to say that our police force should also be modernized alongwith Military and Army and for this purpose all the arrangements should be made because it is generally observed that we donot have adequate forces or sufficient vehicles, manpower, resources in our police stations adjacent to border areas with the result they are not being able to fulfil their duties properly. The money provided for Home or Defence should be utilized to strengthen both these

forces. Simultaneously, efforts should be made to make our Doordarshan and Radio network in Jammu and Kashmir more effective as it is quite weak in comparison to Pakistani network. Here I would say that more funds should be earmarked for this purpose so as to make our Radio and Doordarshan network in Jammu and Kashmir well equipped and more effective to retaliate any kind of malicious or malafide propaganda made by Pakistani side so that it could not be able to poison the minds of our people.

Sir, our migrants are in distress, proper arrangements should be made to send them to their respective houses and their houses should be reconstructed as and when the situation in that area returns to normal so that they could look after their property. I thank you again for the financial assistance provided to Jammu & Kashmir. But at the same time, I would like that all the Central Loans of Jammu & Kashmir should be waived of on the line of Punjab State because both the States have the same situation and the people of these States could become self-reliant again. Therefore, I would reiterate that both Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab should be treated equally in respect of waiving of loans. I would say that they deserve appreciation for their sincere efforts in regard to mobilizing funds for this purpose in India. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for Supplementary Grants laid on the table of the House by the Government and also express my protest regarding the new economic policies of the Congress adopted by the National Front Government. With the inception of this new economic policy, multinational companies have been invited to our country, as a result thereof our small scale industries are lagging behind. The small scale industries which earned us for crores of rupees in foreign exchange are far behind in this respect today. I have nothing to say for the assistance provided to Bhutan for Tala Hydel project. But first of all you should see that what initiative you can take to save the life of a national leader of that country named Dorji who left his country today.

Now, I would like to say something about my State. It is backward in all respect. What is the position of electricity there today? The electricity production is lowest here as compared to all States of India. Here only 9.4 point electricity is being generated. You can well imagine how Bihar can progress with such a low quantity of power. Today, whether you are launching 'Pardhanmantri Rojgar yojana or poverty eradication scheme or several such schemes there to help unemployed youth to start their own industry, all these require electricity but in the absence of adequate electricity today all these schemes have not yet taken off. You will also have to see this aspect. A meeting was held on 11th in Shastri Bhavan in which the Minister of Power was present. When the

Minister was asked to explain as to what was the fault of Bihar for which no money has yet been sanctioned for the last 3 years for the electrification of this state, he said that a large sum is outstanding against Bihar and the State which has become economically weaker, can not be put on the path of progress by waiving of its outstanding loans. This is the main reason. Therefore, I request the Minister of Finance to waive all the outstanding amount against Bihar and provide all the facilities to which it is entitled for.

You get several items from Bihar. If you would have spent even one percent of the benefits accrued from coal mines of Bihar in the State itself then Bihar could have certainly marched forward on the path of progress. Today Bihar is the most backward State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as agriculture is concerned, the land in Bihar is high yielding but the production is at low point because the total source of irrigation in the State both Government and Public is just 22 percent. What is the condition of farmer there today. Therefore in view of the devastation we had due to natural calamity there, I would urge the Finance Minister to implement the Crop Insurance Scheme there immediately and the compensation for the farmers should be fixed in accordance with the scheme. The loss suffered by them should be compensated. This is the overall situation of electricity there.

So far as the education is concerned, the situation is not much different. Bihar is the only State where lakhs of people are working without any kind of remuneration. I would like to ask, whether there is any other State in India where education is being imparted without spending any amount. People there do not get a single penny for it. But now, these teachers are retiring. They are sitting on 'Dharna'. They will stage a large demonstration on 5th. The directions had been issued from the Chair that the State Government should inform us after clearing all the outstanding payments due to teacher. But no payment has been made so far in this regard. This is the situation in Bihar. It needs to be looked seriously. The Finance Minister should see to it as to how the situation in Bihar can be improved. Today there is scarcity of educated people in Bihar, we are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence. Bihar is the evidence of it that even its Chief Minister is illiterate. Although people say that the Bihar is a front liner in every field. Bihar holds first position so far as agriculture is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you please conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are a disciplined man. You please give me some more time. I would also like to say about poverty eradication. I don't know where that money had gone which was spent by the Central Government

[Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh]

in the villages? Eighty per cent of the total amount spent on this 'Head' in our area has been wiped out in the name of irrigation. That has been looted. The Bank people and factory owners also misappropriate money befooling our youths.

Youths do not get any job. The bank officials siphon off—this money for their various household jobs. I have repeatedly made a written complaint in this regard. You should have appraised the House about the billions of rupees, you have spent on poverty alleviation programmes as nobody could get any benefit out of it. Please conduct an enquiry in this regard. Not a single Penny could reach the beneficiaries even after spending such a large sum on this 'Head'. I agree with you on this point and conclude my speech.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the supplementary demands. I would like to make a humble request to the fire brand Minister of United Front that Bihar which is standing in the last row of the country...(Interruptions)

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Why it is so?

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Centre has neglected Bihar too much. I would like to give an example in this regard. Ninety crore rupees of electricity department were outstanding against the Bihar Government. Now the interest of 90 crore rupees comes to Rs. 310 crores. If this interest is added to it then this outstanding amount comes to Rs. 400 crores. Rupees 500 crores of the Bihar electricity board are still outstanding against the various Central Government undertakings. We do not get any interest on that sum. Our interest is increasing day-by-day. But you have such anomalous laws and whatever discrepancies are there, they should be removed. The electricity rates differ from state to state in the country. The cost of production has to be borne by the State Government and on the basis of this cost electricity is to be purchased by the State Government but I would like to ask one question by giving an example that the work on the Konkan Railway is going on at present in the country, but whether the ratio of the freight changed today is same, which was calculated by the basis of the cost of production of this railway, constructed about 100 years back as compared to the cost of production at present?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have only 5 minutes time. Therefore my suggestion to you is to conclude your speech as early as possible because hon. Minister has also to speak.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a serious matter and it requires attention. The Government of Bihar is ignored here. Why Bihar is a backward state? There are one or two reasons for that the difference is fare structure royalty the basis of weight, Gadgil Formula are such things as a result of which

Bihar has turned as a backward state...(Interruptions). It is my humble request and I don't want to argue with you. When I make speech, people interrupt me, therefore I would like to make a request to hon. Minister that since Bihar is a backward state, therefore a comprehensive action plan should be formulated to augment its development and Bihar should be provided adequate assistance under that plan so that it could march ahead. Extend all sort of help to Bihar for bringing it in the mainstream of other states of the country. Hon. Minister, Sir, I will be highly obliged, if you do something for the State. Poverty and backwardness are the main reasons due to which the extremism has raised its head in Bihar, please look in to it so as to ensure that we people are not ignored anymore. A provision should be made in the budget that this comprehensive action plan could take off as early as possible and implement it in those districts where extremism, poverty and backwardness still exist so that this poor state can be developed.

With these words, I support this supplementary budget.

*SHRI RANEN BARMAN (Balurghat) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I shall speak in my mother tongue Bengali. I thank you Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on Supplementary Demands for Grants 1997-98. After supporting Supplementary Demands for Grants on behalf of my party RSP, I would like to raise some objections to the provisions in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. This year is our Golden Jubilee Year of Independence and we are going to celebrate the occasion in a colourful manner. Keeping in mind this backdrop, the discussion on Demand for Supplementary Grants becomes all the more important. India being an agricultural country 80% of the population depends on agriculture. Coming from a rural background we have the practical experience of people working in fields, tilling the soil, i.e., the grassroot people. It is a matter of regret that even after 50 years of independence 80% people depending on agriculture do not get remunerative price of crop. They do not have the marketing facility to sell their agricultural produce. The high price of fertilizer is also responsible for the plight of the poor farmers. So subsidies for fertilizer must be provided for the farmer. The development of the country depends on agriculture and the peasants are the principal producers of national wealth. Thus it is urgent to pay adequate attention in this direction.

The farmers must get remunerative price, cheap input, subsidies for fertilizer and proper irrigation facilities. Moreover, attention must be focussed on advanced communications and transport system. The farmers can avail of good marketing facility if transport system is developed. I come from South Dinajpur and amazingly my region has neither the railway connection

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

nor any national highway. This is the sorry state of affairs in many parts of India even after independence for half a century. My demand is, railway link must be provided in these areas for proper development of our country.

The closure of so many factories and industries has brought immense hardship for the already hardpressed workers. Many public sector undertakings have either been declared sick or have been closed. The workers of these public sector undertakings and closed industries are passing through difficult time and are deeply frustrated. My demand is the Government must make honest effort to revive these public sector undertakings. The closed factories must also start functioning so that workers are able to sustain their livelihood. The genuine effort to ameliorate the condition of the farmers and the working class will make the colourful celebration of 50 years of independence meaningful.

With these humble suggestions Sir, I once again thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give Prof. Chandumajra two minutes because no Member from the Akali Dal has had an opportunity to speak.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the supplementary demands of the budget. About 70 per cent population of the country lives in the villages and even the amount spent on them in the budget is not in proportion to that. The share of agriculture under GDP was 52 per cent during 1950-51, which has now come down to 27 per cent. Therefore, special attention is to be paid to agriculture. For example, much has been said about the crop insurance scheme by the Government several times and assurance was also given but it remained an assurance only and could not be turned into insurance. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented by the Government. Political parties have made several commitments for giving industrial status to agriculture but nothing could be done. If agriculture is provided a status of industry, then the loss being incurred by agricultural area can be overcome.

Secondly, I would like to say about employment. This policy of liberalization is increasing unemployment because capital based industries are entering the country and we prefer labour based industry here. Therefore, there is a need to think about employment also. I would like to say one more thing that a number of projects which were launched in the previous five year plans were not yet completed. Out of 241 projects, only 64 projects could be completed so far. The cost of the projects also escalates and they are not beneficial too. Take an example of Theine Dam. Hon. Prime Minister

had visited Punjab and he even gave some money for it. We would like to have full amount is allocated for this dam through these supplementary demands so that this Theine dam could be completed. Our electricity requirement should be fulfilled. At the end, I would like to say one thing that there is a steel industry at Govindgarh in Punjab and today the steel industry is running in loss in the country. The workers are on the strike from the 12th of this month. Because this industry is running in loss due to the revised excise duty imposed on it. Earlier, the excise duty was calculated on the production itself, now it is being calculated on the basis of joint capacity and as a result this industry is running in loss. Therefore, we should change this policy on excise duty. Today power and coal, which are the essential items for steel industry, have become more costly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would now request the hon. Minister to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall be allowed to speak for two minutes only. I will not take much time of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name does not exist in the list of speakers sent by your party. Shri George Fernandes ji has already got a chance to speak. You are insisting me to do it. You should have at least sent your name in advance.

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given my name. I will conclude in just two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, you take two minutes to speak.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, my name is also there in the list and I will speak only for one minute...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister has got to go to the Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, against Demand 78 for transport, the Finance Minister has made a provision of about Rs. 95 crore for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and simultaneously he has provided Rs. 625 crore for Ports, Light Houses and Shipping. I want to say that this supplementary budget is not providing any funds for National Highways in the other parts of the country or for the proposals of the State Governments. My

[Shri Brahamanand Mandal]

contention is that in 1977, the Bihar Government had sent a proposal to the Union Government regarding a National Highway from Mokama to Farakka which was included in the Master Plan. Now 20 years have passed but that has not been declared as a National Highway so far and the Union Government has not provided even a single paisa for it. Similarly, a demand for funds was made for the National Highway from Mokama to Khagaria but nothing has been provided therefore too.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mandalji, you had requested for two minutes and you have got more time. Now please sit down.

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding within one minute. I am not taking more time. I want to say that in 1994, an amount of Rs. 600 crore was provided for the construction of a railway bridge in Monghyr. I would like to request the Finance Minister that the Government should make a provision for constructing a road bridge particularly when it is going to approve the 1977 proposal of Bihar Government for declaring a National Highway and after declaring it the Government is going to construct a railway bridge over it. It can be constructed with less money. You want to construct railway bridge, then why not a road bridge. Please make a provision for it in the Supplementary Budget.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Sir, we have a fertilizer plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India. It has been the sincere endeavour of the management and the workers to run it on the no-loss basis. They are making profit now. It is the fiftieth year of our Independence. We should strive towards self-reliance. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take special interest for the revival of this Fertilizer Plant located at Talcher.

Secondly, we are facing power crisis. NTPC is running a power plant at Kanhia. There, the power is generated, but it is not being transmitted because of lack of infrastructure facilities. We have power famine, but there is surplus of power there which is not being transmitted. NTPC should look into this problem and make adequate arrangements in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate on the Demands for Supplementary Grants.

We are severely strapped for with time. I would have to conclude in a few minutes so that the recommendation goes to the President and then we go to the Rajya Sabha before the Rajya Sabha rises for the day.

What I wish to emphasise is that we have to husband every rupee very carefully. The resources are scarce.

There are competing claims on our resources. There are claims from defence, from the security forces, from the law and order forces and from many other agencies which are intimately connected with the security of the country. In that connection, there are claims from space research, atomic energy research and defence research. We cannot deny them funds.

Secondly there are claims for investments. Hon. Members pointed out that investments must rise if growth has to increase. I cannot say that in stronger words. Unless investments grow in this country, we cannot sustain a growth of seven per cent; nor can we attain a growth rate of eight per cent. Thankfully, the rate of savings in this country has increased and the rate of investment has also increased. I believe, some of the steps that we have taken in this Budget, namely cutting the personal income-tax rates, increase in contractual savings by raising the Provident Fund contribution from 8.33 per cent to 10 per cent and from 10 per cent to 12 per cent, all these, I believe, will again result in an increase in savings and an increase in investment this year.

The third, of course, is claims from the social sector. We cannot deny the legitimate claims of millions of people for drinking water, for roads, for transport, for electricity, etc. The social sector is always with us and we must find money for them. Every rupee, therefore, is to be carefully husbanded and spent.

I have come up with modest Demands for Supplementary Grants, not because there are no other demands. Several hon. Members raised several demands. These are competing demands and one has to choose. What we have done is that we have now come to you for an additional sum of Rs. 1,989.48 crore. Please see where this money is going. The bulk of this money, nearly Rs. 900 crore is going for investment in the power sector. I said this before and I say this again. Money is not a constraint for investment in the power sector. I have made an open-ended offer to the Ministry of Power that whatever money they want for investment in the public sector in power will be provided, even if that means a marginal increase in the fiscal deficit. One half of the extra money that I am providing today is for the power sector. An amount of Rs. 120 crore is going for the Koodangulam Nuclear Power Project and for the Tarapore Atomic Power Project. An amount of Rs. 20 crore is being given to the Jute Corporation of India. An amount of Rs. 100 crore is going for debt relief to Jammu and Kashmir. An amount of Rs. 285 crore is going to the National Capital Territory of Delhi because it does not have a share in our taxes; and so, we are giving it as a grant. These are the main heads under which we are earmarking the bulk of the amount of Rs. 1989 crore.

We are also saving or mobilising through additional resources, an amount of Rs. 1946.93 crore and they have been reappropriated and spent on other

programmes. I have the details of it; but it is not possible for me to go through all the details. I wish to point out that an amount of Rs. 31.76 crore is being given to the Hindustan Paper Corporation as a part of its financial restructuring.

Just as I am giving a small amount of money like Rs. 18 crore to Jessop as a part of its financial restructuring. I will consider other claims carefully...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have requested that the scales of savings should be placed as a matter of usual practice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Not now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : We want to know. We have voted for them.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Other claims will be considered at a suitable time. After the Government approves those expenditures, we will come to Parliament, if necessary, by way of additional supplementary demands. For the time being, my submission is that the bulk of the amount that I am seeking from this hon. House is for investment and will stimulate growth.

Sir, a number of issues have been raised. I do not know how to answer all of them in three to four minutes. Let me just touch upon a few of them which seem to affect most Members.

Firstly, I will come to the Technology Mission for Oilseeds for coconut. There is a separate Coconut Development Board since 1979 situated at Cochin. This Board was set up specifically for development of the Coconut industry. The Board undertakes various measures like the Coconut Research Institute, development of high-yielding hybrids, advice to cultivators, etc. Coconut is the single oilseed with highest plan outlay among oilseeds. The Eighth Plan outlay for coconut was Rs. 79.21 crore. In 1997-98, as a part of the Ninth Plan, in one year, we had provided Rs. 20 crore for coconut oilseed and more will be provided during the Ninth Plan. There is a minimum support price for coconut which was declared as an oilseed of tree origin in 1990 and the price is fixed every year by the Cabinet on the advice of the Committee on Agricultural Costs and Prices.

On rubber, as I informed the hon. Members, I have approved the market intervention operation by the STC. The STC is intervening in the market for the last few days. The STC has been authorised to procure rubber and we will ensure that it does not go below a fair remunerative price.

On jute, I have a lot of information here. On jute again, as I said, I have provided Rs. 20 crore for the Jute Corporation of India. Jute Corporation is in the

market now. According to the note which I have received from the Ministry of Textiles, they have so far procured 33, 808 quintals of jute. The market support operations of Jute Corporation have been agreed to. It was agreed to give a guarantee for obtaining a cash credit of Rs. 33 crore from the bank and to release Rs. 10 crore to JCI. We have provided Rs. 20 crore as supplementary grant. Jute prices were high for the last three to four years. They seem to have dipped but market prices of TD-1 to TD-5 are above MSP and prices W-1 to W-4 are above MSP. The Jute Corporation will continue to intervene and will continue market operations.

SHRI ANIL BASU : That is not true.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions. You may ask at the end.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This is the information which I have got from the Ministry of Textiles. I am sharing it with you. If there is any further clarification, you may please write to the Minister of Textiles.

SHRI ANIL BASU : The JCI is doing a token purchase. They are not intervening in the market.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : They are intervening and buying if it goes below the MSP. We cannot buy when the prices are above MSP.

Hon. Members have raised many other questions. There were some questions about the Pay Commission. As I said in answer to a question, it is true that there is an additional commitment of about Rs. 1600 crore to Rs. 2000 crore. But we hope that 50 per cent of the arrears which are being ploughed back into the provident fund and locked in for two years will, to a large extent, offset that additional cash outflow.

On VDIS, we have answered questions. It is proceeding satisfactorily. I think it will be a reasonable success. Hon. Members know that I have not taken credit for any amount. Sky is the limit. I am confident that at the present pace of progress of the Scheme, it will not be a reasonable or much significant amount of taxes. The only time when I will take stock, as I have said, in order to maintain complete confidentiality and inspire confidence, is at the end of the period. In the meanwhile, the Commissioners of Income-Tax have been instructed to motivate as many people as possible to declare their income under VDIS and to maintain complete confidentiality.

On calamity relief, the last Finance Commission gave Rs. 7,000 crore, Rs. 6,300 crore are with the States and Rs. 700 crore are with the Centre. There is a Committee headed by my hon. colleague, Shri Chaturanan Mishra. We are as generous as we can be. We have already overdrawn the Central Account. The Central Account allows only Rs. 140 crore a year. We have already overdrawn that Account. But I have not held back that money. Every time, the Committee

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

has allotted money to the State, I have provided additional funds to the Calamity Relief Fund.

The case of Himachal Pradesh will go to the Calamity Relief Fund. The Minister has promised to intervene exactly at five o'clock.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : What about Punjab?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : A team will first go to Himachal Pradesh. If they find that the water has flowed into Punjab and has affected Punjab, I will request the Minister to send the team to Punjab also.

It is pressure now to debate that. Let us first settle our own problems as a result of the Pay Commission. Then, we can talk about support to the States.

There was a question about Bhutan. I think, these are sensitive issues. I should not give off-the-cuff answers. Bhutan is a part of our region. We are good friends of Bhutan. We have our own political perceptions. But that should not interfere with good neighbourly relations with Bhutan. The Taala project is a project that we have promised to fund. The bulk of the power will flow in to India. I think, we should spend Rs. 40 crore for Bhutan.

The other political issues must be raised at other fora. We should not mix it up with Rs. 40 crore that we are giving to Bhutan.

Some question was raised about Shri Dorji. I do not want to go into the details. I was in Kuala Lumpur. I participated in ASEAN meet. You know the position that I took regarding Myanmar. My position is very well clear. I said that all countries in the world must walk the road of freedom and democracy. And Myanmar should follow. That is our position ever since Mahatma Gandhi started the campaign from South Africa.

But the point is that Shri Dorji has been placed under judicial remand on a legal request of extradition made by Bhutan. The matter is before an Indian court. I have no doubt that an Indian court under an Indian law will treat the matter fairly and justly. Shri Dorji is being defended by lawyers of his own choice in these proceedings. An Indian court is one of the freest courts in the world where a man's rights can be defended and protected.

Frankly, I cannot afford to speak for long because you would have to take up this for voting in the next few minutes... (*Interruptions*)

I have got answers for virtually every point mentioned. I will write to the hon. Members individually or I will request the Ministers concerned to write to the hon. Members individually.

I respectfully appeal to the House to vote to the Demands for Supplementary Grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) for 1997-98 to vote. The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1998 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof - Demand Nos. 2, 4 to 6, 9 to 11, 14, 15, 22, 23, 26, 28, 34, 35, 38, 43, 46, 47, 50, 52, 54, 55, 57 to 59, 62, 66, 67, 70, 74, 77, 78, 80, 81, 83, 86, 88, 89, 98, to 102."

The Motion was adopted.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1997-98 submitted to the Vote of the House

No	Title of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
2.	Other Services of Dept. of Agr. and Cooperation	1,00,000	-
4.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	37,50,00,000	-
5.	Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals	2,50,00,000	-
6.	Department of Fertilizers	46,99,00,000	1,00,000
9.	Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	50,00,000	-
10.	Ministry of Coal	2,50,00,000	-
11.	Department of Commerce	2,00,00,000	-

	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
14. Department of Telecommunications	42,97,00,000	-
15. Ministry of Defence	5,50,00,000	-
22. Ministry of Environment and Forests	1,00,000	-
23. Ministry of External Affairs	40,00,00,000	-
26. Payments to Financial Institutions	-	85,00,00,000
28. Transfer to State and Union Territory Governments	285,00,00,000	-
34. Department of Revenue	7,20,00,000	-
35. Direct Taxes	93,30,00,000	-
38. Ministry of Food	125,00,00,000	-
43. Ministry of Home Affairs	15,00,00,000	-
46. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	108,00,00,000	-
47. Transfers to Union Territory Governments	16,37,00,000	21,56,00,000
50. Department of Culture	4,76,00,000	-
52. Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	1,00,000	-
54. Department of Heavy Industry	106,76,00,000	18,01,00,000
55. Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro. and Rural Industries	1,01,00,000	-
57. Broadcasting Services	2,00,000	2,00,000
58. Ministry of Labour	4,50,00,000	-
59. Law and Justice	73,00,000	-
62. Ministry of Mines	17,00,00,000	-
66. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	50,00,000	-
67. Planning	1,00,000	-
70. Ministry of Power	200,00,00,000	697,50,00,000
74. Department of Science and Technology	50,00,00,000	-
77. Ministry of Steel	34,00,00,000	-
78. Surface Transport	95,01,00,000	-
80. Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	1,00,00,000	-
81. Ministry of Textiles	10,18,00,000	249,87,00,000
83. Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	-	1,00,000
86. Ministry of Water Resources	2,50,00,000	-
88. Atomic Energy	1,50,00,000	-
89. Nuclear Power Schemes	-	147,00,00,000
98. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	11,48,00,000	2,72,00,000
99. Chandigarh	5,52,00,000	1,35,00,000
100. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	80,00,000	1,91,00,000
101. Daman and Diu	-	2,36,00,000
102. Lakshadweep	1,77,00,000	1,50,00,000
Grand Total	1379,41,00,000	1228,82,00,000