

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



11
29.10.2000

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, October 29, 1999/Kartika 7, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary-General may now call Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora to take oath.

MEMBER SWORN

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa)

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, Two lakh Insurance employees are on strike against the introduction of the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Now, Obituary Reference.

11.02 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shrimati Malti Devi.

Shrimati Malti Devi was a Member of Twelfth Lok Sabha representing Nawada Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar during 1998-99.

Earlier, she was a Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1995-98.

An able parliamentarian, Shrimati Malti Devi was a member of the Committee on Urban and Rural Development. She was also a member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

An agriculturist by profession, Shrimati Malti Devi was a well known political and social worker. She worked relentlessly for the upliftment of landless farmers and tribals in Central and South Bihar. She took special initiative in raising issues concerning the downtrodden.

Shrimati Malti Devi passed away on 6 September 1999 at Delhi at the age of 31.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect of the departed soul.

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968 :-
 - (i) The Border Security Force (Group 'B' non-Gazetted, Combatised Para-Medical Staff) Recruitment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 315 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd October, 1999.
 - (ii) The Border Security Force (Air Wing Non Gazetted (Combatised Group 'B' and 'C' Posts) Recruitment Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 334 in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 103/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): On behalf of Shri Ram Jethmalani, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 169 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 :-
 - (i) The Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 628(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1999.
 - (ii) The Conduct of Assembly Elections (Sikkim) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Noti-

[Shri O. Rajagopal]

fication No. S.O. 726(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 104/99]

- (2) A copy of the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 1999 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 207(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1999 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 235(E) dated the 8th April, 1999, under sub-section (3) of section 28 of the Representation of People Act, 1950.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 105/99]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 :-

- (i) The Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Mysore) Amendment Order, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 615(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd August, 1999.
- (ii) The Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Maharashtra) Amendment Order, 1999 published in Notification No. S.O. 380(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 106/99]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Judicial Academy, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 107/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PUNNUSWAMY) : On behalf of Shri Ram Naik. I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers under sub-section (4) of section (3) of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 :-
- (i) Report of Inquiry headed by Justice S.C. Jain to enquire into the fire incident at HPCL Visakh Refinery (in English version only).

- (ii) Memorandum of Action taken on the above Report (in Hindi and English versions).

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for not laying simultaneously Hindi version of the Report.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 108/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : On behalf of Shri Naveen Patnaik, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 109/99]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between Paradeep Phosphates Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 110/99]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Fertilizers Limited and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 111/99]

- (2) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General

of India—Union Government (Commercial) (No. 5 of 1999)—for the year ended the 31st March, 1998—Paradeep Phosphates Limited, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 112/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : On behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution :-

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 2 of 1999)—(Civil) for the year ended the March, 1998—Transaction Audit Observations.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 113/99]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 1 of 1999)—(Civil) for the year ended the March, 1998—Accounts of the Union Government.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 114/99]

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 4 of 1999)—(Civil) for the year ended the March, 1998—other Autonomous bodies.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 115/99]

(iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 5 of 1999)—(Scientific Departments) for the year ended the March, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 116/99]

(v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 6 of 1999) for the year ended the March, 1998—Post and Telecommunications.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 117/99]

(vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 9 of 1999)—(Railways) for the year ended the March, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 118/99]

(vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 10 of 1999)—(Indirect Taxes-Customs) for the year ended the March, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 119/99]

(viii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 11 of 1999)—(Indirect Taxes-Central Excise) for the year ended the March, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 120/99]

(2) A copy of the Union Government Finance Accounts for the year 1997-98 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 121/99]

(3) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for the year 1997-98 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 122/99]

(4) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Telecommunication Services) for the year 1997-98 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 123/99]

(5) A copy of the Union Government Appropriation Accounts (Postal Services) for the year 1997-98 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 124/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India for the year 1997-98, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay on laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 125/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98.

[Shri N.T. Shanmugam]

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.
 - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 126/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-
 - (i) A G.S.R. 299(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemptions to materials imported into India against an Annual Advance Licence with Actual User Condition of the Export and Import Policy from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 300(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in certain Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 301(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notification No. 32/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 302(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in certain Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (v) G.S.R. 303(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1999 together with an

explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in Notification No. 34/97-Cus., dated the 7th April, 1997.

- (vi) G.S.R. 327(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in certain Notifications mentioned therein.
- (vii) G.S.R. 402(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain Amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (viii) G.S.R. 434(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemptions to articles imported into India against an Annual Advance Licence from whole of the anti-dumping duty leviable thereon, subject to the certain conditions.
- (ix) G.S.R. 459(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (x) G.S.R. 460(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 34/97-Cus., dated the 7th April, 1997.
- (xi) G.S.R. 486(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/97-Cus., dated the 11th April, 1997.
- (xii) G.S.R. 499(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 500(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 48/99-Cus., dated the 29th April, 1999.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 522(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

- amendments in the Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (xv) G.S.R. 559(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/97-Cus., dated the 11th April, 1997.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 687(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/97-Cus., dated the 11th April, 1997.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prohibit absolutely, the import of counterfeit currency notes or fake currency notes into India.
- (xviii) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 286(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th April 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xix) The Foreign Privileged Persons' (Regulation of Customs Privileges) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 415(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xx) The Foreign Privileged Persons' (Regulation of Customs Privileges) Second Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 485(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxi) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Second Amendment Regulations, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 645(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 288(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in three Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 290(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to allow duty free import of cut and polished diamonds and gemstones upto 5 per cent of Free on Board (FOB) value of preceding financial year's export by the Diamond Imprest Licence holders and Gem Replenishment Licence holders respectively.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 289(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide duty free import facility to specified items of consumables for use in the manufacture of Gem and Jewellery or cut and polished diamonds.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 322(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide duty free import facility to additional items of equipment used for the export of software under the Software Technology Parks 100 percent Export Oriented Scheme.
- (xxvi) G.S.R. 369(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notifications mentioned therein.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 194(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 29/97-Cus., dated the 1st April, 1997.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 200(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duties on Calcium Carbide originating in or exported from China or Romania, at the rates specified in the notification.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 202(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xxx) G.S.R. 211(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on fused magnesia originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China and imported into India.

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

- (xxxi) G.S.R. 250(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 49/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (xxxii) G.S.R. 287(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xxxiii) G.S.R. 348(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xxxiv) G.S.R. 390(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xxxv) G.S.R. 401(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/97-Cus. dated the 11th April, 1997.
- (xxxvi) G.S.R. 410(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xxxvii) G.S.R. 411(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified equipment required for the setting up of Rihand-Sasaram Biharshariff HVDC Link Back to Back Station Project and imported by M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, from the whole of the Customs Duty and CVD.
- (xxxviii) G.S.R. 433(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xxxix) G.S.R. 455(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain

amendments in three Notifications mentioned therein.

- (xi) G.S.R. 495(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 84/97-Cus., dated the 11th November, 1997.
 - (xli) G.S.R. 498(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind seven Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (xlii) G.S.R. 526(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (xliii) G.S.R. 546(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in four Notifications mentioned therein.
 - (xliv) G.S.R. 557(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (xlv) G.S.R. 642(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 36/98-Cus., dated the 26th June, 1998.
 - (xlvi) G.S.R. 673(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 20/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
 - (xlvii) G.S.R. 679(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 36/97-Cus., dated the 11th April, 1997.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 127/99]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 :—
- (i) G.S.R. 258(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1999 together with an

- explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duties on Ethylene-Propylene-non-Conjugated, Diene (EPDM) Rubber originating in or exported from Japan.
- (ii) G.S.R. 285(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Styrene Butadiene Rubber of different grades originating in or exported from USA, Taiwan, Turkey, Korea and Japan.
- (iii) G.S.R. 291(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duties on Citric Acid originating in or imported from China at the rates specified in the notification.
- (iv) G.S.R. 292(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 94/98-Cus., dated the 24th November, 1998.
- (v) G.S.R. 293(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duties on Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde originating in or imported from China, at the rates specified in the notification.
- (vi) G.S.R. 294(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 157/95-Cus., dated the 20th October, 1995.
- (vii) G.S.R. 306(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/99-Cus., dated the 22nd January, 1999.
- (viii) G.S.R. 307(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty at the rate of Rs. 21/- per kg. on Hard ferrite Ring Magnets (HFRM), originating in or exported from China P.R.
- (ix) G.S.R. 351(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose a provisional anti-dumping duty on all acrylic fibres, including tow and tops, originating in or exported from Mexico, equal in amount to the difference between Rs. 83.70 per kg. and the landed value of such acrylic fibre per kg. as defined therein.
- (x) G.S.R. 375(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the provisional anti-dumping duty on Industrial Sewing Machine Needles, originating in, or exported from Japan, Korea RP and Peoples Republic of China and imported into India.
- (xi) G.S.R. 391(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose levy Rs. 7882 per metric tonne only on imports of NBR, originating in or exported from Japan, as anti-dumping duty.
- (xii) G.S.R. 392(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 159/95-Cus., dated the 14th November, 1995.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 438(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of Notification No. 63/99-Cus., dated the 14th August, 1998.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 456(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on Bisphenol A originating in or exported from Russia and Brazil.
- (xv) G.S.R. 457(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 169/95-Cus., dated the 26th December, 1995.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 481(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duty on Phenol for a period of 2 years.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 482(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1999 together with an

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- explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Polytetrafluoroethylene.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 517(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Ethylene-Propylene-non conjugated-diene rubber (EPDM rubber) excluding polybutadiene rubber, originating in or exported from Japan.
- (xix) G.S.R. 527(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose a final anti-dumping duty on all acrylic fibres, originating in or exported from Mexico, equal in amount to the difference between Rs. 83.70 per kg. and the landed value of such acrylic fibre per kg. as defined therein.
- (xx) G.S.R. 528(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 64/99-Cus., dated 14th May, 1999.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 536(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 38/99-Cus., dated 12th April, 1999.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 547(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 19/99-Cus., dated the 11th February, 1999.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 580(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on the Hard Ferrite Ring Magnets originating in or exported from China P.R.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 581(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 54/99-Cus., dated the 4th May, 1999.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 600(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 39/99-Cus., dated the 26th April, 1999.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 601(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Styrene Butadiene Rubber (SBR) originating in or exported from United States of America, Taiwan, Tukey, Korea and Japan.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 625 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the levy of anti-dumping duty on the import of specified goods from Japan.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 128/99]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 :—
- (i) G.S.R. 118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to permit export of all excisable goods without payment of excise duty from a warehouse or a licenced factory or any other premises as may be approved by the Commissioner or Central Excise to specified projects in Bhuttan.
- (ii) G.S.R. 192(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notifications mentioned therein.
- (iii) The Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 247(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 1999, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) The Central Excise (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 304(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) The Central Excise (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 305(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (vi) The Central Excise (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 353(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) The Central Excise (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 394(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (viii) The Central Excise (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 407(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) G.S.R. 412(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 16/98-CE dated the 2nd June, 1998.
- (x) G.S.R. 413(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 20/99-CE(N.T.), dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xi) G.S.R. 480(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 20/99-CE/(N.T.), dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xii) G.S.R. 508(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified goods mentioned therein from so much of duty of excise or additional duty of excise as the case may be, leviable thereon.
- (xiii) The Central Excise (15th Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 519(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 549(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to waive payment of excise duty on castings cleared for manufacture of toka machines for the period commencing on and from the first day of March, 1994 and ending with the 8th October, 1997.
- (xv) The Central Excise (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 589(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 370(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notifications Mentioned therein.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 576(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments Notification No. 5/99-CE, dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 637(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from payment of Central Excise duty to computer and computer peripherals procured domestically when donated to non commercial educational institutions and others specified institutions mentioned in Notifications.
- (xix) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 76/2/99-CX dated the 25th June, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt various excisable goods as listed in the annexure from all the duties of excise leviable thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 129/99]
- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994 :—
- (i) The Service Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 599(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 251(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1999 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt taxable services provided to any person in respect of which payment is received in India in convertible foreign exchange, from the whole of the service tax leviable thereon.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 130/99]

[Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

- (5) A copy each of the following Orders (Hindi and English versions) issued under clause (c) sub-section (2) of section 199 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 :—

(i) Order dated the 16th July, 1999 regarding Relaxation of condition laid down in section 40A(7) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 in the case of M/s Hope Textiles Limited Indore-Assessment year 1973-74.

(ii) Order dated the 16th July, 1999 regarding Relaxation of conditions laid down in Section 43B of the Income Tax Act-M/s Star Tiles Works Limited Kerala-Assessment years 1989-90 to 1993-94.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 131/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) :—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 132/99]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the IBP Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 133/99]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 134/99]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Gas Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 135/99]

(v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Lubrizol India Limited and the Ministry

of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 136/99]

(vi) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 137/99]

(vii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Madras Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 138/99]

(viii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 139/99]

(ix) Memorandum of Understanding between the Oil India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1999-2000.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 140/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and conditions of Service) Act, 1958:—

(i) The Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 149(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1999.

(ii) The Supreme Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 150(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 141/99]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3)

of section 24 of the High Court Judges (Salaries and conditions of Service) Act, 1954 :—

11.09 hrs.

- (i) The High Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 151(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1999.
- (ii) The High Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Second Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 506(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1999.
- (iii) The High Court Judges (Travelling Allowance) Third Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 621(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1999.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 142/99]

PREVENTION OF MONEY-LAUNDERING BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : On behalf of Shri Yashwant Sinha, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That leave to granted to introduce a Bill to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved, in money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I want to oppose the introduction of this Bill on two grounds.

Firstly, we have seen in the earlier FERA, how the violation of FERA on several occasions, had brought, had caused immense loss to the national exchequer and how the national resources had been made to be siphoned off from this country and were put in foreign banks. Now, the old FERA, as a part of the liberalisation process, is being put into two separate Acts; one is called the FEMA and the other is called the Prevention of Money-laundering Bill.

I am referring to one aspect of it which is, in fact, anti-national, that is, the FERA offenders who had violated the FERA are being allowed to go scot-free by way of a provision of this particular Bill which is proposed to be enacted. . . .(Interruptions).

Secondly, the most remarkable grey area in the matter of money-laundering is the manipulation of the balance-sheet which is found there as a part of the liberalisation process. This Bill tries to just allow known offenders, known criminals being allowed to be freed from the accusation that had already been made against them. The people who are still indulging in manipulation of the balance-sheet and money-laundering are also being allowed to go scot-free by way of this piece of legislation as proposed. So, I oppose its introduction because it is against the national interest and against the interest of the national economy.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, is there any reply ?

* Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary Part-II, Section-2 dt. 29.10.99

11.07 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

Secretary-General : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th October, 1999, passed, in accordance with the provisions of article 368 of the Constitution of India, without any amendment, the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1999, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th October, 1999."

11.08 hrs.

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES — A REVIEW

[English]

Secretary-General : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the 'Departmentally Related Standing Committees (1998-99)—A Review'.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : In fact, at this stage of introduction of the Bill, only the legislative competence of this House can be discussed, I am sure my senior colleague Shri Rupchand Pal has no doubt in his mind or nobody in this House has any doubt about the competence of this House in legislating an enactment on this subject.

Even then, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of my hon. friend that such a Bill was introduced in the year 1998 itself on the 4th of August, 1998 and on your direction the Bill was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has made a thorough examination of the provisions of the Bill. They have made certain suggestions and the Government has been graceful enough to accept all the suggestions in the larger interests of the economy of this country.

In fact, I would like to tell the hon. Members that the Government has even tried to improve upon the suggestions made by the Standing Committee.

So, Sir, I am seeking the leave of the House to move the Bill and once the Bill is allowed to be introduced, it will become the property of the House. Then, all the Members would get an opportunity to have their say on the Bill. So, I may be permitted to move for leave to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from, or involved in, money-laundering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : I introduce the Bill.*
... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow all of you. My only appeal to the hon. Members is that today is the last day and we have a very important business. All the senior leaders want to participate in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Today, I will allow three or four Members in the Zero Hour. Then, we will take up Matters under Rule 377. Afterwards, we will start the Motion on the President's Address.

(Interruptions)

*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The employees of the LIC and GIC are on strike. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, has given a privilege motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow one of the Members from Orissa also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 222. I have given notice of breach of privilege motion. Yesterday, while answering the discussion on natural calamities, the hon'ble Minister of state in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Satyanarayana Rao had knowingly, willfully and deliberately misguided the House by saying that the Bihar Government has not submitted any report with regard to the floods to the Centre Govt. whereas we have submitted the photocopy of the daily report of the State Government. We have got proof of it. Therefore, I request you to grant me permission to raise the question under rule for breach of privilege. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice of privilege motion.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The notice of privilege motion given by you is under my consideration I am ascertaining the facts from the Minister also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, It is a privilege matter. We have challenged it, but even after that. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have given the notice. We are considering it. You should understand it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : He had deliberately misguided the House. Therefore, I request you to hand it over to the Privilege Committee.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is under my consideration. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am calling one of the Members from Orissa because they are raising a very important matter with regard to cyclone.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After Orissa, you will get the chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, what is your point ? After Orissa, you will get the chance.

[Translation]

SHRI DAVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of information. Yesterday, hon'ble Minister had made a mention of Bihar. Shri Raghuvansh Prasad has given notice of privilege motion. My point of information in this regard is that the information given by the hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture. . . .*(Interruptions)* I do not oppose the privilege motion. . . .*(Interruptions)* You please listen to me. I am just giving the information.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvathupuzha) : Sir, there is no provision for a point of information in the rules. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just giving the point of information. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was present in the House. As I heard, hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture said, that the Bihar Government has not submitted the report regarding damage caused to crops due to floods. Due to this, the funds cannot be allocated from natural calamities fund.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report is with us. Are we not submitting it ?

[English]

SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY (Kendrapara) : Sir, today the coastal areas of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have experienced a severe cyclone and at the moment the velocity of the cyclone is between 220 and 240 kilometres. Before coming to the House, I checked up with the Director-General of the Meteorological Department. They have stated that as per the record of the Meteorological Department, a cyclone with such a severe velocity has never hit any part of the country. They are terming it as 'super-cyclone'. I could not have any contact with Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara and Bhadrak districts. Since eight o'clock in the morning, this area is cut off from

the rest of the world. I beg to submit to this House and to the Government, through you, to send a committee of the House to have a look at the area, make an on-the-spot study and report to the House for taking remedial measures.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, at 10.30 in the morning, I heard a T.V. news on the special bulletin that is being issued, that the cyclone is likely to come at any time. Probably a cyclone with such intensity has never been experienced before in this country. Large parts of South Bengal, Orissa and, maybe, Andhra also are likely to be affected. It is apprehended that the whole town of Puri will be under the severest risk of total damage. The whole of the Sagar dweep one of the beautiful places in our country in the Sunderbans area, will probably be wiped out. We do not know, but that is the anxiety. Therefore, I am requesting the Central Government to keep in closest touch with the State Governments in these areas so that all possible steps can be taken. This will be a human tragedy, a national tragedy and, I am sure, the Government, the House and everybody will take it up with such seriousness that not a moment may be lost in trying to find out what has happened or is going to happen because warning has been given at least till 3 o'clock in the morning.

AN HON. MEMBER : Whole night.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Till three o'clock in the morning, I was listening to the half-an-hour bulletin that was being issued. A serious apprehension is there. Therefore, I am sure, the Government will take it up as the highest priority so that no time is lost.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, serious warning is being given by the Meteorological Department of India that it may cross the coastal areas at any time today with a velocity of 220 to 250 kilometres. So, I am requesting through you, Sir, to the Government to keep one Minister in touch with the State Governments and also to advise the Armed Forces to meet any eventuality, if it arises. That is my humble submission to the Union Government through you, Sir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, yesterday, while the debate was on in the House, I got a news from the Meteorological Department and also heard an announcement on *Doordarshan* that a severest kind of cyclone is likely to cause very devastating effect in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Further, the news bulletin said that the tidal line has changed its course and is now heading towards Gangasagar in South 24-Parganas district. I think the report that has come shows that it is a cyclone of the highest magnitude that has ever come before and the North 24-Parganas, South 24-Parganas, Hooghly, Howrah and the entire city of Calcutta are under its threat.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

The Government of West Bengal has already alerted the Army yesterday. I think the Government of India, leaving aside all other business, should immediately, today, get in touch with all the resources at their command – technical and otherwise – with the three State Governments, the Chief Ministers. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Including the House business also ?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSHI : Sir, immediately somebody from the Government should take care of this matter on behalf of the Cabinet without wasting a single minute of time. Sir, by the time we rise for the day, I think, the devastation will start. Therefore, this is such an important matter that the entire House should concentrate on this issue without wasting any moment.

Further more, I am told that after the withdrawal of the strike by the truck operators, even now some supply network on important National Highways is blocked. Some other measure in this regard is required. Otherwise, I am afraid, if something goes wrong, supplies could be affected from this evening.

Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, senior Members of the House have expressed, naturally expressed deep concern about these happenings and these developments. I can only assure the House that the Government shares their concern and would be in constant touch with the State Government to ensure that these calamities are faced. Whatever help and cooperation is needed would always be available.

MR. SPEAKER : I now call Shri Basudeb Acharia. Shri Acharia, please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, more than two lakh employees of the L.I.C. and the G.I.C. are on strike today protesting against the introduction of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill. Yesterday we have already pointed out that the move of this Government to privatise the L.I.C. and the G.I.C. is to open up our insurance sector to the multinational companies. This is nothing but to sell out our country to the multinational companies of the United States of America. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Yesterday, you had spoken on this subject. When bill will be introduced, then you can speak again. . . .(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) Yesterday, you had spoken on this for an hour. . . .(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You had stopped the proceedings of the House for four hours on this very issue. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Bill has been introduced in spite of our vehement opposition and inspite of the protest outside this House. We demand that the Bill should be referred to a Joint Select Committee so that the various sections of our society can represent. Yesterday, more than 1.5 crore people of our country have signed a petition and that petition was submitted to you yesterday. What is needed in order to protect our national interest is that we should not open up our insurance sector to the multinational companies.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we should not sell out our country to the multinational companies. This Bill – as you observed in the last Lok Sabha – should be referred to the Joint Select Committee so that there can be a nationwide debate and the representatives of various sections of the people can participate in the deliberations and they can express their views and the interest of our nation is protected. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : It should be sent to select committee and the country should be saved. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am raising this matter with a very heavy heart. We got our independence 52 years ago and a day before yesterday we had extend the observation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Legislative Assemblies and Parliament for ten more years. For a while leave aside the common man belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to tell you about the condition of the MLAs belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Shri Vijay Sahay a scheduled tribe MLA, representing the Harsul constituency in Madhya Pradesh was badly beaten by the Police of that area. He has got a fracture in his arm. He was beaten with shoes, butts of gun and canes. . . .(Interruptions). When he tried to escape the police caught him and he was beaten so severely that he got unconscious. Then the police left him in dying condition. . . .(Interruptions) His only crime was that he was demonstrating against the killing of Shri Kishan Basod a person belonging to scheduled caste in Police

custody and was going to hand over a memorandum in a very peaceful manner. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Shivraj Singh speaks.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : They were protesting against that murder. When they were taking out the procession, Police besieged him and had beaten him. He is the same Vijay Sahay who had raised four cases of Police brutality. One of the cases was related to an Adivasi who was beaten so brutally in Police custody and was also given electric shocks that he become impotent. . . .(Interruptions) Shri Vijay Sahay alongwith other Adivasis had also met the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. Hon'ble Home Minister must be remembering it. . . .(Interruptions) And this case of police atrocity was brought to light. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has tendency to suppress the agitation with heavy hand. Under his protection the police personnel had tried to kill him. . . .(Interruptions) It is the question of the life of an MLA belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Can an MLA not raise the issue of Police atrocity in Police custody? We do not trust the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister there is protecting the police. Through you I would like to request that the Centre Government should intervene in this matter and the security should be provided to Shri Vijay Sahay and his family. And the arrangement should be made to register the criminal case against the Superintendent of Police of that area and other Police personnel guilty of crime. Such steps should be taken to assure that any other MLA belonging to Scheduled Tribe should not be treated like Shri Vijay Sahay. The Government should give statement in this regard.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this type of incident also took place in Maharashtra. In the Poona city of Maharashtra, Shri Vinayak Nimad, an MLA of Shiv Sena had been bashed. He was prevented from attending the Vidhan Sabha Session. At present, Maharashtra has newly elected Congress Government but nobody has taken any step in this regard. The MLAs of Bharatiya Janata Party and Shiv Sena are being threatened over there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request the Centre Government that Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should taken action in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You should not mention all the State matters in Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious matter. Pope John Paul who is visiting India, our Government. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should give statement in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, Pope John Paul is visiting India, today, and our Government is welcoming him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Sir, the Madhya Pradesh Government is misruling the State. Police is trying to kill the MLAs. The Chief Minister is working with the tendency to suppress any agitation with heavy hand. Therefore, through you I would like to request the Government in this regard.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, today Pope John Paul is visiting India and our Government is welcoming him. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : The Madhya Pradesh Government is trying to kill the MLAs, there. This matter is related to an MLA belonging to Scheduled Caste. Therefore, I request the Government to give statement in this regard. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rawale speaks.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was discussed here two days ago. Pope John Paul is visiting India and our Government is welcoming him. . . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir Portiff is visiting India. The discussion on it was held two days ago and it as said on behalf of the Government that Pope John Paul is visiting India and

*Not recorded.

[Shri Mohan Rawale]

he will be given official welcome. Our Government is giving a red carpet welcome to the Pope. The President of USA, Shri Bill Clinton is also going to visit India. The Indians residing in United States are going to celebrate Diwali in America. There is an International Southern Baptist Protestant Church and Mr. Bill Clinton, ex-President Mr. Jimi Carter and Rock Feller etc. are some of its members. They have published 40 thousand booklets which have misleading information about Hindu religion. It is being propagated that Hinduism is not a good religion, therefore, Hindus should accept the Christianity. A news-item has appeared in today's 'Washington Post' in this regard. I would like to submit that Western Countries are involved in conversions in India as well as in Western Countries. Today, our Government is going to welcome Pope John Paul. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point is very important and I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very serious issue. I would like to ask the Government that whether the Government is going to stop the official welcome of Pope John Paul or not. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Now, let us take up Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, please take your seat, you have expressed your opinion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record except Shri Ashok Pradhan's statement.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

11.33 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide more Railway facilities at Khurja in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Thousands of people travel daily from my Parliamentary constituency Khurja and the district head quarter Bulandshahar to Delhi but there is no direct train service from Khurja to Delhi. I had raise this issue during the tenure of 11th Lok Sabha also and a survey to lay new railway tracks in Chaula and Bulandshahar was approved to be conducted. However, no progress has been made in that direction. I request the Government to lay the railway line from Chaula to Bulandshahar as early as possible. Besides the halt approved at Khanpur between Khurja and Dankaur should be made functional immediately.

Ticket booking facility should also be made available there so that the money spent by the Government to provide facilities should be properly utilised, and losses incurred on the railway revenue could be avoided. A direct train should also be introduced from Khurja and Bulandshahar to Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh and all express trains should halt there so that thousands of travellers who have to catch the train from Aligarh or Hapur for Lucknow, could be benefitted.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We have taken up the matters under Rule 377. What is this ?

- (ii) **Need to provide financial assistance to the State Government of Bihar for providing relief to the people affected in Begusarai Lakhisarai, Shekhpura and Jamuyee districts.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of destruction has been taken place due to devastating floods in Begusarai Lakhisarai, Shekhpura and Jamuyee district of Bihar State. This time inundation has created a heavy loss to life and property. Paddy crop has been completely damaged. Due to this heavy loss, farmers may face deaths due to starvation. Their houses have also got damaged. Water tanks embankments and roads have been damaged. Union Government is required to extend the relief works in flood affected areas. Financial assistance is also required keeping in view the safety of their life and property and the problems that may arise in future. I

request the Government to provide immediate relief measures to the people of flood affected areas and hon'ble Prime Minister should also contribute in this regard by providing financial assistance from his relief fund to save them from starvation.

[English]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, you are a senior Member. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

- (iii) **Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of West Bengal to check erosion caused by the Ganges in the districts of Murshidabad and Malda, West Bengal**

SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN (Jangipur) : Sir, erosion in the river Ganga is going on unabated for the last few decades in the districts of Murshidabad and Malda. Thousands of dwelling houses in the towns and villages, public offices, educational institutions etc., have been submerged. Gravity of erosion has been increased after construction of the Farraka Barrage Project. Now, this project of great national importance is in threat of being non-functional. National/International border through the mid stream of Ganga is being shifted towards India causing loss of our land to Bangladesh. Considering all these factors, I fervently urge upon the Union Government to come forward with adequate funds to take anti-erosion measures in this international river otherwise unthinkable calamity is apprehended in this region.

- (iv) **Need to set up an industry in Bah Tehsil in U.P. to rehabilitate the people affected by acquisition of land for construction of Agra-Bateshwar railway line**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the inauguration of Agra-Bateshwar railway track in district Agra (Uttar Pradesh) by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 6th April, 99, the process of land acquisition is going to be started which will create a more serious situation. 21 lakh people of 912 villages will be affected by this railway track which will be constructed at the cost Rs. 108 crores. It will be 110.5 Km. long and will affect 18 Km. of land in district Itawa, 2 Km. of land in Tehsil Agra Sadar, 41.5 Km. in Fatehabad, Agra and 55 Km. of land

in Bah Tehsil, Agra. A huge land of farmers has already been acquired under Chambal Project in Bah Tehsil. This current land acquisition will affect the permanent means of sustenance of farmers and the compensation paid will not solve the problem of their livelihood permanently.

As an alternative, Government should establish an industry in Bah tehsil to permanently solve the problem of unemployment for the welfare of lakhs of farmers.

- (v) **Need to provide financial assistance to the State Government of U.P. for setting up another power station in Amroha (U.P.)**

[English]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Sir, the conditions of electricity in my constituency Amroha (consisting of districts Jyotiba Pholy Nagar and District Bijnor) U.P. is worst ever, for a long time which has badly affected not only small industries but the farmers and general public as well.

The school going children are unable to study due to lack of electricity.

Basically, it is a very poor area. Teenagers, girls, boys and even housewives are attached with Bidi industry, which is the main industry of the area, to earn their bread. All of them cannot work after sunset which affects their earnings. Immediate instructions should be issued to provide adequate electricity in Amroha and the adjoining area.

A separate power station of, at least, 100 mw to generate more electricity should also be built up as early as possible to fulfil the need of the area. I request the Union Government to provide financial assistance to the State Government of U.P. for the purpose.

- (vi) **Need to include Tanjore in Tamil Nadu under the 'Crop Insurance Scheme'**

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, the Crop Insurance Scheme has been introduced in many districts. It was introduced in undivided Tanjore district in Tamil Nadu. But the scheme was in force only in some areas of the district. Now, that the district has been divided and made into three districts, my constituency Thanjavur has not been covered by the Crop Insurance Scheme.

I take this opportunity to focus this attention of the Union Government towards the plight of farmers in my constituency who mainly grow paddy and request that the Crop Insurance Scheme may be extended to my constituency also in order to preserve crops and to protect the interests of farmers.

*Not recorded.

(vii) Need to take steps to prevent foreign companies from claiming patent rights on Jute products to safeguard Indian Jute farmers

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : After Basmati and Turmeric, it is a matter of regret that Hessian (Jute Product) has been got patented by GEOHESS, a British Firm under European Patent No. 728848. GEOHESS has started demanding royalty from producers of Hessian in India and from Indian Jute Mills which has adversely affected the Indian Jute growers and Indian Jute Mills.

Till date, India was being considered as one of the biggest Jute growing countries in the world, for the last number of decades, but surprisingly the Patent Rights have been granted to a British Firm overnight. If it is allowed to continue, approximately three crores population of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam, which is depending upon Raw Jute and Jute Industry will be severely affected. If not checked, this will also adversely affect the economy of not only West Bengal, but the entire Eastern Region in the country.

So, in the interest of the economy of the Eastern Region and in the interest of approximately three crore Indians of West Bengal, Tripura and Assam as well as in the interest of the nation, I would like to request the Government to take immediate remedial steps in the matter.

(viii) Need for creation of a separate State of Bodoland

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : I heartily welcome the Government of India's move to grant Statehood to Delhi, and for the creation of 3 (three) new States in the backward regions i.e., 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh,' and will always do so in regard to the implementation of the 'Smaller States concept' in other regions too.

The present Government of India should take a concrete policy decision on the long-standing demand for a separate State of Bodoland too in order to bring about a lasting political solution to the most alarming Bodoland tangle, by granting Statehood on the lines of 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh' for the greater national interest.

Therefore, immediate creation of the much long awaited separate State of Bodoland has been a must, and it is the only lasting political solution for all-round growth and development of the indigenous Bodo people and also to ensure their safety and security within their promised Bodoland State.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Union Government to take a concrete and positive policy decision to create separate State of Bodoland through the introduction of the requisite Constitutional (Amendment) Bill on the line of 'Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh' considering the gravity and seriousness of the situation mounting within the proposed Bodoland territory in particular, as well as in entire North-Eastern region, for the greater interest of the national unity and integrity and security as well.

(ix) Need for early start of Train between Delhi-Raxaul and Amritsar-Darbhanga

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Battiah) : Sir, during 12th Lok Sabha while presenting the railway budget, the then Railway Minister had announced to introduce some new trains. Train Number 4048 and 4047 between Delhi and Raxaul was to be introduced on 1st July, 1999; It was announced in the same budget speech that a new train Janseva Express number 5212 and 5211 between Amritsar and Darbhanga via Narkatiaganj will also be introduced. All the stations enroute on this track were informed accordingly about the halt and departure time of the trains. It has been included in the Railway time table also. Since then 9 months have passed but none of the trains have been introduced by the Railway administration. On being enquired the Railway officials orally informed me that due to the Kargil war and Lok Sabha elections these trains could not be introduced. However, It is unfortunate that even after the end of Kargil war and Lok Sabha elections, these trains could not be started. The people of my constituency are going to stage a 'Dharna' on the railway track from the 15th November.

Therefore, I demand the House to direct the Railway Board to start these trains before 15th November, without any further delay.

(x) Need for revision of wages of working Journalists

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, the working journalists in India have been put to gross injustice as their wage revision has not taken place since the past ten years. In this period, the cost of living has gone rocket high. There is no other section of employees whose wages have not been revised for such a long time. The Press, as we all know, is one of the strong arms of democracy. It is totally unjust to forget the working journalists but for whom the freedom and right of every citizen to 'know' will be hindered. I request that immediate action be taken for the wage revision of working journalists.

(Interruptions)

(xi) **Need to issue red cards to people living below poverty line in Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on visiting Muzaffarpur and Vaishali districts of Bihar I came to know that majority of the people did not get the red card as per the provisions of issuing such card to those living below poverty line.

Therefore I demand from the Government of India that provision should be made for issuing red cards to those people living below poverty line who have not yet got that card.

11.47 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – *contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up the next item – Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

11.47 hrs.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the hon. President. At the outset, I express my sincere thanks to the hon. President for his gracious Address to both the Houses of Parliament. The Address clearly indicates the socio-economic agenda of the NDA Government for the next one year to come.

All hon. Members who are sitting in this august House have faced the elections recently, won the elections successfully and become the Members of this historical Thirteenth Lok Sabha. I congratulate the Members on behalf of myself, on behalf of my Party, the Telugu Desam, and also on behalf of my leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu.

Sir, I also take this opportunity to congratulate Shri Vajpayee for having become the Prime Minister of this biggest democratic country for the third time. Incidentally, I may mention that when he became the Prime Minister of this country, in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, he was in Office for thirteen days. When he became the Prime Minister for the second term, in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, he was in Office for thirteen months. He is now heading the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, for the third term, and I earnestly hope that he will be in Office for a minimum period of thirteen years and our Party wishes that he should continue to serve this country as an able leader.

Sir, I also congratulate the hon. Speaker for having been elevated to this august Office for the second term and also Shri Sayeed who has become the Deputy-Speaker for the second term unanimously. The people of Andhra Pradesh and the Telugu Desam Party are very proud of you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for having occupied this Chair. We, the people of Andhra Pradesh, and particularly the Telugu Desam Party are very proud of you for having occupied the Chair.

The 13th Lok Sabha has several distinctions. This is the last Lok Sabha in the year 1999, the 200th decade, the 20th Century and for the second millennium. I hope that the Congress Party will not pull down this Government in another two months. It is also going to be the first Lok Sabha for the third millennium, the 21st Century, the 201st decade and the 2000 year. So, it is a rare and a thrilling event for all of us to be the Members, at this particular juncture when the country is marching ahead to the third millennium, the 201st decade and the 21st Century. The Members have got the onerous responsibility that the new hopes and promises are to be carried by all of us when the people are marching onto the 21st Century.

Here I may also have to mention that we are proud of the democratic values of our country and the secular fabric that has been enshrined in our great Constitution. His Excellency, Shri K.R. Narayanan has just day before yesterday completed 78 years and entered 79th year. I wish hon. President, many more happy returns on this occasion. As a leader of *dalits*, he has become the President of India and he will be carrying the nation or this Republic from the 20th Century to the 21st Century.

Incidentally, the hon. Speaker also represents the *dalit* community and the Deputy-Speaker represents minority community. This is the value of our democracy and how we are protecting the democratic values in this country. The 13th Lok Sabha will also be distinct that it is in the golden jubilee year of our Indian Republic. So, the hon. Members are fortunate enough to have this distinction to be the Members of the 13th Lok Sabha. The country may witness this type of an event only after another thousand years when it enters the fourth millennium from the third millennium.

The mandate given by the Indian polity in the 13th Lok Sabha is also characterized by several distinctions. It is a mandate given for an able leadership. It is a mandate given for a stable Government through coalition. It is a mandate which rejected the single party rule, not to speak about the single family rule.

It is a mandate for the federal structure, for the strong regional parties; it is a mandate for performance; it is

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

a mandate symbolising pro-establishment; and it is a mandate against power hungry and greedy political leadership. Ultimately, it is a mandate for Indian born leadership. This is what, Father of the Nation, Shri Mahatma Gandhi had also wished; and this is what the people who participated in the freedom struggle also wished. Though the composition of Thirteenth Lok Sabha is a fractured one, the essence and message of the people is that they want stability through coalition. It is really a unity in diversity. In a vast country like India with a hundred crore population, where the cultures are different; where the languages are different; where the topography is different; where the problems of various regions and States are different, the whole gamut of socio-political and economic systems are a diversified one. To address this kind of a situation effectively, we bound to have a multi-party system. The single party rule has failed in this country and as a result of that several regional parties have come up and they have grown. These regional parties have been looking after the interests of different States. I may also have to mention that 45 years of Congress rule at the Centre has failed to address all these problems and it could not empower the various under-privileged sections of the society. The Congress Party has pulled down successive Governments. I do not want to go back to the days of Shri Charan Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar. In the recent past, as you are quite aware, the Congress Party has pulled down the Governments of Shri Deve Gowda and Shri I.K. Gujral. The Congress Party should learn a lesson as to what price it has paid for its undemocratic acts. The Congress Party's erosion started from 1991 onwards. In 1991 it had 250 seats in this august House and by 1996 it has come down to 142 seats. In 1998 the strength of the Congress again came down to 140 seats. With the fond hope that it can improve its numbers and its prospects, It once again pulled down the Vajpayee Government. But ultimately the people of this country have pulled down its numbers from 140 to 112. With Shrimati Sonia Gandhi deciding to resign from Bellary seat, the number has come down to 111. . . . (Interruptions) At least the BJP could retain the strength, but the strength of the Congress Party has come down from 140 to 111.

12.00 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, the number 111 symbolises the perpetuated hoodwinking of the Congress Party for all these years. It symbolises only that. The polity of this country has rightly chosen this number to represent them in this House. At this rate if once again the Congress think of pulling down the Government undemocratically, days are not far away

when the entire Congress will be wiped out from the Indian scene. I am just reminded by the fact that the Congress Party was founded 114 years ago by a foreigner, Annie Besant. So, after 114 years, the same situation has come and now probably the party will be wound-up.

During the post-election period, the Congress leadership was unhappy but the Congress leadership, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, is happy over the fact that the old spent-forces and decayed, dead-wood leadership of Congress has vanished in this election. This is the happiest event for them.

In a post-election analysis the PCC Leader from Andhra Pradesh had particularly made a mention that voting in Andhra Pradesh was not against the Congress, was not for Shri Chandrababu Naidu or the TDP but it was for Shri Vajpayee. I do not dispute with that statement but once it was mentioned that the vote was for Shri Vajpayee, we can understand the face value of Shri Vajpayee in the Indian political history, in the contemporary politics. Against that, it had inadvertently been mentioned that the face value of the Congress leadership at the national level was not at par with Shri Vajpayee. So, the Congress is having this type of leadership.

I am happy that Shri Vajpayee at the Center and Shri Naidu at the State level have showed the results. In Andhra Pradesh, it was a clear writing on the wall even before the election process had commenced that under the dynamic leadership of Shri Naidu, the TDP is bound to stage back to power owing to his vision and performance for an all round development of the State's economy. The initiatives that the Telugu Desam Party had taken during the past four years – ranging from *Prajala Vaddaku Palana*, where he had taken the entire machinery to villages, where he had created platform for interaction between the official machinery and the people in the villages, which had really worked well, to *Sramadanam*, *Janmabhoomo*, Self-help groups like Water Users' Association, School Education Committee, *Vana Samrakshana Samithies*, Watershed Programme, Mothers' Committee, DWACRA and DWACWA, CMEY for youth and such other programmes – had motivated different sections of the people. In all these programmes, the major emphasis was on people's participation.

It is that particular aspect which had created confidence among the people and had created trustworthiness of our party among the people. It had also averted totally anti-establishment in that State A political atmosphere of pro-establishment had prevailed which had enabled the Telugu Desam Party to stage a come back to power.

Sir, his crusade against corruption and criminalisation had created a tremendous confidence among the various sections across the State. The other actions that he had taken were surprise visits of the Chief Minister to the villages, the File Clearance Week, Dial Your Chief Minister etc. A working schedule of the Chief Minister for 18 hours a day have roused hopes among the people. Special programmes have been offered for empowering various other sections like *Mundadugu* Programme for Scheduled Castes, *Chaitanyam* Programme for Scheduled Tribes, *Adarana* for BCs, *Roshni* and *Tatkal* Programme for minorities, *Deepam* Programme through which ladies were given cooking gas connections. They had really created a new hope in the leadership of Shri Chandrababu Naidu who has become an undisputed leader of the State. The entire country had watched the election results. He has become a trend setter and has proved that only work culture will be accepted and not any criminal culture, particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

Empowerment of women through DWACRA movement had really revolutionized women in Andhra Pradesh. Their political empowerment by giving 33 seats in Assembly elections recently and five seats in Parliament have created silent support of women to Telugu Desam Party in recent elections. Sir, we express our gratitude to the womenfolk particularly in Andhra Pradesh who had supported us. Sir, it is the performance and trustworthiness of Telugu Desam Party and Shri Chandrababu Naidu that led the party to a glorious victory in the recent elections despite the vicious propaganda and vilification campaign against our Chief Minister by the Congress leadership in the State. Sir, the Congress leadership in the State has resorted to making several impractical promises which people of Andhra Pradesh could not even believe. So, these results have become a trendsetter for the entire country.

Sir, I may now just turn to the Kargil war and its developments. I certainly take this opportunity to salute all the armed forces for their uninstituted efforts in safeguarding our borders and in throwing back the Pakistani intruders. We should also congratulate Shri Vajpayee and his Government for taking right steps at the right time. The Government should also be congratulated for the diplomatic success in mustering support of all the countries which motivated the armed forces. At the same time, some somersault had also been done during the Kargil War. It is quite unfortunate that they wanted to take political mileage even during that period of crisis.

Their demand for ordering an inquiry and their demand for summoning the Rajya Sabha for discussing the issue could not have been acceded to.

In Hyderabad, I would just make a mention here, when the Government of Andhra Pradesh organised a big rally to express its solidarity with the Government of India and its efforts and also with the armed forces for their struggle at the border, it is only the Congress Party which abstained by giving a call that nobody should participate in that rally. All other sections of people in Andhra Pradesh participated in that rally. More than 25,000 people including school children took part in that rally, except the Congress Party by giving a call to abstain from that rally. We cannot understand their attitude as this was a rally organised by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and not by Telugu Desam Party or by Shri Chandrababu Naidu. I do not find any reason why in the expression of solidarity with the armed forces, the Congress Party should abstain by giving a call against the rally. We cannot understand the attitude that the Congress Party took on that issue.

Women's reservation has been very aptly mentioned in the President's Address. Telugu Desam Party is for 33 per cent reservation categorically in all the legislative fora for women. As early as in 1987, Shri N.T. Rama Rao, the then Chief Minister and President of the Party had given reservations in Andhra Pradesh in all the local body elections to the extent of 3 per cent, probably giving reservations for women in the local body elections for the first time as compared to any other State. Andhra Pradesh has also passed a Resolution in the State Assembly and sent it to the Government of India to enact it and bring a legislation reserving 33 per cent seats for women in all the elections. Now it is not an issue of any particular political party. Almost all the political parties have been expressing categorically that there should be 33 per cent political reservation in the elections in all the statutory bodies for women. Giving 33 per cent reservation for women is a national issue now and it is no more the issue of any particular political party. I am happy that a specific mention has also been made by the hon. President in his speech.

I will just make a mention about Pope John Paul's visit to India which is also a burning issue in the country now. Telugu Desam Party believes in the secular fabric of this country and in maintaining the secular credentials. Telugu Desam Party believes in the right to freedom of religious expressions also. But it is unfortunate that VHP and some other organisations are creating some controversy over the visit of Pope John Paul during November this year. I wish that the Government takes initiatives in creating a cordial and congenial atmosphere which will enhance the prestige of this great country in the comity of nations. Our Chief Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu has also sent a letter to the hon. Prime Minister to take initiatives in this regard.

I should also make a mention that when demanding apology for something that happened four hundred years

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

ago during the Portuguese rule from Pope John Paul-II, we should not forget the yeomen services rendered by Christian Missionaries in Serampur area of West Bengal when they first arrived in the fields of medicine and education. This was amply mentioned in the book written by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, "The Discovery of India". When this was the harmony maintained at that time, it should be continued now also.

Sir, I should mention about National Agriculture Policy now. It is a much awaited Policy in the country. We have been harping on this particular aspect that there should be a National Agriculture Policy in the country. A country which could evolve a National Industrial Policy as early as in 1977 and a country of this size where more than 70 per cent of the population are dependent only on agriculture has not brought out a National Agriculture Policy. During the period of the National Front Government, they had appointed two Committees, namely, the Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee and Hanumantha Rao Committee to examine and make specific recommendations to evolve a National Agriculture Policy. Almost twelve years have lapsed. The recommendations have not been examined so far. Action has not been taken so far. It is overdue in this country that a National Agriculture Policy has to be brought. When the securities are to be provided in that Policy, the agriculturists should be given all the importance and preference. The Hanumantha Rao Committee has categorically recommended that agriculture should be given a status at par with industry. This also has not been done.

We have been hearing about fertilizer prices. We have been seeing the newspapers which say that the subsidies that are available on food and fertilisers are likely to be withdrawn. If the fertiliser subsidies are going to be touched upon, it is going to be disastrous. It is going to be certainly suicidal if agricultural crops are not properly treated and fed with fertilisers. Our country is one where fertiliser application is the lowest when compared to the neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh leaving aside Japan, USA, Germany, etc. In Japan, they have been using fertilisers four times more than what we have been using. On an average, we have been applying 140 kilograms of fertilisers per hectare whereas 560 kilograms per hectare are being applied in Japan. Even when it comes to the field of productivity, we have been realising 1400 kilograms per hectare as against 6000 kilograms per hectare in Japan. There is a direct linkage between fertiliser application and productivity of crops. If proper impetus is not given to the application of fertilisers, naturally there will be a lot of imbalance in the application of fertilisers which is going to be disastrous. If the imbalance is not set right

in most of the soils, then it is going to have a disastrous effect.

I must also mention about the Agricultural Prices Commission which is not properly represented by agriculturists. It should be reviewed and more representation should be given to agriculturists for making it realistic for a real picture to be reflected.

As far as Centre-State relations are concerned, we must just look into the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission which have not been applied in the country so far. Similar is the case with the Gadgil formula and Lakadawala recommendations which need revision. It is the Government of Andhra Pradesh which has introduced subsidy in the rice scheme much earlier. The recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission where 29 per cent of the gross income should go to the States have not been legislated and enacted. Government should take proper action on them.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, you have taken nearly 35 minutes. This debate has to conclude by 5 p.m. and honourable leaders have yet to participate. I cannot allow you like this.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, this is my last point. The Panchayati Raj System has been introduced through the Seventy-third Constitution Amendment. But there is a lot of confusion in this after the creation of the *Mandal Parishad* Territorial Committee and the *Zilla Parishad* Territorial Committee. There is a big overlapping between the existing three-tier system of Panchayat Raj and the MPTC and ZPTC. So, it needs to be reviewed. If necessary, an amendment is to be brought forward once again so that the three-tier system is restored once again in the Panchayati Raj System.

With these words, I conclude. I once again thank the hon. Deputy-Speaker for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have done great favour by giving me the opportunity to speak so early and I wanted that only. As for as the question of new Government is concerned, we do not consider it new because this Government is having the same Prime Minister, the same Home Minister, the same External Affairs Minister, the same Defence Minister and the same Finance Minister. Even their departments were not changed. This is the same old Government. . . .(Interruptions) About this Government I want to say that this is the same old wine in a new bottle. This is the same old Government which has been blamed for the Kargil war due to which our innocent jawans

became martyrs. There are many instances of carelessness, ignorance, shortsightedness and failures in foreign policy and diplomacy on the part of this Government. I have raised this issue first because in this election you had two main issues—one was victory of Kargil—i.e. operation Vijay and the second was stable Government. But I am sorry to say that this was also the demand of some of our friends who are sitting on this side. Our Congress friends were also demanding stable Government and you were also demanding stable Government. But the Prime Minister said that they wanted only on vote. . . . (Interruptions) Will the B.J.P. Members still interrupt me. We worked on the basis of our policies and principles and some people took advantage of that. Listen to me patiently. They said in the whole country that they needed only one vote. India is a strange and sensitive country. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when they begged for one vote the people of the country gave them that and Bharatiya Janata Party's seats increased from 181 to 182. In the end they got that one vote on the grounds of sympathy. They had begged for this vote throughout the country and ultimately the people took pity and gave them that vote. But they do not have majority. This is all eye-wash. Just now an hon'ble member from Telugu Desam was saying that this is not a stable Government. Today Akali Dal, Rashtriya Lok Dal, Telugu Desam are not in the Government. And since they have not joined the Government, this Government is like a wall of sand which can collapse anytime and this is sure to fall. This Government will not last long. I am not an astrologer. We are not making predictions but these are political analysis on the basis of which it can be said that this Government will not last long. But on the issue of Kargil we will definitely speak, because you had also made it an issue. You also celebrated 'Operation Vijay' as victory. The second thing which you said in your speech was that the Prime Minister was the Lord Krishna of this war. The Prime Minister is indisposed today. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we wish him speedy recovery and we also wish a long life for His Excellency, the President of India. We want Prime Minister to recover soon so as to enable him to reply to the debate in the evening. But I think he might not be able to do so and possibility is that the Home Minister will reply to this debate. If you have made the Prime Minister as Lord Krishna then you should also tell as to who is Arjuna and who are Gopikas? This is not a laughing matter. I am speaking seriously and I am not making a fun of you. This war was the result of the mistake and carelessness on the part of the Government and consequently innocent soldiers became martyrs. And they are claiming it to be their victory. If it is victory, I would like to know as to how much Pakistani land did we occupy? You have to tell on whose land did our soldiers lay down their lives, was it Indian soil or Pakistani soil? Then when did you come to know about it and when did you take

action after receiving this information? If you had come to know about Pakistani intrusion in Leh and Kargil in the month of March on your own or through an agency, when did you start action.

In my view this is not intrusion, because initially they were reported to be 100, then the number went on to 200, 500, 700 and ultimately we came to know that the strength of the Pakistan army had gone upto 5000 and they had made arrangement for food for one year, they had also brought war equipment with them. Then why are you talking about intruders? This was an attack by Pakistani forces on our land and we were given information by the Hon'ble Defence Minister in the first week of August that some activities had taken place around Leh or Kargil and that Pakistani forces were entering Indian territory. But I want to ask as to when action was taken in this regard?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell that patrolling by army was taking place every month but I want to know why after Pokhran explosion the frequency was reduced to every three months? I was the Defence Minister, therefore, I have knowledge about patrolling being done every month. But the frequency of patrolling was reduced to three months instead of one month. Was it that they were given an opportunity of intrusion into the Indian Territory? This Government is fully responsible for the killing of our jawans. The war had taken place due to your ignorance and lack of information. In that war Nawaz Sharif was removed, military took over and democracy ended. If democracy came to an end in that part of the world, this Government is to be blamed for that. I feel sorry about our defence Minister, when we were with him, where ever in world democracy was attacked, we all socialists, unitedly spoke in favour of democracy because we are supporters of democracy. . . . (Interruptions) You know when I speak Members on B.J.P. benches become restless. There is no problem in that. Now we do not mind it also. In this way democracy ended in Pakistan. But the Defence Minister in his earlier statement had said that this was an internal matter of Pakistan. If someone else such as the Home Minister etc. had said so instead of the Defence Minister then I would not have felt so sorry. But when I read the statement of Defence Minister the next day that this was an internal matter of Pakistan, I really felt sorry. Sir, where ever in the world if democracy was throttled, then India had come forward in favour of democracy. This has been the policy of our country and it will continue to so in future as well.

Sometimes denials are issued to it or facts are twisted, but that is a separate thing. But the hon. Defence Minister should not have given first reaction to it. You are the same samajwadi who worked under the leadership of Dr. Lohia.

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

You have read and spoken about his 'Saat Krantiyan' (seven revolutions) and you still use his words. Therefore, today we say that this Government is responsible for Kargil war. If someone has won this war, it is our brave armed forces and the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party has lost. If you have won then why you have given an opportunity to the forces of Pakistan to retreat. In Pakistan it was said that they were pushed back, but you passed on the blame to Nawaz Sharif. Withdrawal of Pakistani forces was not the result of your action, it was due to the threat by Bill Clinton, President of America. Nawaz Sharif had given him the assurance and, therefore, their forces retreated.

We want to say that when our soldiers were laying down their lives why did you say that forces of Pakistan can be given safe passage. We are of strong opinion that when our soldiers were laying down their lives we should not have given safe passage to the forces of Pakistan because it was not correct to do so. You say that Mulayam Singh is an agent of Pakistan, but I want to know who is the agent of Pakistan and who gave the safe passage to the Pakistan army and also issued statement to this effect. At that time I issued the statement that the morale of the forces should not be lowered.

Today, this is a fact that Indian army is the bravest force in the world. It could have driven the Pakistani forces out. I know that the type of war which was going on, if that would have continued further, we would have faced more casualties than the enemy, but then this victory would have added feather in the cap of our forces that they have driven out the forces of Pakistan. But due to wrong policies, cowardice and uselessness of this Government our brave forces could not get the credit that was due to them.

As for as the issue of Kargil is concerned it is a separate issue as to how much harm or loss did it cause, but we fully congratulate the brave soldiers of this country and pay our tributes to those martyrs who sacrificed their lives. . . .(Interruptions) We won't let them do it. How are they concerned with jawans. . . .(Interruptions) You ask us which jawans they are concerned with. Our people are on the borders. Hence, we pay our tributes to them also. You tried to gain sympathy and became hero. The Defence Minister is sitting here, the House is sitting, I think the Minister of Home Affairs will reply to this debate. You tell me who is called a 'Nayak' (hero)? 'Nayak' is the one who has received Paramveer Chakra in this war. You tell me has any of your ministers or even the Prime Minister received any Paramveer Chakra? . . .(Interruptions) You have named him 'Nayak', Nayak is the one who became a martyr for the motherland and who sacrificed his life for inching forward on the enemy territory. That is our hero.

No Minister or Prime Minister of Government can be our 'Nayak' (hero). Who ever receives the Paramveer Chakra, he is only the 'Nayak' (hero)?

As far as question of foreign policy is concerned, you received sympathy. If you allow me, then many things will come to the fore. But we want that a two day special session should be called to debate the issue of Kargil war so that all facts are brought to light. But which are the countries which sympathised with you should be made clear in your reply. The fact is that you did not get any sympathy. Those who were talking about sympathy of U.S.A., have come to know that only General Musharraf received the sympathy. Today democracy has come to an end in Pakistan. You should have been cautious. When our Prime Minister visited Pakistan the three chiefs of armed forces refused to welcome our Prime Minister on the border of two countries. This very fact should have alerted you about the intentions of the Pakistan army about India. As a matter of fact, you have lost sympathy. Whenever Pakistan raised Kashmir issue at international fora, the people of all Muslim countries sided with India. Are they with India today? Money is being raised in Pakistan in the name of Kashmir. Tell me, who is standing with you today and if someone is standing with you then why money is being collected in Pakistan? You did not receive sympathy of anyone.

As for as the question of majority is concerned, this is not your own majority, you received this due to one vote only. One reason for this has been that you bade good bye to all norms of democracy. When election commission banned exit poll results, then the Government went in appeal to the Supreme Court and which allowed exit poll result in the name of freedom of expression. The ruling party and the Congress party benefited from exit poll results. Samajwadi Party was the big loser on this score. . . .(Interruptions) When first round of exit poll was conducted, they gave one seat to smajwadi party and 13 seats to the Congress party. It was made out that the fight was between the Congress party and B.J.P. only. In Uttar Pradesh, Congress and B.J.P. were opposed to one another. Both of them proved that the fight was between them only. Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress were hands in glove with each other and the exit poll favoured both. The fact is that it resulted in a loss of at least fifteen seats to us. In first round the exit poll showed one seat to Samajwadi Party and in the second round it showed one or two seats and it gave a total of five or six seats to our party. This was the extend of attack on Samajwadi Party. Did the exit poll ever show T.D.P. winning or losing? . . .(Interruptions) It was not against you, you were with them. I am happy that at least our Dada Shri Somnath Chatterjee yesterday said that fact that this Government is in office is unfortunate for the country. . . .(Interruptions) If

any party is responsible for the installation of B.J.P. Government, it is the Congress party and you are associated with that. . . .(Interruptions) B.J.P. and Congress party both have the same policy. Yesterday, we saw in the Insurance Bill that both were one. On Hindutva they are one. How many more points shall I count as time is short. Both of them are having the same ideology, thought, and political character. Therefore it would be better if those who are secular should come towards this side and let B.J.P. and the Congress party together form the Government. Then only the fight of secularism in this country can be fought.

And therefore we are saying that. . . .(Interruptions) No, he alone will be the Prime Minister in the country. You may become a Minister. . . .(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : What will these B.S.P. people do, what will others do ?(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We want that both should become one. Shri George Fernandes is sitting here, he is the Defence Minister he has been the Railways Minister also. . . .(Interruptions) Respected Shri Shukla, what do you want to say. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund) : If history gives credit to anyone for bringing the B.J.P. back to power, it will be none else than Shri Mulayam Singh. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mulayam Singh has done a good thing that he did not allow a foreigner to come to power. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : In Mumbai, there is a saying that grapes to the sheep are sour only. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not quote proverbs. You say what you want to say. If you yield then only he will speak. Time is short.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am not ready for that. History will stigmatise the Congress only. If respected Shuklaji want to say that history will be written then who kept the idols there in 1949. Who was responsible for getting the locks, opened, which Prime Minister was responsible for laying the foundation stone. Who was the Prime Minister when the mosque was demolished. In this way Bharatiya Janata Party is taking advantage of your wrong policies. If someone has been stigmatised in India, then it is none other than the Congress party. Do not have a debate on this. In the whole country if someone has given strength to Bharatiya Janata Party, then it is the policies of the congress party. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shyamacharan Shukla, he is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You keep on saying but the people have proved as to where you stand. In your exit poll, you claimed that the Muslims and the backward classes have deserted Samajwadi Party. The Samajwadi Party does not indulge in religion and caste based politics, we practise politics on the basis of principles. Our policy was correct therefore, we have been elected but whosoever allied with you tasted failure. . . .(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : The BSP people too were conducting exit poll against you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You want me to say that whosoever allied with the congress has met with failure ? If your policies are correct then why Lalul Prasadji left you after having allied with you ? By allying with you, the strength of our friends has reduced. Your team has been reduced. . . .(Interruptions) If not yours, the strength of Shri Indrajit Gupta has reduced. . . .(Interruptions) You used to say this and Shri Laluji is defeated. . . .(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Let me reply. They used to ask us as to how the Congress has been defeated. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You don't have to give reply, you have to present your view point. Don't give your reply here. There is no time at all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Lalul Prasadji has lost a lot of seats because of you. If Laluji had not allied with you and had maintained the equal distance from both B.J.P. and Congress as has been done by Samajwadi Party then, he might not have reached this situation. This conspiracy of both B.J.P. and Congress to create a bipolar polity and weaken the third force would have not been successful. Naidu Saheb, be careful. Even during elections they wanted the monopoly of only two parties—B.J.P. and Congress. The third force in our country today is represented by the poor, farmers, workers, unemployed youth and women. Both B.J.P. and Congress have been conspiring together to decimate this third force. Therefore, we had simply put up this matter before the country that a third force should exist in the country. This third force is the real force and the country can have stable Government only when it is formed by the third force. Today, we urge upon the people to be a part of the third force and unitedly face the B.J.P. and the Congress. B.J.P. has taken advantage of their wrong policies and blame it on Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. The opponents of

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Samajwadi Party can never be secular. . . .(Interruptions) Have you ever fought elections ? . . . (Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : You had also supported the congress. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You read that unnecessary talks are going on these days.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No Cross talking please. Nothing will go on record. .

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am sorry to say that you took this matter to the Supreme Court and got verdict from there on this. If the Election Commission has no right to ban exit polls then I appeal to the Supreme Court through this House that it should give powers to the Election Commission in this regard. The people can easily be deceived by the distorted facts presented by these exit polls.

As far as Foreign Policy is concerned, the Government said that our nation earned sympathy from all quarters. I would like to know the names of those countries from whom we have received sympathy. The Government was caretaker Government at that time but it took such decision which it should not have taken. It took decision about Prasad Bharati, Sugar but it never took any decision about farmers. It is regretful that the Government took a decision regarding the insurance policy in its very first meeting under the pressure from foreign powers. From this it does not seem that the Government of B.J.P. and its allies is functioning. If it is functioning then it should have not taken decision about Insurance policy in its first meeting. The farmers get fertilizer, seed, power, water, tractor and its parts at higher prices but their produce is procured at lower rates. As a result the farmer remains the poorest. Due to this, today India is one of the poorest countries of the world. 76% of population of our country depends upon agriculture but this sector is being neglected. The Government should have taken decision for them in its first cabinet meeting. Instead it took decision to give 26% share of Insurance sector to private sectors and foreign companies.

In 1956, 20 companies were nationalised. At that time their capital was Rs. 500 crore. Till now, they have earned

profit of Rs. 1763 crore. Last year they have earned profit of Rs. 250 crore. Besides this, they have paid taxes worth Rs. 700 crores. Now, the farmers and the rural people are also taking the benefit of Insurance scheme and their share is 45%. Then, what wrong has been done by our insurance companies for which you are going to privatise them and handing over this sector to foreign companies. He is saying that 26% share will be given to private sector and foreign companies. Yesterday, I asked the hon'ble Minister of Finance as to how much share congress party wanted to be given to foreign companies. He said that they wanted to give 40 to 49% share. The policies of both parties are same.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mulayamji, please conclude. For your party only 21 minutes were allotted and now only 3 minutes are left. We have to wind up the discussion by 5.00 P.M.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I will conclude early. Do not criticise the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. We are not against the reservation for backward classes but they should not be included in 27% reservation. We will tell the people of this country that instead of 27% reservation backward classes should get 54% reservation. We will gather and unite all people belonging to backward classes. We are not against any caste. You please amend the constitution in this regard. We had given one proposal that on economic basis 10% reservation should be given to higher castes. But if an attempt is made to include some other caste in this 27%, then we will tell the people that our population is 54% and therefore 54% reservation should be given to us. For this purpose, we can amend the constitution and include those castes to whom we intend to provide reservation. We will fully support the Government on this issue. Further, we have no objection if 10% reservation is given to higher castes on economic basis.

We are not against the reservation for women but controversy should not be created in this regard. All over the world only in South Africa, women have got 10% reservation and the reservation has been made by respective parties. We are not against the reservation for women. However, women belonging to SCs/STs, backward classes and Muslim community should be included in this reservation and it should be restricted to 10 percent only. This is our policy. We will carry this issue to the public. Here you can do anything on the basis of majority but then you would not get the majority of people. If the interests of poor people are not protected then we will demand 54% reservation for 54% backward classes. We shall mobilize people from all over the country and convene a conference. We will start this from U.P. Therefore, do not raise these questions. If these questions are raised then several other issues will also be raised.

So far as the question of fixing a five year term for Lok Sabha is concerned, we do not support this view. Irrespective of performance of the Government, if its term is fixed for 5 years then it is like dictatorship. Therefore, we are not going to support the proposal that the term of the Lok Sabha should be fixed for five years.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : The term should be fixed for five years.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : No, it should not be so, why it should be fixed for 5 years ? . . . (Interruptions) We as well as you have to fight elections. Whether we win or lose but the Lok Sabha for five years. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodra) : Why Lok Sabha will not survive for 5 years ? . . . (Interruptions) You won't mind election every year . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam, do not interrupt now. Kindly do not interrupt. Madam, Please resume your seat. Hon'ble Member is not yielding. Madam, Please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : The problems have to be faced by members. What do you lose in it. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat ? Please resume your seat. What is this ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to repeat my point. As in Africa, it should be made mandatory for the parties to reserve 10% seats for certain categories. Muslims, backward classes and schedule castes are most backward. We want that reservation should be for most backward in the society. Therefore, I would like to say that if these issues are raised, it will create more complications. This will be discussed practically with hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. You have included it in your election manifesto, but we have not done so.

As far as Orissa is concerned, you should have taken the decision and you have taken the decision. The time is very short, otherwise I had wanted to speak on this. Similarly, you have said about giving employment to

unemployed. You have said that you will provide employment to 10 crore people. The population of the country is 100 crore people. If in the family of five, one is unemployed, then in India 20 crore people are unemployed. You have given false statement that every year you will provide employment to one crore and in ten years, the problem of unemployment will be solved. Even if we agree with you, it cannot be so because number of unemployed will also increase in next ten years. . . . (Interruptions)

12.54 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*]

They will give employment to ten crore people by making false statements. The names of 10 crore literate and intelligent people are registered in the employment exchanges. But what about the families of agricultural labourers, farmers, as their population will also increase in next ten years. In my opinion, you will not be able to provide employment to those people. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt. Please do not interrupt.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : On the name of Ram, they massacre the people. They talk about Hindus. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mulayam Singhji, conclude your speech.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, we will abide by it. How many constitutional amendments are you going to make. We know your intentions with regard to constitutional amendments and we are going warning. In Germany, also dictatorship had come in the guise of democracy. If we name the persons who were responsible for it, many of our friends will get annoyed. You are doing the same thing, you are saying that. When they will get full majority on their own, it will be on all their own issues. Now to run the Government, they have got different issues. We do not want to name any organisation all have got understanding with each other. We had said, that if Bharatiya Janata Party truly wants to form a certain atmosphere, they should agree on four point with us. Today, also I am repeating those things. You should bury all disputes related to Ayodhya and Kashi. Stop raising the issues of Article 370. It will be ascertained in the year 2001 as to how much increase has been registered in the population of Hindus

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

and Muslims. Why are you raising finger at Muslims alone? . . . (Interruptions) You should find out we already know by what percent the population of Hindus and Muslims is increasing. Therefore, I want to tell you that you should stop talking about Muslims you should change your opinion about them, the distance between you and us will be bridged up. . . . (Interruptions) They have levelled allegations against us and has benefitted you in the process. . . . (Interruptions) You had deliberately defamed the Samajwadi Party before the elections and during elections. You had not accepted Shri Jyoti Basu as Prime Minister. You too are present here, anybody could not deny that the name of Shri Basu was not proposed. The Congress Party had rejected his name and had said, we do not either want third force, or fourth force, we want only elections. You had carried out nuclear test also, what else do you have. You will be finished, because of your policies. Nobody can stop it. Now, you may defame Shri Lalu, some days back you had defamed us also.

We know that when in 1990 we had protected the Mosque, then the State President of Congress Party, who is not present among us had went to Ayodhya to abuse, Mulayam Singh Yadav, because we had protected the Mosque. Therefore, you are repeating it again and again that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is responsible. We had committed a crime by protecting the Mosque that is why we are responsible. The Congress party had not only committed the crime of demolishing the Mosque by laying the foundation stone and by opening the locks of the Mosque, but had committed the crime of disintegrating India. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA : Later on the Congress Party had made you the Chief Minister. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please allow him to speak. Shri Mulayam Singh, please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I had not ask for anybody's support, nor do I want anybody's support. We are fighting the battle of secularism. Those who want to give support are free to do so. Our respectable, Pandit Narayan Dutt Tiwari, the Leader of the Opposition was present. At that time he had said in the proceedings of the Assembly. You may read it in the library. He said that his support was for one day. I did not ask for the support. . . . (Interruptions) You should not talk about constitutional amendments, how can you touch the constitution. At present, people in this country are not more intelligent than

Shri Bhimrao Ambedkar and many other leaders of the time. They had framed the constitution after great research. They had considered, the circumstances of the country. And after enough study, they had framed the practical constitution. You should keep this fact in mind that whether you are more capable than the members of constituent Assembly. Therefore, I requests you to give attention towards the other problems of the country leaving aside these issues. The Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Policy of the country has failed, at every front. Consideration should be given to it. The danger is looming large over the border of the country. The danger is so big and that because of your wrong policies, at present, the control of atom bomb is in the hands of Pakistan's Army. If it is in the hands of Pakistan army, then what are the intentions of Pakistan Army. This also requires proper consideration and understanding.

13.00 hrs.

Due to this the country is in danger. Leave aside other issues. You should protect and safeguard the country. You should focus on how the friendly relations should be developed with the neighbouring countries and how the country should become prosperous. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs, everything is in your hand. It hardly matters who is the Prime Minister and what he does, but if you are strong and firm any decision could be taken. If you would had accompanied Prime Minister. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Pakistan, the problem might had been solved to an extent. Therefore, I appeal that you should not take controversial decisions, like partition of State or any other area. You should not divide it. It causes hatred among the people. You should not divide on regional basis. You should not cultivate hatred among the people in the name of region or language. Samajwadi Party wants to move along with all the people whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians. You should study your party's manifesto and our party's manifesto also. We want this country to make progress and become strong. Keeping in view the preparations of Pakistani Army and the fact that they are in possession of atom bomb, we appeal you to consider it very seriously and do something in this regard. If all parties will work together to make the country stronger, the Samajwadi Party will extend its cooperation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Joshi, hon. Minister to speak.

SHRI MOHAN-RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, it is his maiden speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is welcome.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : " Sir, I come from the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji and Sant Dhyaneswar and I am very happy to make my speech here."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the convenience of the Members of this House, I would like to deliver my speech in Hindi. I am very happy over the fact that the President's Address is being discussed in the House. It is a matter of great pleasure for me to participate in this discussion. In the beginning of my speech. I, on behalf of my party congratulate the newly elected Members of Lok Sabha.

I am aware that this being the Supreme Assembly Hall of the country, 100 crore people look towards this if to see what we say, what we think about the people and how their question are considered. I would like to express my views on issues raised in President's Address.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that the speech delivered in Assembly Hall is quite different from speech delivered in a public meeting. I do not want to deliver the kind of speech which is delivered in public meetings. I do not want to speak much on the Kargil issue. The entire country is proud of winning Kargil war in the leadership of hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. All of us are proud of it. Therefore, the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has come into power. The people of country have given clear mandate to the Bhartiya Janata Party and its allies.

Three paras of President's Address are attributed to Kargil and read again and again, but nowhere in it the credit of Kargil war has been given to the Government, but all the credit has been given to our brave soldiers. I think its is the magnanimity of our hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that instead of taking credit himself, he has given all the credit to brave soldiers. If you go through these three paras of President's Address, you will know it. But I would like to say one thing that after coming here and hearing the discussion being held in this House, I think that controversial issues, need to be understood. Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the issues raised by the hon'ble President, are there in the N.D.A's manifesto, and I have seen the same in the President's Address. Though, I cannot raise all the questions, but I would like to say that the important issues which will be discussed here would be, to provide basic facilities to the poor, to liberate the country from the curse of illiteracy, to provide potable water in all the villages in five years.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Joshi, please stop for a while.

*...*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi

If any hon. Member is having a cellular phone inside the Chamber, he is requested to immediately see that it is kept outside or switched off. It is most insulting to this House.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : By strengthening, the democracy, by making such legislation which enable Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas to complete their full term should be enacted. The terrorism sponsored by Pakistan should be curbed, the soldiers should be well-equipped for the defence of the country, the reservation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes should be extended for ten more years, and many others issues were discussed in the President's Address.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that all issues raised in President's address are important, but I also know that perhaps these issues had been raised again and again in every President's Address. I have gone through the President's Address delivered in 1950. In that Address he had said :

[English]

"The economic situation in the country has been a matter of grave concern to my Government."

It further says :

"My Government have aimed at stopping inflation and bringing about gradual lowering of prices. All these additional burdens and certain upsets which have taken place from time to time in our economy have delayed our progress in many important aspects of nation-building, among them being education and health to which my Government attach great importance."

[Translation]

In 1951 also while raising these issues hon'ble President had stated that :

[English]

"A multitude of problems face us. Nothing is more important than to plan for our economic progress so that a better life might come to millions of people (now, it is crores of people) who have suffered hardship for generations."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am trying to understand as to why the same issues are raised in President's Address year after year even after 50 years of independence. I have

[Shri Manohar Joshi]

listened to discussion on President's Address many a times. Every Member is raising the issue of poverty and I feel that it is high time to ponder over this issue to find out as to why we have not been successful in this regard. 52 years have passed after independence but same problems are being faced even today. Who is responsible for it ?

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to ask Joshiji, the percentage of people living below the poverty line in 1950 and at present.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. It is his maiden speech, please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fact to find out the responsible factor in this regard. I never said that those who ruled here are responsible for it. I do not know as to why hon'ble Member felt the need to raise this question but I would like to say that even today those questions have not lost their relevance. Debate in this House should be improved and all important issues should be raised here. It would be better if during its tenure of 5 years, our Government successfully solves some of those problems which have been raised in this President's Address.

I do not think that poverty in this country is an act of God. Today how many people live below the poverty line, how many persons do not get proper food and do not have shelter. Hon'ble President has stated that illiteracy is a curse. I do not have much time to go into the details of the number of illiterate persons in the country but I know one thing for sure that every problem has its solution and can be solved if this House decides to do so.

[English]

The poverty of this country is not an act of God.

[Translation]

In our country poverty is the result of our own mistakes and we should have will power to correct them, therefore a serious discussion should be held on this issue. I do not think that people of this country have elected us simply to play politics here. I also know that discussion on these issues may be on political lines to some extent but we do not want to move ahead by politicizing each and every issue. We have to think for welfare of poor and raise the issues related to them. I remember that once Mahatma Gandhi had said that every elected person, whether one

is elected for Panchayat or Lok Sabha, should think for the welfare of poor. Gandhiji had said that while thinking for welfare of poor one should pay attention towards welfare of poorest among poor but now-a-days it is not being done and I want to find a way out for it. I would like to take up some important issues here which have been raised in President's Address. Some Members may say that country has made progress after independence but I would like to say that this progress of last 50 years is not upto the desired mark and for this example of those countries can be given which got independence after our country. Israel is a small country and got independence in 1948 but its per capita income is 15940 dollar today. South Korea is also a small country which got freedom in 1948 and its per capita income is 7940 dollar. Singapore is a small but prosperous country. It got freedom in 1962 and its per capita income is 30060 dollars. If I give the example of China, one may say that there are no Christians there. It got independence in 1950 and its per capita income is 750 dollars. India got its freedom in 1947 and our per capita income is just 430 dollars. In comparison to other countries this progress cannot be considered sufficient. I will never say that our country has made progress to the desired extent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir everytime we want to do some good works for the country but are unable to accomplish those jobs. There may be several reasons for it. I have taken up the issue of poverty and reservation for dalits. After every 10 year the proposal for extending reservation for further ten years is presented in this House because we, the Members of the House and Lok Sabha feel that objectives could not be achieved so far. Everytime we repeat the procedure and hon'ble President has also made a mention of it in his Address. You all may be aware of the fact that our Government has brought and got passed the constitution amendment in this regard in this session.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what type of country is ours where people don't have drinking water facility. We raise several big issues but women of this country have to tread 4,5 or 6 Kilometers to fetch potable water. Can't we change this situation. I am not here to blame anybody. These may be considered as petty issues but it is very important for the people who lack drinking water facility.

I had been the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for four years and during that period. I decided to provide potable water in all the villages of Maharashtra. A scheme, of Rs. 7000 crore was formulated for it and today I am proud to say that now 80 percent people of Maharashtra are being provided potable water through taps. I mean to say that if it can be done in one state it can be done throughout the country or in every state, therefore, I want that what has been accomplished in Maharashtra should be done in the whole country.

The issue of illiteracy has also been raised here. It is a curse. I know that these days people don't talk of population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel that no problem can be solved without controlling the population. Unfortunately nobody is prepared to raise the issue of population control. More than 50 percent people in our country are illiterate and percentage of illiteracy among women is much more. Can this situation not be improved. It can be done. We have done it in Maharashtra and I feel that it can be done throughout the country. But the question is whether the bureaucracy will permit us to do so.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the people of this country would lose faith in democracy if petty issues remain unsolved for years together. Another very important issue of Maharashtra relates to inclusion of Marathi people in Maharashtra, who are presently residing on the borders of Maharashtra and Karnataka. People speaking same language should be considered part of the same State. About 10 lakh people of Maharashtra are in Belgaum and they want to be a part of Maharashtra. This issue comes under the jurisdiction of the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. I appeal him to convene a meeting with Chief Ministers of both the States. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt your leader. He is making very good points. Shri Manohar Joshi will make only two more points please.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, we are supporting his point. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interrupting your leader ? I have given him ten minutes more and he will conclude within two minutes. Why do you take up his time ?

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this problem has remained unsolved for the last 40 years. Therefore on behalf of Shiv Sena I demand that Home Minister should convene a meeting of Chief Ministers of both the States and solve this problem. People of this country will lose faith in democracy if it is not solved. I have presented this point to draw your attention towards this problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mumbai is a big city of this country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, the previous Member has spoken for 45 minutes. Our leader is speaking on behalf of Shiv Sena then why are you asking him to sit down.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you not to make any imputation on the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Sir, we regard you advise.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt the hon. Member. I am requesting him to conclude. He is making very good points. I am sure Government is taking not of those points.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mumbai is a very big city of the country. We all talk about villages and rural area but the issue of Mumbai city is no less important. I am elected from Mumbai. Mumbai pays maximum amount of tax in exchequer and main source of Government's earning is tax but today city is becoming cluster of Jhuggi Jhonpris. There is no improvement. I have stated it time and again that special measures need to be taken for understanding and tackling the problems of such cities. I am not saying all this in context of Mumbai only but all big cities are facing such problems. Such cities face the problem of law and order and more allocation of funds is required for them. In such cities poor people are required to be given more facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my last question is very important and I would like to present it very seriously before this House. The House is aware of the fact that leader of Shiv Sena Shri Bala Saheb Thackeray has been deprived of the right to vote. When all the people of this country have right to vote then why Bala Saheb Thackeray has been deprived of this right ? He has been deprived of this right because he propagated Hinduism. Whether propagation of Hinduism is sin in a country where majority of population practise Hinduism ? I would like to know as to whether one can be deprived of this right for such a reason.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. Why are you interrupting your leader ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Manohar Joshi, I have already given you double the time allotted.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, he has made a reference to the Election Commission, which is a Constitutional Authority. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to conclude now. I have been very accommodative.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your leader is speaking and you are interrupting your own leader.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bala Saheb Thackeray's right to vote should be restored. . . .*(Interruptions)* His right to vote has been derived. What sort of democracy is it? . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is to be recorded except Shri Joshi's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Mohan Rawale, will you please take your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Joshi, may I request you to please conclude? I have given you more than double the time allotted.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is very unfortunate. You are interrupting your own leader from speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, may I request you to take your seats? Otherwise, I will call the next hon. Member, if you interrupt him like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is injustice and thus there is resentment among people over this issue. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Joshi, you have already made your point.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I have not completed my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make any comment on any Constitutional Authority.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI : Even smugglers and rogues have the right to vote in this country. They can also be elected. Persons like Dawood Ibrahim and Arun Gawali have right to vote. . . .*(Interruptions)* It is really wrong that a person is deprived of his right to vote for speaking in favour of Hinduism. . . .*(Interruptions)* People who have migrated from Bangladesh have been given the right to vote. . . .*(Interruptions)* Sir, through you I demand in this House that Bala Saheb Thackeray's right to vote should be restored immediately. Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should pay attention towards it and get this right restored to him. . . .*(Interruptions)* With this demand I conclude. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seat? I have called Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded now.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You know that the debate has to conclude today. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already spoken. Please take your seat. Your leader has already made the point.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded except Shri Aiyar's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Manohar Joshi's speech has been recorded and nothing else will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not given you permission. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has not yielded.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR SARV RAJ SINGH (Aonla) : It is a serious matter. The person who should be in jail. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing has been recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not being recorded. Why do you not take your seats ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats ? Please take your seat. You may please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not fair to your leader.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I have not called anybody. I have not given you permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not given you permission.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not take your seat ? Your leader has spoken. He has spoken very effectively. Why are you getting upset by others ? Will you please take your seats ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra) : Perhaps hon'ble Member could not understand his point. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Babbar, please take your seat. I have not given you permission. Shri Aiyar, you may start your speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting you for the last time to take your seats. It will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, referring a Member of this House as an accused is the insult to this House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall look into this. Nothing has been recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall look into that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they should not be allowed to cross certain limits. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rawale, nothing is being recorded. Why are you doing like this ? Shri Raj Babbar, please take your seat. I did not allow anybody. Nothing has been recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has made his point. He has made the same point. Why are you getting upset ? He is not deciding anything.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : They will insult our leader. . . .*(Interruptions)* Mulayam Singhji we respect you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am requesting you for the last time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no such question. It was stated that Election Commission has levelled charge. No such charges have been levelled against hon'ble Minister, you have not listened to it carefully. I had been listening to patiently that such and such charges have been levelled against us, though no court held me accused for that. . . .*(Interruptions)*. Please take your seat. You can't behave in this manner. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given your views. Your leader has very effectively expressed his views and your party's views.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : We have not levelled any charge against you. We have stated. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Election Commission has held him accused. I have not been held accused by any court. At present their party is in power. Bal Thackeray would have been behind the bars if my party were in power. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak when your turn comes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing else has been recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, thank you. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not have to thank me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, I would like to begin by joining those who spoke before me in thanking our respected Rashtrapati for his Address to the Joint Session of both the House. In particular, I would

*Not recorded.

like to welcome paragraph 41 of the Address where the Government has stated that the cancer of corruption is eating into every institution of our nation and that the Government is determined to ensure probity in public life. It is a matter of the highest importance that corruption be fought. I would have wanted to stand here and say that I believe that this Government is going to fight corruption. While sitting here and listening to the hon. Member who moved this Motion, I was impressed and moved by his remark.

[Translation]

Corruption will not be tolerated.

[English]

But then when it came to a description of what is corruption.

[Translation]

Will not be tolerated.

[English]

There was only one matter that was raised by the hon. Member who moved the Motion. It was the issue of Bofors. There was no reference to the large number of other matters which had agitated this House on the front of corruption and which would continue to agitate this House on the front of corruption. There was no reference to the import of sugar from Pakistan when we were in the middle of a war with them; there was no reference to the import of wheat when our godowns were full; there was no reference to the telecom policy being changed by an unrepresentative Government at a time when there was no House to be responsible to; and there was no reference to the case that has been pending for years relating to the destruction of the Babri Masjid. The only point that was raised by the mover of this Motion, in order to establish that their Government is committed to the fight against corruption of which the President spoke was the Bofors case. What did he say? He said :

[Translation]

"I was astonished to hear when Madhavrao Scindia and some other Members asked to remove Rajiv Gandhi's name from Bofors chargesheet because he was Prime Minister at that time. Neither you nor we said that.

[English]

None of us has ever pleaded that Rajiv Gandhi's name should be removed from the Bofors chargesheet because he was the Prime Minister. I would like to remind the House

what Shri Madhavrao Scindia has said in this House. He said that we are objecting to Rajiv's name being dragged into this case 'without a shred of evidence'. It is the lack of evidence. It is the fact that since he has passed away, he is a person who has no opportunity now to defend himself or represent himself. It is on those grounds that we asked for the deletion of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name from the chargesheet.

As far as I myself was concerned, after I was eventually given the opportunity of saying a few words in this matter, I said – it is very-very unethical of me to quote myself but it is necessary, Sir, in the interest of setting the record right in the light of what the mover of the motion said and I said :

"We demand of the Government the deletion from Column 2 of the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi since no ground has been established which would warrant or justify the inclusion of his name."

I want on to say :

"There is nothing in the Recitation of the chargesheet which establishes anything other than that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was in no way a beneficiary in any manner to whatever payments that might have been made."

Since the Government does not seem capable of understanding what the issue is, I am left, Sir, with no alternative but to concentrate on this issue in the context of Paragraph 41 of the hon. President's Address.

In doing so, I would first like to take up the remarks made on behalf of the Government by the Minister who was designated by it to speak. He said :

"If anybody is aggrieved, the remedy is that he goes to Court. He challenges it before the Court. He takes appropriate legal steps before the Court."

Sir, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name has been included in Column 2 of the chargesheet. Column 2 is the list of accused who are not going to be sent up for trial. Since Shri Rajiv Gandhi is not being sent up for trial, there is no question of Shri Rajiv Gandhi being summoned to the Court to represent himself. He will neither be present nor will there be a lawyer present on his behalf, nor will he have the opportunity of calling his own witnesses, cross-examining the witnesses that the public prosecutor will be presenting on behalf of the State, examining any of the documents – I am told there are 213 documents which the Government will be placing before the Court – or answering any of the 83 witnesses that they propose to call. Here is a man who has been named in the

chargesheet with the 'express' purpose of having him put down as an accused but not affording him an opportunity of defending himself. Is this fair? Is this just?

When this question was raised, the same hon. Minister on behalf of this hon. Government sneered and said that, 'If Dhanu's name – the assassin of Shri Rajiv Gandhi – can be included in Column 2 of the chargesheet on the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and if Shri Beant Singh's – the assassin of Shrimati Indira Gandhi – name can be included in the chargesheet on the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, then what is the great problem of including the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in Column 2. I am not going to concentrate in my intervention on the utter indelicacy of attempting in this manner to equate Shri Rajiv Gandhi who was a martyr with his own assassin Dhanu and with the assassin of his mother, Shri Beant Singh. Both Shri Beant Singh and Dhanu were self-proclaimed assassins. They were proud of the assassinations they undertook. They were ready to pay the price of their crime. There was never any doubt in their minds that they were once the culpable for the assassination of the two Prime Ministers I had mentioned. Nobody has suggested that they were not. The chargesheet that has been filed in both cases recited, in absolute detail, the circumstances which established indubitably that both these people – Dhanu and Beant Singh – were culpable and there was no question whatsoever of their not culpable. Had there been any such question, they would have been proud of saying that in this particular case they are culpable. How can this be compared to the Bofors chargesheet in which, grounds have not been established for indubitably naming a person who is not in a position to defend himself as an accused?

Sir, this is a criminal trial. There is no way in which a civilian-I or Shri Madhavrao Scindia or anyone else can intervene in the case. We cannot go to the court; we cannot put up the argument which perhaps late Rajiv Gandhi would have put up had he been alive among us. After he ceased to be the Prime Minister, late Rajiv Gandhi was among us, was alive, functioned as the Leader of the Opposition for close on 18 months. During those 18 months period an FIR was filed. In the filing of the FIR, there was no reference whatsoever, to late Rajiv Gandhi. All it said was : "other public servants". If in fact, the CBI believed that late Rajiv Gandhi was one of the other public servants, they had all 18 months before he was martyred to go to him, interrogate him and find out the grounds on which they could proceed further against him. During those 18 months of his life after the filing of the FIR on attempt whatsoever was made to interrogate him or establish any grounds from his own mouth for the State to proceed against him.

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

Sir, I have with me a book written by the former Director of the CBI, Shri Joginder Singh in which there is a full chapter of 20 pages starting at page 83 and continuing up to page 103 in which he deals extensively and in very great detail with the Bofors case. This is a book called *Inside CBI* by Joginder Singh. It is amazing how much the language of the chargesheet follows the language of this chapter in this book. But in one very-very important particular what Shri Joginder Singh had to say after having investigated this case as Director of the CBI is not on all fours with the chargesheet which they have filed. In Joginder Singh's book, there is nowhere that he suggests that late Rajiv Gandhi was an accused or should be regarded as an accused. We know that it was Director, CBI, Shri Joginder Singh who collected those documents which formed the basis of inditing Mr. Quattrocchi, Mr. Win Chadha, and Mr. Martin Ardbo as accused in this case in Column I which would enable them to come to the court and defend themselves. It was Shri Joginder Singh who had stated publicly that he had completed the investigation of the case on the basis of the Swiss documents received in January, 1997. We know that in the month of May, 1997—inferentially from this book — that investigation had been completed, the draft chargesheet was ready and late Rajiv Gandhi's name was not there in the chargesheet. But what happened next ?

Sir, I have with me documents which indicate, if not establish, that after Shri Joginder Singh ceased to be the Director and the predecessor Government of the present one — as Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav recently reminded us — it is virtually the same composition as the Government that is presently sitting here and came into office. I am referring to their assuming the reigns of office in March, 1998. I would like to tell you what, Dr. T.N. Mishra who was the then head of the CBI, had said. Here, I have a newspaper clipping which says :

"In July-August, 1998, in an internal note, the senior officers including the former CBI Director, Dr. T.N. Mishra had said that the agency should not file chargesheets in the Bofors case or press for sanction for prosecution till there is more evidence to show bribery and the involvement of public servants."

So, this was the first advise tendered to the in-coming new Government of Atal Behari Vajpayee. I am referring to his second Government. The Director of the CBI himself, in an internal not, says that they have not got the evidence. This happened one year after the CBI had finished its processing of the documents received from Switzerland. He says that they have not got the evidence to establish it and he asks not to proceed further in the matter and get more evidence so as to have a water-tight case.

Thereafter comes the next step. The Senior Legal Advisor to the CBI was sacked. Why ? I again quote from a newspaper report dated 6th May, 1999 :

"The CBI Senior Legal Advisor handling the case had contended that the evidence collected was not enough to file chargesheets."

He had therefore been shunted out of the team handling the case. The Legal Advisor was of the opinion that the evidence did not make a sound case either for fraud or criminal misconduct under the Indian Penal Code or under the Prevention of Corruption Act. This is the advice of their Senior Legal Advisor. They received this advice and what did they do ? They sacked him. Having sacked him, the Team still remains and the Team says, "Let us examine what is happening." I have another newspaper report dated 21st May, 1999 saying :

"The Deputy Director of the CBI, who for the last several years had remained the overall in-charge of CBI's investigations concerning the Bofors case, Shri Navneet Rajan Vasan has been transferred out of the CBI after years of handling the case."

And on the eve of filing the chargesheet, he was transferred out. Why ? It was because he gave a dissent note. I am talking about the Deputy Director who had been handling the case for years. He said :

"CBI's proposal to file chargesheets in the case against the former Defence Secretary, Shri S.K. Bhatnagar and others accused would not work."

He even disfavoured the idea of the inclusion of Shri Gandhi's name in the proposed chargesheet. The Deputy Director of CBI handling the case for years on end comes to the conclusion, after seeing the report prepared by Shri Joginder Singh and report prepared by Dr. T.N. Mishra, that there is no ground to proceed against Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The action taken by them is to send him back to Tamil Nadu which is the cadre from which he came and insist that if you are going to proceed ahead, the only way in which it should be done is by proceeding against Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Then we get the next stage where the Senior Additional Director of the Special Investigation Team, Shri P.C. Mishra says that since they are going to Switzerland, they should question the Hinduja on the Bofors kickback. According to them, the documents already available show that the Hinduja brothers received about 81 million SEK which is 31 million more than what Mr. Quattrocchi received. They received it. They want to interrogate them. They denied permission. Because they denied permission, just as the net is beginning to close, the Hinduja did one thing. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I am extremely sorry. I plead with the Chief Whip that this is an extremely important matter and I need much more time. Please give me the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take five minutes. It has to end by Five of the Clock.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : We will cooperate with you. Just as the net is closing on the Hinduja's, the Hinduja's, who for all these years, for all the activities that they are indulging in, who retained their Indian citizenship, just as the CBI is getting ready to interrogate them, jumped and became British citizens in the expectation that as British citizens, they would not be brought to this country to face the iron hand of the law. Is this a Government that is running this matter with any honesty, with any integrity, with any purpose other than the malicious intent? They are being advised by their own officers from within that there is no case to put down Shri Rajiv Gandhi as an accused. There is a case to put down the Hinduja's as accused. What do they do? They proceed against the innocent and start taking action which would result in the exculpation of the guilty. How can we trust such a Government to live up to the commitment that it has made in paragraph 41 of the President's Address?

The situation is even more distressing because on the 16th of August, 1999 the Prime Minister said one thing. I am coming to a period that is very very close to where we are just now. On the 16th of August, 1999, the Prime Minister holds a Press Conference in Delhi — only two months ago. The elections have been declared. They are in process. That is the day I wanted to file my own nomination actually. I postponed it by two days on astrological advice that I do not believe in. But on the 16th of August, the Prime Minister holds a Press Conference in Delhi and he says this. This is from the newspapers. I quote :

"The Prime Minister today said that the Government is awaiting the transmission of the last set of Bofors papers and would direct the CBI to file a chargesheet in the court the moment the papers arrive here."

On the 16th of August, the Prime Minister says that he has to await the receipt of the documents from Switzerland before you proceed with filing of the chargesheet. And the minute they come in, long before the documents are actually received from Switzerland, what does this Government do? It orders the filing of a premature, partial and half-baked case in court with only one purpose. I do not believe for a moment that Shri Advani and his colleagues are after Mr. Quattrocchi. I do not believe that

they are after Mr. Ardbo. I do not believe that they are even after Shri Bhatnagar. The only objective, their sole objective is to put down a dead man as an accused so that he is denied the opportunity of defending himself and that dead man was a Bharat Ratna. I just mentioned the fact that he was a Bharat Ratna. And yet, their main spokesman, the one who moved this Motion, cannot understand any of our arguments. I can only reflect upon the fact that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a Prime Minister.

14.00 hrs.

Over and above this, we come to the argument that has been repeatedly made from their side. It has certainly been made in this House itself by Shri Arun Jaitley that since the law states that it is up to the Investigative Agency to conduct its investigation without let or hindrance from the Government to determine who is to be charged and how is to be charged in terms of the law itself, the CBI is completely free to decide who is to be an accused and whether as an accused he or she is to be listed in column I or column II . . . (Interruptions) I will take enough time to clear Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name. There is no other opportunity of doing so.

I come to the decision as to whether or not the Government have the right to instruct their Public Prosecutor to withdraw the name. I seek the Home Minister's indulgence. The judicial decision as to whether the Government have the right to withdraw the name of an accused after it has been filed in a court of law and charges have been framed, has been decided in the case of Rajendra Kumar Jain *versus* several others. It is a 1980 judgement. That was the case that had its origin in the registration of criminal charges against one George Mathew Fernandes who is today the Defence Minister of India. It is a case relating to the Defence Minister of India. The case was registered in 1976 during Shrimati Indira Gandhi's regime. The new Government, after the election of 1977, took over on the 22nd of March, 1977. Exactly four days later, on the 26th of March, 1977, the Government directed the Special Public Prosecutor to withdraw the charges against Shri George Fernandes and all of his associates. When this went in appeal to the highest court, there was a Bench comprising two of the distinguished jurists that independent India has had the honour of seeing. One was Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer. I am not saying that merely because he is an Iyer. The other Justice is Mr. O. Chinnappa Reddy. The judgement was rendered by Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy. Who was the lawyer who represented most of the respondents? He is also a Minister in their Government. His name is Shri Ram Jetmalani and assisting him is a most distinguished and charming lady lawyer Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who, alas, as far as this House is concerned, is no more with us. It

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

is a case that involves the Defence Minister, which involves their Law Minister at that time as his lawyer and Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who the virago, was fielded against Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in Bellary. In that case, the judgement is completely clear. First, the Special Public Prosecutor filed his application under Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In that application, he said and I quote :

"The Central Government has desired to withdraw from the prosecution of all the accused."

Again I repeat it. The Central Government has desired to withdraw from the prosecution of all the accused. When you could delete it in that case, you can do it again. What is more, what is perhaps even more significant is that when the judgement was taken, the judgement categorically stated this. I have two quotations from that. One is :

"The Government must suggest to the Public Prosecutor that the may withdraw from the prosecution."

So, the precedent already exists. It exists in a case involving this Government's Defence Minister. It says that Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy, at the level of the Supreme Court, has categorically stated that the Government have the right to suggest to the Public Prosecutor that he withdraw from the prosecution. What is more, Mr. Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy went even further. I refer to para 17 of his judgement. I am giving the number so that Shri L.K. Advani can have this examined with the same care with which Shri Jaswant Singh in the other House has promised to have this matter examined. In paragraph 17 of Justice Reddy's judgement, he has said this.

"Under the Code of Criminal Procedure, it is the Public Prosecutor that has to withdraw from the prosecution and it is the court that has to give its consent to such withdrawal."

He said further :

"Where large and sensitive issues of public policy are involved, the Public Prosecutor must seek the advise and guidance of the policy makers."

14.06 hrs.

[SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA *in the Chair*]

It is entirely proper for you to suggest to the Public Prosecutor that Rajivji's name be deleted and it is entirely appropriate for the Public Prosecutor to listen to your views on matters which are large and sensitive. If the policy makers themselves move the matter in the first instance and if they advise the Public Prosecutor to withdraw from

the prosecution, it is not for the court to say that the initiative comes from the Government. Therefore, the Public Prosecutor cannot be said to have exercised a free mind. They say that if you direct him on larger policy considerations and he withdraws it, it is entirely justified to do so. In fact, paragraph 17 ends with the crucial sentence with says :

"The court, in such a situation, is to make an effort to elicit the reasons for withdrawal and satisfy itself that the Public Prosecutor too was satisfied that he should withdraw from the prosecution for good and relevant reasons."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the good and relevant reasons do not come from the intervention of the Congress Members on the floor of this House; the good and relevant reasons come from the Director of the C.B.I., Shri Joginder Singh, they come from the Director of the C.B.I., Shri T.N. Mishra, they come from the Deputy Director of the C.B.I., Shri N.R. Vasan, they come from the Legal Advisor of the C.B.I. on this matter. If after all this has been adduced, we are asked to be so gullible as to imagine that Shri Vajpayee's Government had nothing whatsoever to do with the filing of the charges and that there is nothing that they can do about these matters now, I have to remind the Government that they have been on those benches only for seven of the last 52 years, but we have been on those benches for 45 years of the last 52 years. We understand governance; we understand the nature of the relationship between the Government and the C.B.I. and, therefore, we know that if Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name has been included as an accused in Column II, it is because of a deliberate political decision taken by your Government in contravention of your own Prime Minister's statement of just a few weeks earlier. That is why, we keep insisting from our side that this is politically motivated, that this is a vendetta, that this is malicious in intent and that you do not have a clean heart and a clear head.

I am happy to see your Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting coming into the House now to assist you. That is the role of the Ministers of State, to assist the Cabinet Ministers in their reply. He made a statement in a television discussion where, in fact, I happened to be present and in which he set out as to why he had to bring in Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name. He said and I am quoting this from a newspaper report. I have a good memory, but not so as to remember every pearl of wisdom dropped by my friend Shri Arun Jaitley. He said :

"Legally, to sustain the charge-sheet Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name has to be there."

It is absurd. They have a charge-sheet which they cannot sustain legally and so, they drag in the name of

a dead man in order to be able to sustain it. Is this the way justice operates in this country? Is this fair play? Is this the manner in which a Government which claims to be seeking a consensus in the country should be behaving? What was the hurry? I really want to ask of Shri Advani and his Government: What was the hurry? For 12 years you have been making a political career out of the corpse. That does not make you a Government; it makes you...

Sir, when I spoke in this House seven-and-a-half years ago on this question, I ended my speech by saying that you are throwing mud on the face of a dead man.

You Shri Advani, met me in the lobby, congratulated me on a very-very good speech but said, "You did not like my last words." He said, "That is not the kind of language that should be used in the House." You were so senior and I was such a new boy that it reverberates in my mind till today that you had the grace to come up to me in the lobby, congratulate me on a speech on Shri Rajiv Gandhi and advised me, "Please do not use expressions like throwing mud on the face of a dead man." Today, who is throwing mud on the face of a dead man? How can Shri Rajiv Gandhi defend himself? How can anyone of us go into that court and defend him? None of us is capable whatever is the view of defending Rajiv Gandhi because you have put him where he cannot be defended. His name is down as an accused. Shri Jaitley insists that his name should be there so as to be able to sustain the case in which he was employed as a paid servant of the Government to run that prosecution. His own incompetence was such that he could not build up the case to the point where it could be sustained except by a lie - that lie being that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a recipient.

I have read the charge-sheet. Several of us have read the charge-sheet. But in the charge-sheet, there is not one word to establish, indicate, hint, suggest that Shri Rajiv Gandhi is a beneficiary. What we do know from the documents that have been filed is that there is a *prima facie* case against Mr. Quattrocchi for being a recipient. That is to be established in the court. But there is a *prima facie* case that one Mr. Otavio Quattrocchi, on behalf of AE Services, had received about \$ 7 million. We know that those moneys after coming through Austria into Switzerland went away to a number of different places. We do not know who the final beneficiary was. But what we do know is that after 12 years' investigation, the C.B.I. had not been able to establish that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the beneficiary of even one cent of those \$ 7 million. According to the charge-sheet paragraph 52, it says:

"That letters rogatory have been sent to a number of different places seeking judicial assistance. They sought it primarily from Switzerland and Austria. But in paragraph 62, they have visited Sweden, Panama, Luxembourg, Bahamas, Jordan, Liechtenstein besides Austria and Switzerland."

They have gone to court to collect the letters rogatory in order to find where that money has landed. I do not know who the beneficiaries are. For all I know, I may be a beneficiary. For all I know, Shri Advani may be a beneficiary. We do not know who the beneficiaries are. The money has gone. They are taking action to find out where it is. They learnt through bitter experience what we knew as professional Foreign Service Officers. That is very-very difficult to get such information out. You cannot carry pieces of paper in your pocket and wave them and say, "I have got the bank account number. Make me Prime Minister. In 15 days, I give you the names." We knew what the truth was. They would not listen to us then. They learn through experience. We waited now for 13 years. We reached the stage where we have been able to identify Mr. Quattrocchi as a man who has received some of the money. We also know that this money has gone to the Guernsey Islands. It has gone to all these places that I mentioned. But we do not know whose names they are and who is going to get that. It might be the person you named as an accused in column 2. But on the other hand, it might not be. And if it is not, then how can a man who is not a beneficiary become a conspirator? In whose interest was the conspiracy run? In whose interest was it run? According to the charge-sheet, there is one major crime that was committed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. At three places, he is called a family friend of Mr. Quattrocchi. At a fourth place, he is called a close family friend of Mr. Quattrocchi. And at the fifth place, it is alleged that he had free access to the official residence of the Prime Minister.

There are many-many strange people with the BJP cohorts. I well remember that when we were returning from the Golden Jubilee session of the United Nations, the High Commissioner of India in London arranged for the parliamentary delegation to be put into a boat owned by the Hinduja.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee refused to get into it. The BJP was only happy to sail in any boat that the Hinduja sail. Today that High Commissioner is a BJP Member of the Rajya Sabha. For that reason, do you want me to get up and say that the BJP's leaders should be included in the Column 1 as the accused after they filed the papers on the Hinduja. We are making no such suggestion. To be a family friend, to even be a close family friend, does not constitute. . . .(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : What we heard and came to know is that Shri Somnath Chatterjee also boarded the boat.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, debate is being held on President's Address but Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is speaking on the issue of Bofors. Our leader has been given only 15-20 minutes to speak. I have high regards for him but a very little time has been given to our leader and inspite of that he is continuously speaking.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rawale, Please sit down. It is not like that. Time has been given to others also. He is concluding Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar please conclude.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : The crime of which Rajiv Gandhi is accused is being a close friend. The crime that he is accused of is having taken a decision in a few days. Why is it a crime to run an efficient Government ? The crime he is accused of is having bought the Bofors Gun. One of the most important decisions taken by the last BJP Government was that all our Regiments will be equipped with those Bofors Guns. It is that there will be an induction of over a thousand Bofors Guns over the next two years because they have proved their worth in Kargil. We in this House. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar trying to justify the Commission ?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am not justifying.

[English]

The Government of the BJP has decided to purchase thousands of these guns within the next two years. They have cancelled their own agreement 'not to deal with Bofors' and all because this gun made such a brilliant showing of itself in the Kargil War.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, you will have to conclude now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would not be an offence if I remind my learned friend that the debate is being held on the motion of thanks on the President's Address. Regarding the Bofors issue, the hon'ble Prime Minister had called upon to move a separate motion if the members want to discuss it in detail.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, Shri Patwa walks in late. He does not listen to my speech. If he was here. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind Shri Patwa that if he has given ears to my speech, in the very beginning, I have stated that I would like to speak on para 41 of President's Address. I would like to mention the Bofors issue because the person who has moved this motion had mentioned the Bofors and he belongs to your Party.

[English]

I am short of time, but I am not short of arguments. I have a lot more to say. I regret that I do not have the time to say. But I think, I have said enough to establish that Rajiv Gandhi's name has been deliberately dragged into this chargesheet, put in Column 2, in order that he might be defamed but not able to defend himself. That the advice to not do so came from within the investigative agency concerned; that they are playing ducks and drakes with this issue. The worst of it is that in consequence of doing so they are setting the ground for the Swiss to not release the documents relating to the Hinduja's. If the documents relating to the Hinduja's do not come into this country, there will not be a chargesheet filed against their closest friend and in the process they will name us. This is what I call politically motivated. This is a vendetta. I make my last plea.

We are still at the beginning of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. We have still got time to go. We are still willing to restore the atmosphere of amity in which we wish to conduct the post-election scenario. Even now there is time. Under Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the charges have not yet been framed in the court.

So, if you withdraw his name just now, there is no problem whatsoever. There would not even be a problem later on. There is absolutely no problem. You have directed the inclusion of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in column 2. It is in your hands. It is entirely within the law. It is in keeping with the Supreme Court judgement that you can direct the Public Prosecutor even now to go to the court and withdraw his name before the charges are framed. If you do so, you would have earned the undying gratitude of the crores upon crores upon crores of people who have voted for the Congress in this last general election. Do you want our support; do you want our cooperation; do you want us to work together or do you want to continue being a. . . . The choice is yours. We are awaiting your answer.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair

Mr. Home Minister, we want to know from you in the course of this debate whether you are going to agree to our demand for deletion. If it is not possible for you to come to a decision in this regard within the few hours that remain before you will be getting up to reply to this debate, we are completely prepared to wait until you have done the examination of this; come back to us at the beginning of the next Session or in the inter-session period tell us that you have deleted his name. But please do not expect us to be well disposed towards you when using the name of a man who was dear to every one of us—even if he was not dear to you—a martyr to this country, a man who was killed by Dhanu (the same Dhanu to whom he is talking about) that we can continue to express goodwill towards you while you defame a friend of my mine, a personal friend of mine, a leader of this House, a Prime Minister of this country and a Bharat Ratna. Please do not do it. It serves no good. I do not think that it brings any glory to your name.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I join with other Members in extending my thanks to the hon. Rashtrapati for the pains he took to deliver his Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. At the same time I cannot but express certain apprehensions which arise out of that Address and which I am very conscious about and which I would like to mention here briefly.

Mr. first apprehension is on the ground, which perhaps is shared by the former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, who is not here at the moment. He has made a reference in his speech and it is about unhindered and galloping rate of population in our country and the fact, strangely enough, the Rashtrapati's Address contains no reference to it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : There was one passing reference . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There was a cursory reference to a matter which in my opinion, I may be wrong but in my opinion it is a matter which has come to a stage where it deserves the highest priority of consideration now. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Advani, please address the Chair, if he yields.

Shri Indrajit Gupta, he would like to clarify something if you are prepared to yield.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Let him clarify.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to paragraph 15, which says :

"That a National Health Policy will soon be presented, whose twin aims will be the provision of adequate primary health services to all citizens and stabilisation of population."

Then, there is a paragraph separately on population also. There are the two main objectives of the National Health Policy that this Government conceives.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I think, Sir, that apart from a National Health Policy, which I would welcome of course, there are so many other factors on which the whole question of population control depends.

My point is that I would have expected *Rashtrapati* to give the highest priority to this problem which has now reached a dimension where everybody whether in the Government or in the Opposition should be distressed and worried about as to the future of our country. Development in our country and how we are going to cater to the needs of these millions of people whose numbers are growing all the time, is a question which I think baffles everybody at the moment. We are sometimes getting rounded by saying that we do not want to go deep into this problem because of the emotions or the kind of sentiments which are aroused by it. Sir, I humbly say that this is no way of dealing with this problem now. Otherwise, in a few years from now, our country will be facing an insoluble crisis because of this growth of population. I would therefore like the Government, if it has any further idea on the subject, apart from talking of stabilisation of population, to take the House into confidence and tell us something more about how they propose in this national health programme which they are considering to deal with this problem which has really reached gargantuan proportion.

The second apprehension I have got, Sir, is regarding the role of the Government in the Kargil war. How our jawans, our officers and our armed forces gave their lives, shed their blood in order to defend our soil and how they have written a glory of fate in human heroism, is all known to everybody. So, everybody naturally has paid tributes to them. There is no question about it. This is something of which everybody in this country is proud of. But I must raise one point and that is, how are these young men of our armed forces exposed to this danger to their lives and their safety. When the Government took a stand that they had not been aware, they had no knowledge, they were not conscious of the fact that there had been a large scale incursion into our territory by armed people from Pakistan who included not only the regular Pakistani Army but also the so-called Mujahideens who were mercenaries re-

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

cruited from different countries and who were put up in front of the regular Pakistani Army in order to show that they were fighting some kind of liberation war, there were two options, if I may say so, before the Government. If the Government is speaking the truth when it says it had no knowledge, at least, for several days there had no knowledge of the fact that there had been this incursion by several thousand people across our border in the Kargil area; if that is one option that really they had no knowledge, no information, if that is a fact, then it can be established.

Then, of course, our Intelligence Agencies, of whom we have got many, not only one but we have many, will be held to be culpable. We have RAW; we have got the Military Intelligence; we have got the IB; and we have got so many Intelligence agencies. They will be held to account if it is a fact that for several days, the Government really had no information, no knowledge of the fact that this incursion had taken place where those people were supposed to have entered upto a distance of about 12 to 15 kilometers inside the Line of Control, on our side of the border and no information was available to the Government.

Then, what were our intelligent agencies doing? Naturally, every citizen in this country has got this question in mind. Subsequently, so many newspapers, so many magazines and so many other documents have raised this question because everybody wanted to know what was the truth. On the other hand—that is the other option—if it is established that they did not know, it is not as if they did not know, at least they had been forewarned that such an incursion by Pakistan was going to take place and, therefore, it was all the more necessary to be more vigilant and to guard our border in the Kargil area in such a way that it is not possible to be taken by surprise. If such indication or information was forthcoming from those intelligent agencies, then what was the Government doing? In these options either the intelligent agencies have failed, which gives the credit to the Government, the balance of the credit goes to the Government that they did not know, they were kept in the dark and on the other hand if it is established that many of these intelligence agencies had sent warnings to the Government and those warnings had been ignored, then what is the character of the Government and what is the nature of the Government's role in this whole affair?

14.31 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Now, I do not know whether it is a fact that because of Shri Vajpayee's famous bus ride to Lahore and the fact

which some people are saying that he was, perhaps, taken in by the Pakistani Prime Minister's professions of friendship that that had the effect of lulling our vigilance and the Prime Minister and his other Members of the Government naturally could not imagine that within a few days such an incursion could take place which obviously could or must have been prepared long before. An incursion of this type in which heavy arms were brought into the country, in which bunkers were occupied, in which strategic heights were occupied by these Pakistanis could not have been done overnight. It was obviously something which was being prepared for a long time and obviously if you check up, you will find that while these talks were going on between Vajpayeeji and the Pakistani Prime Minister at the end of this bus ride, then that was the time when these preparations must have been going on.

Anyway, what I am trying to say is that we are very much worried and disturbed over this because such a thing can happen again. Who in this House is prepared to give us the guarantee that such a thing cannot take place again where the Government will plead the ignorance that they were in the dark, that they did not know what was happening and intelligence agencies had failed them? That is the meaning of it or conversely the intelligence agencies or whatever information they have been able to gather, they had sent warnings to the Government, but those warnings had been ignored, neglected, minimised or not given any importance. Which one of these options would you prefer? I would like to know because during the operations in Kargil, no possible opportunity was given to anybody for any kind of discussion on this particular question. How did the incursion take place? Did the Government know about it? When they came to know about it what was their reaction? During the Kargil operations, we were told, that this was not the proper time to raise these questions. They can all be gone into later on. I know that a body has been set up later on to review the Kargil operations, but it is not what we were asking for.

We wanted an inquiry, a proper full-dressed probe to be held into the question of who is to be blamed for what happened. It is only after the Pakistani shelling began, aimed at disrupting the Srinagar-Leh road which was down below, which was obviously their main target which they started shelling from above, that the Government seems to have woken up and were taken by surprise and asked this question as to how this was happening, where had this come from and why did we not know about it earlier. That is why I am asking whether there is a guarantee that such a thing will not happen again. Hundreds of young men have died. Naturally, as Servicemen, they carried out the orders of their superior officers bravely, resolutely and without a single thought for their own safety, fighting in

such a difficult terrain where they had to climb up those cliffs which normally would constitute a feat of mountaineering. They came out on those heights and took on these invaders, in some circumstances, from the accounts that have subsequently appeared, facing certain death. Many of those young men have died. Of course, we have now decorated many of them with *Paramvir Chakras* and *Mahavir Chakras*. You read the citations. They have all been published now. Please read the citations of how each one of them lost his life, what were the conditions, what were the circumstances in which they attacked the Pakistani posts, sometimes somebody single-handedly attacking a Pakistani post which was occupied by several of the enemy soldier and who had a clear vision of fire against our men. I visited some Army hospitals to see the condition of some of the wounded who are recovering there. Somebody has lost his hand, somebody has lost his leg or foot, somebody has lost his eyesight. They are young men, aged 22, 23, 24 years. When they talked to us, not one of them complained, not one of them accused anybody of having been negligent. They were cheerful, they were full of confidence, in spite of the fact that they must have been thinking as to how they were going to spend the rest of their life in that kind of condition. These are the salt of the earth. Of course, the nation has contributed so generously and liberally, but that is all in terms of money. Everything in life cannot be compensated for by money. What I am saying is that it is either the negligence of our intelligence agencies or the negligence of the Government which had been forewarned that preparations were going on across the Line of Control. I do not have to mention all those now; I think the Government knows. There was the Commander of the Brigade which was holding the Kargil Front, Brigade No.121, Brigadier Surinder Singh. His statement has appeared extensively in all papers subsequently in which he has described how they had sent messages, not once but several times. One letter he had sent which was 56 pages long.

Of course, he has sent it according to the correct procedure to the Chief of Army Staff. As a serving officer, he could not address the Government directly. He sent his reports to the Chief of Army Staff which clearly said that :

"Something is going on; we are seeing it with our own eyes; preparations are going on; arms are being collected; people are being brought from various places and they are inspecting the Line of Control to find out which are the weak spots from where infiltration would be possible and, therefore, now it is high time that the special measures were taken to see that we are not caught by surprise."

But nothing happened. Yesterday or the day before yesterday, I think the Army has celebrated what they call

their Infantry Day. Infantry Day is celebrated every year as the Infantry is the backbone of our Armed Forces. The Director General of the Infantry in India is Lt. Gen. Shankar Prasad and he made some statement. Please read it. I am not going to quote it. In that he has admitted that there has been an intelligence failure and in his view, of course, he has blamed the R&AW – Research and Analysis Wing – which, he says, is primarily responsible for collecting information and intelligence about what is happening across the border That is his view. I also have evidence. I think these are all not items of evidence which can be lightly brushed aside.

The Director of the Intelligence Bureau has also come out with a statement in which he has said :

"We had warned them beforehand that preparations are going on for some sort of mischief; these people are up to no good and they are planning for an attack and we should, at least, take measures in time."

What has happened to all that ? Now, no enquiry as such or a probe is taking place. There is some Review Committee. I do not know what it is actually supposed to do.

My point is that these young men who have given their lives for us, for the country have done supreme sacrifice. Mind you, all the fighting has taken place on our side of the Line of Control. It is a strange thing. All the hostilities, all the fighting, all the casualties – everything – has taken place on our side and nothing took place on the other side. The whole thing has been conducted on the Indian side of the border. It shows how the aggression had been planned and how unprepared we were. I know the Government finally took a decision, when the question arose whether we should cross the Line of Control or not and go across to the other side, which, of course, would have had many implications, some of them are of a very serious nature. They decided – and in my opinion quite rightly – that our forces should not cross the Line of Control but should be satisfied with repelling these people and forcing them out.

Anyway, these questions have remained unanswered. But I do not think the Parliament which is the sovereign body in this country should be kept in the dark about such things. I cannot imagine another country where a parliamentary democracy is functioning where incidents of this Kargil nature take place and the Government refuses to take the Parliament into confidence and tell it what has happened, how has it happened and why has it happened. It would not be permitted in any country where there is a functioning of elected Parliament. Unfortunately, such things happen only in our country.

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

Sir, I am very much upset by what I saw in the hospital. One *Jawan*, who was married only about a year ago, a very young boy, was lying there. He has a small child, some months old. The family had come to the hospital to visit him. When the child saw his father lying there without a foot or a hand or something, he did not want to go home again. He wanted to stay with his father. His father kept him. When we went there, the child, a little boy, was sleeping in the same hospital bed with his father.

So, I asked the *Jawan*: 'When your family people came here and saw you in such condition, what did they say, what was their reaction?' He said: 'Sir, what will they say? Most of them are not educated. They are from the villages and they do not understand all these military problems. They did not ask me anything and I am not complaining about anything. We are quite confident that we are going to win this war.' I must say that he appeared to me to be more confident than some of the military officers with whom we had the occasion to interact. So, what I am saying is that please let us get to the bottom of this thing, at least for the future because we have this neighbour whom we cannot trust. We do not know what he will be up to next.

If we are going to be taken by surprise like this, at least let the Government admit that it was taken by surprise. Why was it taken by surprise? That is my question. That question must be answered. This country cannot be left in the dark, like this, about this thing. They should say that the intelligence agencies were not up to the mark. It is all right. We are not asking for a witch-hunt, but responsible agencies must be held accountable. Accountability is the biggest casualty in our country. Nobody is held responsible for anything that happens. Either they should be held accountable or the Government should have the courage, the honesty to admit that in spite of all the warning signals which were sent to them by some of these intelligence agencies, they did not take it seriously until it was much later on that the intruders had penetrated quite a distance into our country, occupied that territory and started bombarding the Srinagar-Leh road from the heights above us.

One of these two has to be admitted. There is no harm in admitting these things. We have had previous wars where people had carried out postmortem investigations and came out with published material. I remember, in 1941 when Hitler's blitzkrieg had begun on London, every night the city was being bombarded. The House of Commons went on meeting. Its meeting was never postponed or held up for a single day. Parliament continued to sit and I believe that Members of the House of Commons are

people who must have been raising all relevant issues and points and the Government, headed at that time by no less a person than Sir Winston Churchill, had to face the Parliament and come out with facts as they were known.

In our case, half the Parliament was functioning. The Rajya Sabha was in existence, the Lok Sabha was not there. But curiously enough, the Government felt that any discussion or debate in the Rajya Sabha would be harmful and there was no need for it and it should not have been held then. As far as I know, legally or constitutionally, the Parliament of India does not consist of only one of the two Houses. Both the Houses and the President constitute the Parliament. If the Members of that House were understandably agitated and moved by what was happening and wanted to have a discussion, there was no ground for the Government to think that all sorts of irresponsible things would be said by the Members which would harm the interest of the country. We should have at least some confidence on the Members of Parliament. Anyway, that also was not allowed.

Now, I will refer only to one or two more points. There is no time to go into so many things.

In the Address of the President, he has rightly emphasised the fact that the country is seriously worried about the question of stability, how to bring about some measure of stability. We are now accustomed to unstable Governments. Of course, Members on that side will go on assuring us very loudly that the present Government is going to be stable because 23 or 24 constituents of this Front or this Alliance have all pledged to stand by them and, therefore, there is no question of any instability coming in. Well, time will show, we do not want to say anything at this stage. If they manage to conduct a stable Government, although their whole philosophy, their ideology, their principles or policies or something, which we disagree with, even then I would be happy for the sake of the country, it is not a question of this party or that party or some other party. But if this kind of instability, chronic instability, which has overtaken us that nobody lasts for more than a year or two years or three years, if this continues, then what is going to happen to the country, let alone the parties? The country's development, all the problems facing the country, everything is being put on the shelf. I doubt very much whether ministers or bureaucrats or officers will be very serious about working hard in their jobs, if they feel that this is all a temporary matter and this Government will change again, after a year or two. This is not a good thing, this is a very unhealthy thing. So, some suggestions have been made in the Address also.

Reference has been made to some people or some quarters saying that they have advocating that there should

be some constitutional amendment which would result in a fixed tenure for the Parliament. That means, once it is elected, it will last for five years, and nothing can be done to shorten the life of that Parliament. Well, I suppose, most of our hon. Members of Parliament would be very happy, if such a thing came about because their tenure would be secure for five years; nobody could disturb any Member of Parliament for five years, irrespective of what he does or does not do. But, Sir, I doubt very much whether such a change can be brought about constitutionally. In a democratic form of Government, that Government has to show that it enjoys the confidence of the House. In between, if it is reduced to a minority, nevertheless, because of the changed Constitution, it can continue until five years are completed; I do not think that this is permissible or that it will be permitted at all, even if it does not amount to interference with the basic structure of the whole concept of our Government. I doubt whether such a thing would be upheld even by the Supreme Court, if anybody chose to move the Supreme Court. But irrespective of what that Government does or does not do, whether it has got a majority or whether it is in a minority, it will have a fixed tenure of five years. So, I am totally against this idea, and the fixed tenure or stability for that matter does not ultimately depend on numbers. It is not a question of numbers only. Of course, numbers count; in the majority or minority question, numbers count, but numbers are not the only thing which would ensure stability. In our country, history will give us plenty of examples of Governments, both at the Centre and the States, which, from the point of view of numbers, certainly enjoyed majority, but they were not stable for other reasons; they could not continue beyond a certain point because they fell to pieces. I will suggest one thing without trying to go in for far-reaching constitutional reforms. One suggestion that I would like to make is that we should try to agree to adopt the principle of proportional representation.

There should be an agreed provision that every Party which contests elections will be eligible to get that proportion of seats in the House as it gets a proportion of votes from the electorate, that is, *Anupatik*, that so many per cent votes entitles me to so many seats in the House. That would be a much fairer method than what goes on at present where people who get 25 to 30 per cent of the votes sometimes get 40 to 50 per cent of the seats. That is the system we have at present. How can that bring about stability? It is much better that Parties which enjoy a certain percentage of confidence among the electorate are entitled to that much and not more of their share in the seats in the House. So, this is my one suggestion.

Sir, my second suggestion is that much has been talked recently about this vote of No Confidence or Vote

of Confidence, whatever you call it. Much has been made by Shri Vajpayee and the ruling party about the fact that they lost that Confidence Vote here by only one vote. I know, this is an argument which has cut ice with people during the elections. This is my experience also. People did feel, many people felt that bringing down a Government or a Government collapsing because of such a narrow margin is something wrong and is not fair. I will suggest that if some provision is incorporated which we can consider where a No-Confidence Motion against the incumbent Government can only be carried if it enjoys a two-thirds majority in the House. It is a question of confidence or no confidence. It is a question of that Government either continuing or ceasing to exist. Should that confidence or no-confidence not at least get two-thirds majority in the House in order to be carried? I think, that is necessary. It will prevent that kind of an occasion coming up where somebody complains that they have been unseated by the narrowest of narrow margins. There is no need for that. Let two-thirds of the majority of the whole House decide whether a particular Government continues to enjoy the confidence or not. It is because other suggestions made, I am told, of the German model that you must be ready with an alternative all the time and no No-Confidence Motion can be carried unless you are able to show at the same time that you are ready with an alternative model, an alternative Government which can replace you. That is, in our conditions at the moment, I think, going to be an almost impossible affair. It is not practicable. It would not work. But to carry a vote like that by two-thirds majority is certainly a reasonable thing which, I think, nobody will object to. One should try to explore the possibility. If any discussion are going to take place on this particular question in any Committee or Commission or anywhere, I would certainly pursue this proposal. So these are my concrete suggestions regarding stability.

Sir, finally I would say that there are many things I would like to have spoken about, particularly on the economic front but nothing much has been said and moreover the next session of the WTO, the SEATELLE Conference of the WTO is just ahead of us. It is very eminent. The hon. President has assured us in one sentence that 'our Government is seeing to it that they will go fully prepared to the SEATELLE Conference in such a way that our national interests are upheld and not jeopardised in any way'. But nothing has been spelt out. Insofar as we see at the moment, the WTO as with all such multilateral bodies now-a-days are dominated and bound to be dominated by a few of the powerful and rich countries of the world.

15.00 hrs.

It is they who are dictating terms. Because of their tremendous financial and economic power, they are in a

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

position to force others to accept their terms and conditions. Therefore, there is certainly a big risk ahead of us if the WTO does not meet the needs and interests of the smaller countries, the poorer countries, the so-called undeveloped or developed country and we may be in great trouble. Unfortunately, nothing has been spelt out; we do not know what the Government is actually thinking and what type of preparation they are making for India to go to the Seattle Conference confident that they will be able to uphold our national interests. So, that is something on which also we expect that some light will be shed by the Government in the reply.

That is all I want to say. There are many points but I am not going into that now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for this opportunity. We understand that the hon. Prime Minister is unwell. We wish him speedy and complete recovery.

Sir, there are two points on which other distinguished Speakers had taken my name. So, before I come to the Motion, I would just deal with them briefly. One remark is made by my esteemed friend Shri Mulayam Singh. He had said that we had allied with the Congress in the last election. I am sure he did not mean it except probably to score some debating points here against the Congress. We had made it very clear that we would support the strongest of the secular candidates where no Left candidate was there. On that basis we had supported them and we had supported the NCP candidates also.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : I will not argue with you. You are a senior member and I have regards for you. The question is whether you consider everybody secular. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Just tell us whether Congress is a secular Party or not. We want a specific answer from you. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I had stated that the Party opposed to you can never be secular. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) : Sir, I am a Member of Parliament who defeated both the Congress and the CPI(M) candidates. They were in coalition in Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other reference was made by Shri Manishankar Aliyar. Everybody has his own perspective; let them have their own perspective. He referred to some steamer trip of mine to London. Sir, I was invited; Shri Indrajit Gupta was invited; our distinguished former Speaker was invited; and Atalji was invited by the High Commissioner, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, personally. We did not know, Sir, if he had hidden sympathies for BJP then, or if he was friends with the Hinduja. We had gone there as the guests of Dr. L.M. Singhvi who was the High Commissioner then, As a matter of fact, Shri Gupta took his nephew with him after taking the permission of the High Commissioner as I had taken my friend Shri Bannerjee who was my junior earlier after taking the permission of Dr. L.M. Singhvi. Let us rest it at that because it was all discussed much earlier elsewhere outside the House.

Sir, I also formally thank hon. Rashtrapatiji for delivering his Address here in the Joint Session although that Address is only full of pious platitudes and half-baked jargon without a single programme of action as to what would be done, when would it be done, what was the procedure for doing it and what was their expectation.

Sir, the Address promises everything to everybody but without a single programme of action. Such promises may be good, bring good electoral results, results or may amount to good electoral politics but certainly, does not result in good governance.

Sir, I am not going to touch each and every point due to paucity of time. But certain points are very important. For example, the question of Government's reference to 'governance by consensus'. We have seen how the diesel price was increased. Even after the new Government came into existence there was not even a single discussion with anybody. This decision has the unique attribute that it has been opposed by all their allies including Shiv Sena, TDP and JD(U). Every party, every ally of this Government has opposed this hike. But with an adamant attitude, they are sticking to that decision irrespective of the serious consequences on the price situation. The common people are suffering. The ordinary commuters are suffering. Sir, this is an example of consensual political it is making a mockery of it.

Sir, I heard my friend from the TDP, Shri K. Yerrannaidu. We are very happy and proud of Shri Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He is a good friend of ours. I appreciate that very consciously he had taken the decision not to join the NDA Government. When he was euphoric about the performance of this Government, why did they not join this Government? It is because he did not want to earn the stigma.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : No. We had taken a decision long back not to join the Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What long back decision. . . . (Interruptions) So, incongruous Shri Yerrannaidu, I hope you will join the Government one day. But think about it whether you will expose your party to that extent.

Sir, I want to cite another instance. We had made our submissions. But see the way the Bofors chargesheet has been filed. You see its timing. In spite of the assurance of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee before the last Elections as a Prime Minister that after all the documents come, a chargesheet will be filed but irrespective of that, the chargesheet has been filed. It clearly shows that there is no attempt to govern in consultation with the political parties. It is the clearest example of political vendetta. Certainly, it is not a political consensus. Nor does it show a sincere approach of governance by cooperation, as the hon. Rashtrapatiiji has mentioned in his Address.

Just now, Sir, Shri Indrajit Gupta, rightly described by you as the Father of the House, delivered his speech. Sir, we know why he is the Father of the House. He referred to the coming discussion on WTO. But nothing is known. There is no attempt to take the Opposition into confidence. It has tremendous importance.

Sir, the President's Address talks about the Government's interacting with other nations to further protect and promote our national interests. It says :

"The Government is preparing a well-thought out strategy for the forthcoming Seattle Conference. My Government will ensure that in any new round of WTO negotiations, India's national interests are fully protected."

But nobody knows anything here in this country. There is no statement here. The Opposition is not consulted. At least, we do not know anything. I do not know whether the major Opposition party has been consulted or not. What sort of politics or governance by consensus is it? There is not a single major issue, or any issue, for that matter, where anybody has been taken into confidence. They think that they have got the supposed authority to do whatever they like.

Sir, in the President's Address, they have referred to the politics of consensus. The Prime Minister in his Address to the nation talked about consensus but here we find more and more that this is only in paper. We have also seen Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government's performance during the last tenure. I am sorry to say that now also, as time goes by, there is a steady transformation of Shri Atal

Bihari Vajpayee from his perceived nation as a Statesman to entirely a partisan political leader. That is a consequence we are having now. A very important issue of corruption has been raised, rightly raised. But how do they want to fight it out? Who are their allies? Persons against whom they carried on bitter agitation inside the House demanding his resignation, they are their committed allies. Not one word has been said in the President's Address about black money, about the parallel economy which is eating into the vitals of this country. How can you deal with corruption without tackling black money in this country? The fact that there is such a problem has not been mentioned in his speech. Even in their last days of Government, there has been no dearth of scandals. There were the telecom scandal, oil import, sugar import and wheat import and so many other things. No inquiry has been held. People have been agitating about it. But there is not even an explanation by them. So many allegations and counter-allegations and comments were made during the election campaign also. This Government thinks that everything has been approved by the people. Even all scandals are supposed to have been taken note of by the people because they have come, of course, with minority of votes. They have not got 50 per cent plus. There is no promise of holding of any inquiry. Nothing has been said in this House.

They are talking of maintaining secularism in this country. They said that this Government affirm their faith in secularism. I know it will immediately upset Shri Mohan Rawale and others. But who is one of his most coveted allies—the gentleman who has been disenfranchised. We may raise issues on that. Because of virulent communal propaganda, he has been disenfranchised by the highest court of the land and the constitutional authority of Election Commission. We are not responsible for that. He is their coveted ally. The Home Minister ran to him when the cricket match was threatened to be interrupted. He has threatened to burn down the city of Mumbai about which Shri Mohan Rawale and Shri Murlidhar Manohar Joshi were speaking so eloquently that so many things should be done and, if any action is taken on a judicial commission report. . . .

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was like that. . .

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is not yielding. Please understand.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not taken any name. I have referred to Mumbai incident.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, I would like to take two minutes only.

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, but later on.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. You should not interrupt the Member who is speaking.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Sir, I would like to tell you about the speech for which he has been disenfranchised. He had said that riot did not take place during the four and a half years rule of BJP – Shiv Sena, riot that took place was during the Congress regime, on this, he was deprived of his voting rights.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I had not blamed anybody. I had referred to certain decisions which are all matters of public record. Srikrishna Commission had been wound up by the then Government of Maharashtra and thanks it was only due to the intervention, as we saw in the newspapers, of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that it was revived. The result of that Commission which was headed by a sitting judge is, now they say if that is implemented, the whole city of Mumbai will be burnt down. Is this the way you are going to generate confidence in the minds of the minorities? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, this is not good practice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What a wonderful commitment it is ! Not one word has been mentioned about it. The President does not express unhappiness that this is how a sitting Judge of this country has been treated. What language has been used about him? The reports prepared and submitted by him have been thrown into the wastepaper basket by the Government of one of the major States in this country. . . . (Interruptions)

Who is their very close and welcome ally? They want to assure the people of this country that they are committed to secularism through such allies. To these people, the word 'secularism' is something to be abhorred. . . . (Interruptions) If this is the way, how can you maintain national unity and give confidence to the minorities?

Not one word has been mentioned about the position or plight of the minorities in this country. What has happened to the Christians? What is happening now? What is the treatment that they are threatening to give to a distinguished visitor about which some of the hon. Ministers have assured us? But how are their followers acting? I believe, only because there was no BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh, they stopped this *yatra*. We have seen it in the newspaper today.

What is most disturbing is that because of the attitude, the colour, the texture and the status of this Government, an atmosphere of intolerance has developed in this country. An attitude of intolerance, an atmosphere of hatred and fundamentalism are now overtaking this country. This Government cannot absolve itself of the responsibility and we find that the divisive forces are becoming stronger and more vocal. They are going on the streets and even in this House, we are not allowed to speak. What is the reason for this intolerance? This is actively encouraged by this Government.

I am sorry to say, whatever may be their temporary decisions about the Ram temple, Article 370 and so on and so forth, it is the *sangh parivar* which is guiding them. We saw, on the day when this Government came into existence, when the Prime Minister and other Ministers took their oath, many of the Ministers going and touching the feet of the people who are running the *sangh parivar*. This is not the way in which you can bring about national unity or maintain national unity in this country.

What is happening in the name of driving away foreigners? What is happening to the Bengali-speaking people of Delhi? Hindus and Muslims are being treated in a manner in which if they speak Bengali they are driven out like cattle. No attempt is being made to find out to which country they belong. We have said earlier also and we are making it absolutely clear that we do not want that the foreigners should come and stay here without permission or without legal authority. But if somebody is staying here for twenty years, you cannot treat them as cattle, as animals. They have been staying here for 20 years and children have been born. They are taken to the jails and are kept in lock-ups. Two children have died recently. It has happened in NOIDA a few days ago. This inhuman approach is being adopted in the name of driving away foreigners.

Earlier, we saw this being done in Maharashtra and we requested the hon. Minister of Home Affairs when it took place in Mumbai. You apply a human approach and find out a methodology to detect them and drive them away in a proper manner. Such incidents are happening in the case of even people of this country just because they

belong to a minority religion. I do not wish to say how their religion is being sought to be detected. Most dehumanising things are happening in this country under the nose of this Government and this Government does not bother. There is no reference in the Rastrapatiji's Address about the manner in which the minorities are treated in this country.

The other thing which he has mentioned is a very important thing and that is about the threat to tinker with or to change the Constitution of India. I do not know how this Government can think of scuttling parliamentary democracy in this country. The Constitution is very clear. The whole basis of parliamentary democracy is accountability – accountability of the Ministers to the people of this country. How is that exercised? That is exercised through their responsibility to the House of the People. That means, they must continue to enjoy the confidence of the House of the People, if they have to remain in power. Now, they are thinking of continuing in power without enjoying the people's confidence in the House, as expressed by the Members.

The Constitution itself provides for early dissolution of the House. Even before five years, it can be dissolved. Now, it is well-settled in parliamentary democracy that it can be dissolved on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. Therefore, the Prime Minister will have the power to recommend dissolution of the House before five years. But, the Members of the House cannot express 'no confidence' against the Ministry and they will continue although they lose the confidence of the House. The whole intention is somehow to perpetuate themselves in power, whether they have majority or they do not have majority. We cannot be a party to this and we shall certainly oppose very strongly if any attempt is made.

The other very important thing is this. I think, it was very close to the heart of Shri Advani at least, namely the question of electoral reforms. What is the reference made? In the Dinesh Goswami Committee, Shri Advani was a very distinguished Member; I had the privilege of being there also; all the parties were represented. It was mostly an unanimous recommendation. During 13 months, he had no time to do that. He was good enough to constitute a Committee with Shri Indrajit Gupta as the Chairman where all the parties were represented. I also had the great opportunity to serve in that Committee which was to decide about some urgent matter like the State funding. We had given a unanimous report. We had some differences of opinion, but ultimately we had arrived at a consensus. We had given that report to the Home Minister, but it is gathering dust as before.

Therefore, they are merely repeating it in a routine manner that we are concerned about electoral reforms.

This has become a mockery. We find that the Government – the Congress Government also – did not make any sincere effort. Shri Advani, as the Head of the Home Ministry for the last so many months, has also not taken any meaningful step. I think that the report of the Committee on State Funding could have been made a law. But that has not been acted upon and there is no mention about it in the President's Address. What is the Government's thinking on this Gupta Committee's report? There is no word about this although the BJP Members and other Members have been consenting parties to the report.

Another very important matter is this. Everybody used to talk about it and now also it is being talked about. It is 'criminalisation of politics'. Nothing is being said as if that problem has evaporated from our body politic and as if this is no longer vitiating the atmosphere in this country. We know that they are also beneficiaries.

Therefore, our view is that this Government also has a vested interest in the maintenance of the present system, the defective system, because they also have liberally used muscle power and money power during the last election, although they are patting themselves on the back. But they are also taking advantage of this system.

Another very important organisation which is being attempted to be decimated is the Prasar Bharati. Unfortunately, not a word has been mentioned here also. The Prasar Bharati which was a product of the unanimous view of this House, now a different approach is being taken; and the new Minister is in his euphoria because he is not accountable to anybody at the moment.

He says, 'Well how can it be?' Of course, it was Shri Pramod Mahajan who set the ball rolling. He said, 'The most important media should be under the control of the Government'. We saw how it was misused during the elections by indulging in not only exit polls but also by letting loose the propaganda. It became a major propaganda machinery of the Government. We all know how one leader and his party were projected on the television. The real object is not to provide an independent media which this House in its wisdom thought necessary. The Government is trying to utilize Doordarshan and Akashvani to be their mouth pieces. . . . (Interruptions)

15.26 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Now, I would like to deal with the economic situation which is very serious. There is a reference to the scourge of poverty. Shri Manohar Joshi rightly pointed out that every Address mentions that. This Address also mentions this point. But nothing has been said as to how the poverty

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would be eliminated and as to how its intensity would be minimised. The usual rigmarole that it would be done has been repeated. Some statistics are given as if everything is hunky-dery; and as if this country is progressing very fast. What is the effect of the so-called progress that has been made on the poverty alleviation? I would like to know this from the hon. Finance Minister. I am glad that he is present here now. All your theories are good. Shri Yashwant Sinha has got the unique distinction of being nominated by the industry to be the Finance Minister. . . .(Interruptions) Shri Sharad Pawar says that Shri Bajaj has complemented the Finance Minister.

What about the Consumer Price Index? I know, Shri George Fernandes is not happy in his heart of hearts. But what can he do? I have got a copy of his party's Manifesto of 1998. He is a very intelligent person. Very intelligently, this time Samata Party nor JD(U) did not bring out separate Manifestoes. It is because he knew that he would be caught. He has been the biggest opponent of market economy of Shri Yashwant Sinha's brand of economy. Of course, they have jettisoned their own Manifesto. I remember one Finance Minister said here that Manifesto is for the elections and not for post-election period. It is not relevant after the elections. . . .(Interruptions) By your performance you have shown that you do not care about your Manifesto because you have gone back on everything. They say that WPI has come down. But what about the CPI? What is the experience of the common man who goes to the market? Can anybody deny that the prices of essential commodities have increased steeply? The increase in the price of diesel will have a cascading effect. The hon. Minister is not a free man any longer. It is because he has to get the views of the recommending authority about reducing the price of diesel. The consequence of increase in price of diesel is very serious. Not a single concrete measure has been mentioned in the Address.

The Government has found a new mouthpiece, a new convert for the time being in Shri Vaiko. He finds his new friends from time to time depending on the barometer of the political atmosphere.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Shri Surjit Singh will also be doing the same thing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Naturally, it seems he has made you as his *guru*.

Sir, the other perpetuated joke of the century, I am sorry to use such a word, is the creation of one crore additional jobs every year. Was in 1988 one crore jobs created; if so, in which establishment were these jobs

created? I have read an article in *The Times of India* saying that we must congratulate the Prime Minister for partially solving the unemployment problem as he has appointed 70 Ministers in his Cabinet, which means, there will be seventy Secretaries, seventy Additional Secretaries and so on and so forth; 70x10 means 700 people will get employment.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcher) : Another 30 will be coming soon.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Shri Vaiko will be the one of the beneficiaries.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He may get 20 seats. If you kindly refer to Paragraph 13 of this document, it says that the aims and objectives of this Government are faster growth with employment and equity. If there is no employment, the question of equity does not come in. Where is the employment? From where will the Government create the jobs? The Government says that the jobs will be created in the agriculture sector. The jobs will be created mainly in the areas of agri-based business, small scale and cottage industries, housing, construction and self-employment. There is no responsibility of the Government in any of these fields. The fact is, in this country people are losing jobs. A number of factories and establishments are getting into red. In the name of voluntary retirement, people are being forced to retire. Can anybody put his hand on his chest and say that the jobs are being created or had been created during the last year. The BJP was in power for regular 13 months and irregular 7 months. We would like to know the number of jobs created during this period. How many more jobs were created in the agriculture sector or in the fields of construction, small scale or cottage industry, housing and so on? The Government is taking the people for granted. It has again promised to create one crore more jobs every year. I cannot but say that this deliberate falsehood, deliberate false propaganda is being made for the purpose of making their so called policy at least readable.

Emphasis is being made on liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation. We are not against the removal of unnecessary controls. I know the licencing of industry has caused havoc to West Bengal and the whole of Eastern India. The whole of the Eastern India has suffered because of it. In their last election Manifesto, the BJP had promised to make a study on the effects of liberalisation and globalisation. Has any study been made? They had severely criticised Dr. Manmohan Singh's policy. They have severely criticised the handling of economy by Shri Chidambaram. Yet, the Government has again promised that a proper study will be made and the people will be told about the fact. I would like to know, reforms are for

whom. If anything goes to the benefit of our country, if young people are benefitted, how can I oppose it? Even if I oppose it, nobody will listen to me. Can anybody deny that in this country there is a grave doubt as to for whose benefit all these policies and programmes are being implemented?

What is the direct result so far as the people in the small towns, in the villages, and the ordinary people are concerned? Today, it is said, rightly I think, that probably 20 crore people are unemployed. What is the future of these people? Who is looking after them? Where are the jobs created? Now your second generation reforms are coming. What is the effect of the first generation reforms? Mr. Finance Minister, Dunlop Factory is a clear instance that is now lying closed. Shri Fernandes realized this during the Kargil war that even the Air Force had to import tyres for our own war planes. He had to send his officers to the factory to purchase them. There is no other supplier. As the legal authority is with the Central Government, we had said that why do they not acquire then and give then. We shall try to find out the resources. But the Government of India said that they would not do that. Now it is for whose benefit? Today, thousands and thousands of families are on the streets. They are without jobs and they have no earning for no fault of theirs. It can be revived. It is a viable unit. Some adventurers had come and had taken control of this because of the law that permits them. But they had no real interest in running it as an industrial unit. They have siphoned off the money from that. Now, we wanted to run it but that was not permitted.

Sir, the Indian Iron and Steel Company is one of the finest companies. So many efforts have been made to revive it. But what did you do? What about SAIL? Today, it is a sick company. It might go to BIFR. What is being done in this regard? These are giants. Can Indian economy survive today without SAIL? We do not know the Government's policy on this. There is no mention of this important undertaking. I do not know whether this Government's policy is that every public sector undertaking has to be wound up. Let them say that openly.

They are talking of infrastructure. Four-five paragraphs have been devoted for the development of infrastructure. We have got the telecom scandal. The Prime Minister had spoken of big highways connecting Saurashtra to Silchar and Kashmir to Kanyakumari. What has happened? Where is the money coming from? How are you going to mobilize resources? You are going to put burden on the common people. Nothing is mentioned in the Address. At least, we are not interested immediately about five year projections. That even is not mentioned. This Address is given annually. We would like to know within one year what they propose to do, how they propose to do, and for whose

benefit they are going to do it. At least, we are entitled to know, the country is entitled to know, and the Parliament is entitled to know that. But have you said anything? Nothing has been said. Therefore, I am sorry to say that this is an Address only for the purpose of indulging in platitudes and generalities. They are talking of development of agriculture without one word being spoken about land reforms. Has there been any instance anywhere where you can really develop agriculture, even if you bring in all the inputs without land reforms being there? Not one word has been mentioned about the land reforms.

Sir, about the Kargil war, I cannot do anything better than wholly endorsing what our distinguished Member, Shri Indrajit Gupta said here. I wanted to say something. But I totally endorse his views. Sir, the Government owes a detailed explanation. Merely saying that they were not aware would not do. The country will not accept it.

I would like to know as to why the RAW Chief was shunted out to be a Governor when an Inquiry Committee had been set up. Once he becomes a Governor, he is not amenable to questioning even by this Committee. Will they allow the RAW Chief to be cross-examined? The inquiry will cover his activities. Therefore, it was deliberately done to shunt him off to make him unavailable for the purpose of the so called inquiry that has been set up.

Regarding the Centre-State relations, some reference has been made by Shri Ummareddy Venkateswarlu speaking on behalf of Telugu Desam Party. About adequate resources, every State is complaining. Today Shri Manohar Joshi, who is a former Chief Minister, also said that there are no resources for solving the State problem. Every State is facing a problem.

How Governors are being appointed? Is it maintaining proper relationship and cordiality between the States and the Centre? In violation of the Sarkaria Commission's recommendations they are appointing their own active partisan members of the political party that is ruling, to be Governors in States where other parties are ruling. This is not the way to have a proper federal structure in this country. They are cementing the seeds of discord between the Centre and States by taking that attitude.

The other question is about doling out relief funds. Today, as everybody knows, the main relief amount is available in the hands of the Centre and they are doling out the funds. Depending upon the nature of proximity with the present Government, they are deciding the speed with which teams are sent and the time taken on deciding the amount that will be given for relief work. This is very clear in this country. A natural calamity is not the responsibility of anybody. This should be treated as national disasters and when national disasters take place, there should not

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

be any partisan approach. I am making an appeal to the hon. Home Minister.

Look at the problem of Tripura. They have met them yesterday also. The Chief Minister is repeatedly telling them and we are also requesting them. A small State is suffering very seriously under insurgency and the State Government is trying its best to maintain the cordiality between the tribals and non-tribals. I believe this is of a unique kind. But now all the forces are being taken away from there, either on the ground of elections or militancy elsewhere or some other thing. This withdrawal of force is creating a serious problem for the State which is a part of the eastern side of this country. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Home Minister to look into the matter with fullest sympathy.

The time is short at my disposal and there are many other issues. So far as foreign affairs is concerned, many things are causing us concern. I do not know what will be the next round of Talbot-Jaswant usual talks. I do not know which new country they will go to, which city they will prefer this time to hold talks. I believe they have covered eight or ten cities. We do not know what my very good friend Shri Jaswant Singh has achieved by these talks. I do not know why he should talk to Mr. Strobe Talbott who is a much junior officer compared to him. He is our Foreign Affairs Minister. He should not talk to anybody and everybody. Therefore, we would like to know what is happening. What is the Government's attitude towards CTBT? These are very important issues which should be spelt out very clearly.

There are other issues for which I have no time. I submit that this Address which our most respected President read out is nothing but an attempt to give a false picture to the people of this country about the state of our economy, about the state of affairs which we are facing today, and about what they propose to do. As I said, promising everything under the sun to everybody cannot bring about real benefit to the people. That is good for the media consumption, but that is not good for the people of this country.

Therefore, I cannot but oppose the contents of this Address.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA (Gurdaspur) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me time to speak on the Motion of Thanks of the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament.

Before I commence on my points, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the hon. President of India for addressing issues necessitating prime concentration.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all the Members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha who are here today.

The 50 years that have passed so far since independence have had their disappointments. India is further behind today, relative to the rest of the world than it was at Independence. In what is otherwise an epic tale of wasted promise, one success stands out, that is, India is still a democracy. As the Thirteenth Lok Sabha is constituted when one looks back, one sees that but for a brief period in the 1970s, India has remained a vibrant democracy when many of its neighbours have not been so. As we are about to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Republic, we can be proud that our forefathers built a democracy in one of the world's poorest, most populous and most socially divided country.

Sir, as a part of our real and vibrant democratic process, when I campaigned for my party in the elections to the 13th Lok Sabha, I had the opportunity to travel into the depths of our country to meet India's poorest along the dirty paths that connect our static gulfs of humanity.

Sir, I was particularly saddened when I campaigned in the flood-prone areas of North Bihar. To think that people living there have this problem every year was beyond human comprehension and endurance. Yesterday, I was very happy to hear from our Government about their firm commitment to resolve this problem.

Our nation which lived through trackless centuries filled with the grandeur of success had to bow under the weight of its great poverty and failure of Governments for almost 50 years to bring relief to the desolate masses. One-third of the world's most desperately poor live in our nation, the nation of Mahatma Gandhi. Nearly two-thirds of Indian children who constitute less than five years are malnourished. The children who reach school age continue on an average of 3.5 years of education in the case of boys and 1.5 years in the case of girls.

Successive Governments did not much in the areas of trade protectionism, unproductive subsidy and industrial planning and in education, infrastructure and law and order. When the rest of the world decided that free market economic systems were axiomatically sensible, India continued to wed itself to controls and red tape. India was the exception. Exceptionalism did not build prosperity, and India stunted the life chances of its people. India's planners laid great emphasis on rapid industrialisation which was the ostensible reason for interfering with a more sensible market-driven course of development. Yet, in India, between 1960 and 1990, industrial output grew on an average by only 6 per cent a year. In Indonesia and Thailand, industrial output grew by 9 per cent and in South Korea, it grew by ten per cent and in Taiwan by 12 per cent.

More than half of India's adults are illiterates. In China, the corresponding figure is less than 20 per cent, in Thailand it is less than 10 per cent.

Unfortunately, whether it be "balanced Development", education or the eradication of poverty, India has done much worse than similar countries.

In a World Bank study of the performance of ten comparable developing economies in reducing poverty and infant mortality during the 70's and the 80's, India came seventh on eradication of poverty and tenth on reducing infant mortality. Our Agricultural output, despite the green revolution, has risen much more slowly than in most other Asian economies. And so, rural poverty remains acute and pervasive.

The record until recently was one of barely qualified failure of opportunities missed and challenges shirked. Successive Governments for decades rewarded failure and punished success.

The new economic course that our country has embarked on in the last eighteen months has led it to abandon many of the policies that had caused stagnation. But it is necessary to keep in mind the 45 years of economic failure that came first, and the devastating misery they have caused, because their effects continue even today.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not say this as a prophet of doom and gloom but to spur an appropriate sense of urgency amongst my friends in the 13th Lok Sabha. We have the daunting challenge and responsibility to bring hope and change the lives of hundreds of millions who till today are trapped in the direst poverty.

Today, the economy is improving. After decades, India's growth has been rising at six per cent a year or more. Given the energy and resilience of our people, we should be growing at a rate of eight per cent to nine per cent a year. Then the next fifty years would visibly transform the lives not just of a minority but of the masses of the people.

Today, India is faced with the task of accelerating onto the Information Superhighway with nearly 300 million adults who cannot read even road signs.

There is no reason why India should not aim at the growth rates achieved by the most successful East Asian economies. We have the resources, physical and human, and the habits of thrift and hard work to aim that high. If we look abroad, we see our own Indians living there, released from their economic shackles, thriving in competition with others and they are unable to comprehend why India has been left so far behind.

Thanks to the initiatives of our hon. Prime Minister, India is now changing faster than at any time since Independence. I therefore laud the bold initiatives taken by our hon. Prime Minister outlined in the Address by the President.

Sir, I applaud that a Department of Primary Education and Literacy has been created to give greater thrust to female literacy and primary education.

I further applaud the implementation of a programme to provide clean drinking water to all villages in the next five years, and the programme for rural connectivity through construction of all-weather roads to connect all villages.

I am happy to note that in the power and energy sector, the Centre will work closely with the State Governments for time-bound corporatisation of the State Electricity Boards. India's electricity system is a fiscal catastrophe. The State Electricity Boards taken together may be the most inefficient public utilities in the world. The average load factor is less than fifty per cent, and on top of that comes "leakage" or what is actually theft.

I am sure that a complete reversal is possible by the application of 'zero tolerance on corruption' as also social sector development by planning and implementation of projects like Shelter for All, Water Policy, Stabilisation of Population, National Health Policy, Electricity Policy, Telecom Policy, Empowerment of Women and Girl Child, Improved Law and Order, Lok Pal and the vision of the new millennium. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (Jalandhar) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, will you allow him to read? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI VINOD KHANNA : I am quoting from the notes. There are many points. I have to refer to the notes. It is my maiden speech. Please do not interrupt me. . . .(Interruptions) I am also going to talk about Punjab.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please keep silence.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA : I continue now from where I left. This would bring in a greater degree of social, economic and political stability to the people of this country.

Sir, I submit that fiscal rectitude is the need of the hour, for unless our fiscal deficit is reduced, our public debt will keep growing, adding each year to the risk of another financial crisis.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Khanna, you use your notes, but do not read the speech.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Sir, I have got facts and figures and so, I am quoting from my notes.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA) : This criteria should also be applied while members of opposition speak.

[English]

SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Sir, it is my maiden speech. I have put together a lot of facts and figures. I have done a lot of hard work and I need to refer to it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, since it is his maiden speech, it should not be disturbed. If he reads his speech, we shall all support him; he can carry on. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him. Please take your seat.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Sir, I would not like to miss the opportunity to mention about Punjab and especially my constituency, since I have got this opportunity to speak here due to the love and affection of the people of my constituency.

Sir, I represent Gurdaspur, a constituency that with the rest of Punjab was ravaged by terrorism. Punjab is the most repressed State in terms of cross-border terrorism and now mercenaries have joined the race and called it a *Jehad* which means a holy war. My State of Punjab has already been divided into many parts in terms of religion. More so, India has already been broken into three parts in the name of religion. But, we, the citizens of India, co-exist in India as Indians and are incredibly tolerant of each other's religion, language, ethnicity and culture. These mercenaries, who are continuously engaged in extensive wars for decades, are trying to attack the very foundation of such tolerance.

Sir, it is clear that no religion of the world could call a mercenary a holy man. These mercenaries are out to destabilise economies and wage low-intensity wars against world nations, because they cannot engage in an all-out battle, the presence of Osama Bin Laden and Taliban in our border countries should be viewed both diplomatically and militarily. So, I applaud the 'zero tolerance' principle towards terrorism which the Government has announced through the President's Address.

Sir, enterprise and endeavour symbolise the essential spirit of the people of Punjab. Punjab has an average growth rate of eight per cent, literacy of 58 per cent and the highest *per capita* income in the country. Yet, my constituency has been neglected for too long, because it is a border district. There is no investment over there, because the people have not been able to take the risk

of putting in their money there. The Government also has not been able to invest any money over there and yet, it is the people of my constituency, who reside at the border, have been the first to protect it and our motherland, in times of crisis, at the cost of their lives.

Sir, I am proud to State that in the recently concluded Kargil war, a large of number of martyrs and wounded people in any district were from the district of Gurdaspur. I myself had gone to Kargil during Operation Vijay. I had met our soldiers there. I had seen as to how high their morale is and how committed they are to defend this country. But they have certain needs which we have not been able to provide to them. Many of them complained of inadequate clothing, shoes and they talked about the need for the upgradation and modernisation of our equipment. I am very happy that, in the President's Address, the Government has promised to modernise and upgrade the Indian Army.

Sir, Gurdaspur is plagued by inadequate roads and unreliable power supply. Its farmers need help with irrigation and technology, including high-yielding crops. The unabated decline in public investment in agriculture for several years now is emerging as the bane of Indian agriculture. In my constituency too, investment is needed not only to build roads, power supply and communication facilities, but crucially in irrigation, without which rapid growth is difficult to sustain. Though the agro-processing sector has been given a thrust area status, necessary infrastructure is not there in the rural areas and so, I would request that attention should be given to this sector. But the most important need of my constituency is that we need to build two bridges across the rivers Ravi and Beas.

16.00 hrs.

By these bridges not being there, the constituency is divided into four parts. The people have to travel from one point to another across the river. They have to travel about 80-90 kms extra from point 'A' to reach point 'B'. Otherwise, they would just have to travel about five to seven kms. The goods rot there because the transportation costs increase. The goods have to go through Jammu and Kashmir. To reach Punjab, we have to go through Jammu and Kashmir. They have to pay taxes over there. On the other side, they have to go through Himachal Pradesh. There also, they have to travel a distance of 80-90 kms. extra. So, nobody is investing there. The factories that have been there are closed right now. So, I would like to bring this to the attention of the Ministry of Surface Transport also that we definitely need some help there.

After freedom at midnight, the India that now sets out into the sunlight in changing fast. India has always had pride. Now, India has ambition. Now, it stands at a new

threshold, with greater triumphs and achievements once more in sight.

I would like to conclude with the words of India's first Prime Minister. Speaking to India's Constituent Assembly on the eve of our Independence, he said :

"We end today a period of ill fortune and India discovers herself again. The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us."

Perhaps his words are more relevant today than ever before. Thank you.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I would just like to make a small submission. Through you, I would like to address the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that the latest news that we have received is that the cyclone is moving at a speed of 250 kms. per hour. It has hit Paradip Port and heavy damage is being caused. It is moving north-west towards West Bengal and all the six coastal districts – 200 kms. long – will be affected. Thousands of houses have already been destroyed. So, in the hon. Minister's reply, could he try and update us on the situation and also apprise us of what we are doing from the Centre and what coordination exists, if any ?

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is my name included in the list ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Your name is there in the list.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, is my name also included in the list ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have not seen the names of all the Members.

[English]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to join all the hon. Members who have spoken before me in extending my heartfelt thanks to the hon. President of India for having taken pains to address both the Houses of Parliament assembled together. The President in his Address to the Parliament has described the 13th Lok Sabha as the first Lok Sabha of the next century. He has asked us to look at the country's past with pride and her future with hope and confidence. The hon. President has reminded us to look at our many missed opportunities in the past.

Finally, he has urged that our collective strength should be pressed into service to meet a great future. By

reminding all this, the President was actually expressing his concern about – the seniormost Member of the House has already pointed out – the stability of the Government, the governance itself and the stability of the polity itself. Shri Indrajit Gupta has expressed his doubt as to whether, in spite of the fact, there is a feeling in the ruling group that they have the mandate to rule, the coalition will work.

I would like to share his feelings, whether they really have the mandate and whether there will still be stability.

If you look at the results of the last election to the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, there has been much of change visible, as Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav also had pointed out. But I feel that two things should be taken note of. One is that the people of India seem to be very much dissatisfied with the national parties and the people of India are now going towards the regional parties.

What was the position of the BJP in the last elections ? The strength of the BJP in the Twelfth Lok Sabha was 182 and their strength in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha is 182. It is same. Not even an increase of one seat ! What was the strength of the Congress Party in the Twelfth Lok Sabha ? It was 140 and now it is 112. Let us concede 112. What was the strength of the CPM in the Twelfth Lok Sabha ? It was 32 and in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha it is still 32. What was the strength of the CPI ? I do not want to go into all the details. But it has come down. So, the seven recognised national parties, with the exception of Bahujan Samaj Party, have either maintained their figure of the Twelfth Lok Sabha or they have come down. There is not a single national figure who could improve its position even by one more Member. That is the position of the national parties in our country today.

When you look at the regional parties on the other hand, you find that they have improved. Let us take TDP. In the last Lok Sabha, they were 17 and today they have 29 Members. The seats of the Samajwadi Party in the last Lok Sabha were 20 and today they have 26. The Shiva Sena in the last Lok Sabha had 6 seats and today they are 15. The BJD had 9 seats in the last Lok Sabha, today they are 10. The Trinamool Congress had 7 seats in the last Lok Sabha and now they are 8. The PMK had 4 seats and today they are 5. The MDMK led by Shri Vaiko had 3 seats in the last Lok Sabha and today they are 4. I have many more figures but I do not want to quote all those figures. What I want to say is. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Some of them are newly born.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Some of them are newly born like us.

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

I think, we have to now think whether it is a healthy trend or not for the country. I am not talking from any other angle, I am talking from the angle of the stability of the Central Government. In the last Lok Sabha we had a Government of 18 political parties. Today, we are having a Government of about 24-25 political parties. The 18-party Government survived for thirteen months. I do not know whether the 25-party Government will survive for how many months.

It is from this angle of giving a stable Government at the Centre, of giving stability at the Centre that I am talking about the trend that is emerging in our country today.

The irrelevance of the national parties, as we have seen from the results of the last General Election, is certainly, a disturbing trend. The role of the national parties have to be recognised and today the first point that I would like to make is to call upon the national parties to examine why the people are rejecting the national parties. Of course the reasons are obvious. If the national parties have failed to respond to the aspirations, the regional aspirations of the people in different parts of the country would develop. This is a point which I thought that we should ponder about.

Now coming to the stability aspect of the present Government. I find that this is a minority Government. This is not a majority Government. The NDA's figure of 304 looks to be a very interesting figure, perhaps a 'feel-good' figure as far as you are concerned and you must be feeling very good but whether it is a 'feel-secure' figure. I am trying to bifurcate the NDA and the coalition. I will not accept that the NDA and the coalition are the same.

The people have given the mandate to the NDA. I accept it but my question is as to why the entire NDA is not in the Government today. Had the entire NDA been in the Government today, perhaps there could have been more hope—I am using the word 'hope'—of stability. But it is not the case. Out of 304 Members, 29 Members of the TDP are outside the coalition. That makes the strength as 275. If you take out five more Members—there is another party, that is Chautala's party—of All India Lok Dal, who are outside the coalition, then the strength of the Government comes down to 270. If you take out two more Members of Shiromani Akali Dal, then the strength of the coalition Government comes down to 268. Will this coalition Government with the strength of 268 be able to give stability to the country and fulfil all the promises that have been given in the President's Address? That is a question which I would like to leave to the House, particularly to the coalition partners to think about.

You have a very big responsibility to give us a stable Government. We, on behalf of the NCP, are not for destabilisation. I join with Shri Indrajit Gupta in wishing you all the best because in the interest of the nation, stability is a must. We want to have a stable Government but please do not be complacent because your position, as I said, may be a 'feel-good' position but not a 'feel-secure' position.

As Shri Somnath Chatterjee has mentioned, there are many points on which one would like to touch upon but because of the constraint of time I do not like to go into all the details.

The second point that I would like to make here is to draw the attention of the Government to paragraph 28 of the Agenda of the National Democratic Alliance. I want to read out the relevant sentence from Paragraph 28, which says :

"We will enact a legislation to provide eligibility criteria that the high offices of State legislative, executive and judiciary are held only by natural born citizen of India."

This is what your agenda for the National Democratic Alliance has stated. It does not get reflected in the President's Address. I would like to know the stand of the Government on this issue. Are you going to bring in a legislation before this House? If so, when? You have to bring an amendment, either to the Constitution of India or to the Citizenship Act or to the People's Representation Act or altogether a new Act. Let it be in whatever form, but I would like to know your stand on this particular issue.

The third point that I would like to make is on the question which has already been raised by Shri Indrajit Gupta, that is, on population. The Home Minister did point out that there was a reference in the President's Address about population. But I am sorry to say that it is just a passing reference. It just simply says you will stabilise the population. It is stabilisation of the population. I really do not understand what is the meaning of stabilisation of population. I do not want to go into all the aspects of the population problem because we all know about it. But may I point out two aspects of the population problem in our country? The first aspect is the rate of growth itself. The second aspect is the pattern of growth of population.

As far as the rate of growth of population is concerned, we all know that it is, at the moment, growing at a rate of 2.1 per cent and by this rate, by 2016, the population of India is going to be 1,264 million. If you are talking about arresting this present growth rate by stabilisation of the population, then you are not correcting the trend. You just want to maintain the same. Is it the meaning of stabilisation? If you say 'yes', then what you mean is that

you just want to maintain the present rate of growth by not increasing it. Even then, our problem is not solved.

What is more important is the pattern of growth. The pattern of growth is really disturbing. More than 50 per cent of the population growth is unfortunately contributed by the four States of India. We call it 'BIMARU' States – Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. I can produce this paper to the hon. Home Minister or even to the Prime Minister of India because – I can claim this is a pet subject of mine – I have made a lot of studies and research on population growth. I would like to share one thing today. The second part of my worry is regarding the pattern of growth, the distorted way of growth. Our study shows that between 1996 and 2016, in 20 years, at the rate 2.1 per cent, the growth of additional population that we will be adding to our country will be 350 million. More than 50 per cent of the 350 million population will be contributed by the 'BIMARU' States. This is one scenario.

The second thing that I would like say is how it will have a political implication. In 1977, by an amendment of the Constitution of India, the delimitation of Parliament of India has been frozen at 1971 census. So, at the moment, the delimitation of Parliament is on the basis of 1971 census because we have frozen it by an amendment of the Constitution.

Now, this freeze will continue up to 2,000 A.D. what is your stand now? I think, the Government has to explain. Are you going to remove that freeze? Are you going to go for a new delimitation of parliamentary constituencies? If you are doing so, to how many years are you going to extend this freeze of the limitation of Parliament? Why I am saying so is that if you remove this freeze and if you delimit the parliamentary constituencies which is on the basis of population, then the net result would be Bihar will get two more parliamentary seats; Uttar Pradesh will get 14 more parliamentary seats; Madhya Pradesh will get five more M.Ps; Rajasthan will get four more M.Ps; and on the other hand Tamil Nadu will lose eight parliamentary constituencies. . . . *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Lakshadweep?

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : I am not going to every State. We have taken a lot of pain in studying the situation. Tamil Nadu is going to lose eight parliamentary seats; Kerala — a small State — is going to lose four parliamentary seats; Andhra Pradesh three; and Karnataka one at the present growth rate of population and present pattern of growth of population in our country. I feel that besides this problem on the economy of the country and everything, it is going to create a political problem for us and we have to collectively tackle this problem.

I would urge upon the Government that we have an all Party Conference on population growth. We have a special sitting of Parliament to discuss about this and reach a consensus on the new Population Policy in our country, otherwise we are going to face a lot of problems in future.

I will quickly cover the points. The fourth point I want to mention here is economy. Of course, I am not going to deal with economy as of today because we will have an opportunity to discuss the Budget. The Minister of Finance is here. We will do it at that time. But I only want to point out that in the President's Address, on the one hand, the President mentions about the fiscal rectitude through improved expenditure management, and the President also promises setting up of an Expenditure Commission. It is your idea. The Expenditure Commission would *inter-alia* lay down road map for downsizing the Government. It is very good and I must welcome the repeated statements of the hon. Minister of Finance who says that his topmost priority is to bring about a financial discipline and containment of Government expenditure. This is what the Minister of Finance has been repeatedly telling the nation and the President has promised us that soon there will be fiscal rectitude through improved expenditure management as well as Expenditure Commission to downsize the Government. If that is your policy, why this Government had to create so many new departments? You have created a new Department of Primary Education and Literacy. Where is the need for the Government of India to have a Department of Primary Education? Primary Education under the Constitution of India is under the domain of the Panchayati Raj. Instead of decentralising the power, instead of decentralising the process and the system why do you want to concentrate more and more at the Central level?

I have some suspicion on this. Why the Government of India or the Government of the BJP, with so much of strength coming from RSS and VHP, should take over direct administration of the primary schools in the country, is a big question mark. I have my suspicion and I would like the Government to answer this. If their policy is to downsize the Government structure, why have they gone on to create new Departments of Drinking Water and Supply, Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Telecom Services, and so on? Of course, I welcome the creation of the Department of Information Technology because that is the need of the hour. That is a new Ministry they have created. . . . *(Interruptions)* But my question is why did they have to create so many new departments and bring such a huge financial burden on the exchequer?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : To accommodate 25 parties.

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : I have always taken a position, it is known also, that instead of creating new Ministries and Departments, I have advocated for abolition of certain Ministries at the Centre. The Ministry of Rural Development is not required, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is not required. These are all State subjects. People sitting in New Delhi cannot understand what is happening 3,000 kilometres away from here in the villages. What is the point in Central Government having a huge establishment of rural development, sports and what not ? I am in favour of dismantling some of them. Take Agriculture, for example. I can understand your keeping the ICAR as far as the research part is concerned, but why Agriculture ? It is just to keep control over the States. It is just to delay the delivery of the finances. I am speaking from my own experience as a Union Minister as well as a Chief Minister. We will have to down-size the Union Ministries. They are thinking about down-sizing the Government. I quite agree to that. They should please go ahead and do that. But, in the meantime, they should not create many new departments.

Having said so, I must deviate from my stand and welcome the creation of a new Ministry for Tribal Welfare. I congratulate the Government and thank the Government for that. I must also thank the Government and both the Houses of Parliament – the Upper House and the Lower House – for having passed the Constitution Amendment Bill for extending the reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes for another ten years. But the Members who have participated in the debate – I did not participate because I wanted to give chance to others – have expressed so many things. They have said that in spite of all this, nothing much has happened in these fifty years. I would say that nothing is going to happen also until and unless the Governments at the Centre and in the States are really serious about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I am not going into all the details but I shall just give one example and that is for the attention of the Finance Minister. The Ninth Plan Document says – please check it up – that over Rs. 2,00,000 crore of outlay earmarked under the Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes was not actually used for their benefit during the Eighth Plan. I am reading from your Ninth Five-Year Plan Document.

Over Rs. 2,00,000 crore of outlay earmarked under the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes was not actually used for their benefit during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Similarly about Rs. 2,20,000 crore earmarked under Tribal Sub-Plan during the Eighth Plan period were not utilised for the benefit of the Scheduled Tribes. We have spent fifty years with slogans and slogans. I do not want to proceed further. I think the Ninth Five Year Plan document itself gives a lot of messages. If Rs. 2,00,000

crore had been spent for the Scheduled Castes. . . .
(Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Who was in the Government at that time ? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : It was about Eighth Five Year Plan. For your information, we were not in the Government during the Eighth Five Year Plan. I am talking about the Eighth Five Year Plan. We were not there. . . . (Interruptions) I am not saying we did not make a mistake. If you look at the Seventh Five Year Plan perhaps the situation is the same. If you look at the Sixth Five Year Plan perhaps the situation is the same. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai) : No, you were very much in power during the Seventh Plan. It was a successful Plan. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : You were Secretary of the Planning Commission at that time. You have forgotten it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA : Sir, much has been said about Kargil. I know that the time allotted to me is very limited. I will complete in five minutes. Much has been said about Kargil. I am not going to speak about it. I endorse what Shri Indrajit Gupta has said. I understand that a Committee – Subrahmanyam Committee – has been formed to go into all aspects of the Kargil war, our failures here and there. I request the Government to make available the Subrahmanyam Committee report to us and it can be discussed. During the debate on Pokhran-II, I advocated for a nuclear doctrine. At that time the ruling Party Members were smiling at me and laughing at me. I am happy that the Government has now come out with a draft nuclear doctrine. The Nationalist Congress Party has, in our manifesto, gone a step further to say that why only a nuclear doctrine, we should have a National Security Doctrine itself. I would like the Government to place the draft nuclear doctrine on the table of the House and, perhaps, we can have time to discuss about it.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee has made a reference to the C.T.B.T. Shri Indrajit Gupta has made a reference to tomorrow's W.T.O. meeting. I am not going to say all sorts of things. On C.T.B.T. I think we should take note of two happenings. The President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton was the first to sign the C.T.B.T. But then he could not get his proposal ratified by the Congress there. That is one aspect. The second aspect that we have to keep in mind is the termination of the democratic Government in our neighbourhood, Pakistan. Keeping these two developments, I would urge upon the Government to be extra cautious regarding our stand on C.T.B.T.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to make two more points. They are very important. One is on the North-East. I am very disappointed to note that the President's Address simply says that : "We are going to restructure the North-East Council". That is all the President's Address has said and nothing more or nothing else. I do not want to emphasise what we have been doing in the past. But I think the North-East certainly requires much more attention from the Government than simply making a statement that they are going to restructure the North-East Council.

The last point I would like to make a reference to the President's Address to the writings of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi in 1931. He described the India of his dreams as India in which all communities shall live in perfect harmony. That was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. This is what we have been cherishing. We are a secular country. We all want to live in perfect communal harmony. I am pointing out this because in these days we find a lot of news coming about the reservation from certain sections of the people on the visit of the Pope to India.

I do not see any reason for why we should have any objection to the Holy Father visiting India. I want to point out that this is not going to be the first visit of the Holy Father here. It is going to be the second visit. The first visit was a much more longer visit. He travelled throughout India, and visited all the important towns and cities of India. At that time, nobody raised any finger. There was no demonstration. There was no Press Statement. There was no *yatra* held. Why is all this happening at the time of his second visit ? It is because, I think, they are getting some strength from somewhere to take up such activity. Please ensure that the visit is a success and peaceful.

I belong to Christian community and I can tell you that we are a very timid community. We are just two per cent of the population after 2000 years of Christianity in this great country. Where is the room for apprehension ? I do not understand. We have made our contribution to this country in every possible way, especially in the field of education and in the field of medical care. I think a large number of Members here, I am sure, are product of Christian institutions. We have done our bit.

I also want to point out that this is not a religious affair only. The Holy Father is not only the head of a religious organisation, but also the head of a Government, head of a sovereign State. So, he is coming here not merely as the head of the Church but also as the head of a State. I think, if anything that is unpleasant happens, it will have an impact on our diplomatic relations, our external affairs and our foreign policy. I urge upon the Government to ensure that everything goes off peacefully. I am speaking this on behalf of the Christian community of this country because I must confess that we are not only hurt but also really distressed about this.

Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Yashwant Sinha.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Sir, I am a Sikh. There is no Sikh representative in the Union Cabinet and incidentally no Sikh is being allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will get your opportunity. Why are you agitating ?

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Sir, it is the feeling of the House that this House should be extended or the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address should be carried on to the next Session. There are many Members who think alike. On the very first day, the hon. Speaker had stated in his speech that the back-benchers would be given the opportunity to speak. There are at least 50 people who want to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. We request you that either this should be carried on to the next Session or we must sit late till 11 o'clock so that the Members who want to speak can get an opportunity. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, this Motion may be carried on to the next Session. This is the first document of the new Government and I am sure that the Members want to participate in this discussion meaningfully. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you have been so good. . . .*(Interruptions)* There are ten Members from Punjab and not even one has spoken. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I tell you that as per the time allotted, all the parties have exhausted their time.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If here and there, few Members are there, we can accommodate them. Then, the hon. Minister will give the reply. There is no question of postponement.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Is the time limit applicable only in our case. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, if I start telling the time taken by every Party, one Member's time will be wasted. Therefore, please sit down and keep patience. Let the hon. Minister intervene.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAISHREE BANERJEE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be a time limit for a Member to speak. One Member speaks for an hour and other does not get even 5 minutes to speak. We are also elected from our Constituencies. We should also be given permission to speak. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Is the time limit applicable only in our case. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me hear Shri Madhavrao Scindia, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I think, the sentiments of the House have been adequately expressed, and a number of speakers, since they are all new Members, would like to speak. I think, it will be also very useful to hear their views. Maybe, the Government could consider whether we could sit tomorrow also so that all the Members would get an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : It should be extended to the next session. All Members would like to speak on it. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A suggestion has come from the Deputy Leader. Now, let me hear the hon. Home Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all the Members have to leave for their constituencies by train today. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It that is the case, they are free to go just now. What we have to do.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.N. SINGH : We will leave after listening to the reply. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The sitting of the House is not dependent of your train or air travel bookings.

[Translation]

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : If you were to go, then why did you come ? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is what I am saying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If you want us to leave without listening to the reply, we will leave after one and a half hour. What is this. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Almost all parties have exhausted the time allotted to them. The hon. Home Minister is now trying to say something. Why do you not hear him patiently ? All of us are interested to see that some new Members are accommodated. We can extend the sitting for some more time, and then complete it amicably.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : We have conveyed to the hon. Speaker last evening itself that so far as the Government is concerned, it is prepared for all alternatives, namely, to sit late today, to sit on Saturday, to sit on Monday, but we are keen that the Motion of Thanks should not be put off, and it should be completed. This was the basic contention that we made to the Speaker. The hon. Speaker conveyed to us that we should sit late today, but we should not extend the Session. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete, do not interrupt him.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : We also pointed out to him that many Members of the House wanted to go by evening flight today. So, we left it to the Speaker, and he ultimately conveyed to us that we should not extend the House and that it should be completed today. Now, it is for you to decide.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I just want to reiterate what I had pointed out yesterday that in 1994, the Members of the Treasury Benches, who were then on the Opposition, stalled the discussion on the Motion of Thanks for several weeks, though there was no problem in eventually passing the Motion of Thanks. So, given the fact that they treated us this way, we love to treat them in a similar way.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There need not be any retaliation.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am on my legs, will you kindly resume your seat ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. Home Minister has already given a suggestion. I think, some more Members wanted to participate in this debate. So, we can extend the time by a few more hours and complete it today itself and not tomorrow or Monday. Let us take the sense of the House on extending the time. Most of the time allotted to each party has already been exhausted.

I would like to inform the Members that almost all parties have exhausted their time.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Some new Members who want to participate in the debate, let them participate and the time of the reply could be postponed by an hour or two and then we can complete this discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, let me take the sense of the House.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : When would be the reply by the hon. Home Minister ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I would like to draw your attention in the light of the suggestion that has been made by you. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs the exact time to be extended after six o'clock so that the exact time could be finalised just now. It would help us in planning which party would be accommodated and in what manner. If there is any uncertainty about the time, then we would not know as to when the debate would end and when Advaniji would reply.

I would like to know from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs whether he has any proposal to make in this regard so that we could plan and collectively take a decision. . . . *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Let the Chair decide the time of the reply and divide the time accordingly amongst the parties. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would like to inform the House that two to three parties which have not participated in the debate will have to be allotted time. Parties like the BSP, the AIADMK and some single-membered parties would have to be given time to participate in the debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : What will be the time of reply by the hon. Home Minister ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Please take it to the next Session. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, it would not be taken to the next Session.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we should be given time to speak. . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We are discussing here to allot time to the Members. Are you listening or not ?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : We are listening. Shri Raghunath Jha from our party has spoken till now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Raghunath Jha your party has spoken but no one from BSP, A' India Anna D.M.K. has spoken till now. Should I give time to you leaving those Parties ?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Shri Raghunath Jha has spoken only for two a half minutes.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I fully support the proposal by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs if you decide the timing of the reply by the hon. Home Minister just now. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My suggestion is that if the House desires to sit and hear the reply by the hon. Home Minister at 8 o'clock, then till that time we would have about three hours time.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH : We cannot stay after 6 o'clock. We have reserved our seats in the train.

[English]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Why are you getting annoyed ? We are leaving.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let me complete. You do not seem to allow me to talk.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, what about the time of Trinamool Congress ? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would like to request the hon. Members that let us orderly conduct ourselves and see to it that the new Members and those Parties who have not been given time to participate in the debate could participate and the hon. Minister would reply at 8 o'clock. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Whips may kindly interact with each other in the matter.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, only new Members should be allowed. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can work that out.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Only new Members of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha should be allowed and not those who were Members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and also are Members of this Lok Sabha . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You have to do it in the 'give and take' spirit. You have to give that judgement. You please coordinate with the Whips of the other parties and then let me know.

In the meanwhile we will extend the sitting of the House upto 8 o'clock and the hon. Minister will reply at 8 o'clock.

Is it the sense of the House to extend the time of the House upto 8 o'clock ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time of the House is extended upto 8 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Mahajan, to kindly coordinate with the Whips of all parties in this regard.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Sir, you have mentioned BSP and AIADMK but Trinamool Congress.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, Trinamool Congress has also not got a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker had assured me of my turn but now my name has been put at the bottom. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Those parties none of whose Member has yet spoken, will be given an opportunity to speak and after that you will be given a chance to speak. I am not here to commit any injustice.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Hon'ble Speaker had said this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon'ble Speaker might have said this but Shri Raghunath Jha of your party has already spoken. . . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I call now Shri Yashwant Sinha, the Minister of Finance to intervene.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the motion of thanks on the President's Address moved by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and seconded by Shri Vaiko.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the President Address, the economic policy of our country has been dealt with in detail. Many members have also expressed their viewpoint over economic policy while participating in the discussion. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the first address of the President after the formation of our Government. As per the tradition, the Address reflects both short-term and long-term aspects of the policy of the Government before the House and the country. Before coming to the issues which were raised during discussion, I would like to clarify one thing. Though my friend Shri Somnath Chatterjee has left the House but today had he not mentioned this second time then perhaps I would have not been compelled to give this reply. Like other members, I have also been elected to this House. The people of Hazaribagh have elected me with a thumping majority as a result of which I have become a member of this House and hon'ble Prime Minister has given me the responsibility of Minister of Finance in his Cabinet.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : What was the margin of your win ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Margin was big. I will tell you outside the House as to what was the margin ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has again repeated here that I have become Minister of Finance on the recommendation of some Industrialists. I would like to say that this is totally wrong. I do not feel any shy in saying this. The Industrialists are residents of this country and if the industrialists and their organisation have expressed their view point as every other section does, then I don't know why Shri Somnath Chatterjee is objecting to it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the present economic situation is satisfactory. The Government of the day is also presenting figures in similar way as the previous Government has been doing. We have not made any jugglery of figures. When hon'ble President briefly refers to issues in Para II regarding Indian economy, Wholesale Price Index, Balance of payments, Foreign Exchange Reserve, we find that these figures have been compiled in similar manner as they were compiled earlier. Today, we have foreign exchange reserve of 33 billion dollars. This is also true that earlier we did not have this much of foreign Exchange Reserve. As regards the inflation, it has come down to 2% of the Wholesale Price Index. Some of our

friends would like to know about Consumer Price Index. I would like to tell that Consumer Price Index has also come down to three per cent in the month of September this year as compared to 20 per cent in the month of November the previous year. Similarly Consumer Price Index for industrial workers has also come down to three per cent. As a result of these, Prices have come down. If some one days that he went to the market and found the price of a certain commodity excessive it is possible that the price of that particular commodity may be more in that city and he may have experienced that. On the basis of these figures, I must say that this is the positive result of efforts made by us to control inflation, wholesale price index and Consumer Price Index.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last year when we came to power at that time there were many challenges before us. Today when we discuss about economic situation we often forget those challenges. Last year, the economy of the country was reeling under recession which had begun in the mid of 1996. It was a challenge for us. Last year in the month of March, when I become the Minister of Finance, at that time people used to ask me as to what steps Government was taking to bring the country out of recession. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you might remember that Government conducted nuclear tests and immediately after that many countries including USA imposed economic sanctions on us. I am happy that now they have become wise and have withdrawn those sanctions. But as a result of these sanctions the credit rating agencies of the world down graded India and expressed apprehensions that India was no more a safe and fit country for investment. When we were struggling with these problems at that time a different wave was blowing across the world and that was South Asia Crisis. We thought that this problem will be limited to South Asia only but it was not so. Russia and Brazil also experienced that crisis. Many countries of the world experienced that turmpil. Today, I can say with utmost satisfaction that such incidents took place in our neighbourhood but those incidents did not effect our country as our economic management was sound. When we were tackling all these problem, the members who were in the 12th Lok Sabha know that our Government fell by one vote due to the conspiracy hatched by some people and our country was trapped in political instability.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, political instability affects country's economic situation. Thus the phase of instability started. We wanted elections as early as possible but elections were postponed till September-October. In this way, political instability prevailed in the country for six months. As if it was not enough, our neighbouring country imposed war upon us and thus the problem of Kargil came

before us. Entire country fully knows about it. In this way 6-7 challenges came before us. Had any of these challenges come before any Government then it would have not faced that problem but we have faced all these challenges together.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, during 1997-98 Gross Domestic Product grew by six percent. This achievement brought India at par with China. These figures reflect that we have made a lot of progress during 1998-99 although there were many challenges before us. The year 1999-2000 was the year of recession. Now the data coming from all sectors whether it is the agricultural production or of increase in the field of services, all data prove that the country is passing through recession.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Sangmaji was just saying and through you I would like to assure the House that sometimes the data may be wrong, or right also. But if the question of confidence in economy arises, then all the statistics became irrelevant and faith waivers. Therefore, it is a matter of satisfaction for us. Especially, the budget presented by me on 27 February this year has created the atmosphere of 'Feel Good Factor'. It has regained that confidence. Today, not only the people of this country, but the peop' from abroad are also closely watching India with new hope and they are firm on their opinion that in coming days India will make progress and we will continue to more ahead on the path of development.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that in para 12 of his address the President has drawn our attention towards a very important issue. All of us have just returned from our constituencies and each one of us has experienced the same thing and that is, in these 52 years of independence, no solution to the problems of people has been found. When President talks of clean drinking water, primary education, health centres, roads, irrigation and supply of electricity, these are our basic minimum needs, it means by now these facilities should have reached our rural areas, but nothing of this kind has taken place. Is this not a matter of shame for all of us that even after 52 years of independence we have not been able to provide these basic facilities to the people. It is so because all our policies have not been successfully executed. When we want to the people for seeking votes, they said their villages were not having roads. People said that there was no dispensary in their area, and many other issues were also raised. All of us are aware, that many television channels are running programmes on the issues related to the people, that is public agenda. The people of every area, whether they are from cities or from villages have spoken in one voice and have said that the basic problems of the people of this country are not being sorted out. Therefore, the President has made a mention of it in

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

this para. I would like to say that while addressing these problems of the country, he had said in very clear words that change in the policy for development is required and after bringing the change, it should be ensured that in minimum time, or definitely in next five years, we will try to solve the basic problems of the people and will try to solve the basic problems of the people and will try to fulfill their needs.

I would like to tell you that we have effected some changes in those policies. We have started Gram Samradhi Yojana. We have said that we will try to provide these facilities to the people through Panchayati Raj institutions. On the basis of the declared policy of the Government and the way we are working, I can say that in next five years, the basic needs of the people will fulfilled. Shri Sangmaji may not have liked that we have set up a separate department for drinking water. We have done so on the lines of the department of tribal welfare. Is it not shameful for all of us that even other 52 years of independence, there are 1.25 lakh villages in the country which are not having regular source of drinking water. If we want to set up a separate department for this, if we want to accomplish it under a special scheme and we want to assure that drinking water facility should be provided to each and every village, then what objection can anybody have?

I would like to say that the focus of our economic policy is that the basic needs of the people should be catered through economic reforms as soon as possible. We want them to get rid of their problems as soon as possible. This is our top priority.

Just now, Shri Somnath has talked about 'faster growth with employment and equity'. I would like to say that we have mentioned about the model of economic development and reference has been made to its blue print in many documents. The focus of the economic development is to generate more opportunities for employment. All of us know that in many countries of the world and during the last year our country has also experienced that through production picks up, development takes place, economic development also takes place, but opportunities for employment do not increase. Recently, a study was conducted which said that in the decade of 90, which was a very good decade, progress was made at fast pace in all fields but as far as the question of employment is concerned, no progress has been made in this regard. This bitter truth is before us. Therefore, this Government has decided to keep in focus the generation of employment opportunities in the model of development. It can be a matter of fun, that we are talking of one crore new jobs. From where will we give one crore jobs? Have you generated one crore new jobs last year? It is very easy

to make fun of anything; but I would like to say it very seriously that if all areas mentioned by the President, whether it is agriculture, village industry, cottage industry, self-employment, road construction, house-building, or knowledge based industry called frontier Science, information technology, Chemical technology, which are giving quality employment to the country, are taken into account then it is definite that not only one crore but many more crore employment opportunities could be created. But alongwith it we cannot get rid of the problem of unemployment until the rate of economic development is increased and until the rate of economic development reaches 8-9%. This is my view. Therefore, the President has mentioned of 8-9% as target of rate of growth.

How can we achieve 8-9% rate of growth? We have said it very clearly that in order to achieve the target of 8-9% of economic development, we shall have to raise our domestic saving to 30% from the present 24%. We shall have to increase it by 6%. Alongwith it we have to invite foreign capital investment so that it may help us, particularly in areas where we require foreign investment. When we will mix both, when we will invest foreign capital, we will be able to do domestic saving and national saving. Then it will be possible to achieve growth rate of 8-9%. After achieving this rate of growth, it will be possible for us to control the problem of poverty and unemployment.

Many things have been said here. Now, I will come to fiscal deficit, which is discussed very often. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has left. He had asked what we were doing about steel industry. I would like to say that no other Government in the past had taken so many effective measures to save the steel industry, as this Government have done in last 18 months. I am saying this with some satisfaction that we have discussed this matter with the Minister of State of the Ministry of Steel. Recently, my colleague, Shri Dilip Ray had come to meet me. We held discussion on SAIL, and I have told him to prepare and bring papers keeping in view my suggestions. We will present them before the Cabinet. Steel Authority of India is a premier organisation and a public sector company. Steel Authority has got its own place in the country's industry. It has got its identity all over the world. With full responsibility, I would like to say in the House that under any circumstances we will not allow Steel Authority of India to sink. It is our intention that it should make progress continuously. This Government will definitely do whatever is required to save the steel industry, particularly SAIL. He has said about 'IISCO'. We are worried about IISCO. From the day we have formed the Government, we are considering, how to revive the 'Indian Iron and Steel Company'. The discussion about this is on with Russia. I had gone to Moscow to attend the meeting of Joint Commission. After that, Russian Minister had visited India, we had discussed it with him. When last year, in the month

of December Russian Prime Minister, Shri Priminkov had visited India, we had discussed it with him also. I am sure that very soon we are going to get success in this matter and we would be able to revive 'IISCO'. In every area we are trying that firstly our macro economic policies should be right and should prove helpful in increasing the rate of economic growth of the country. Secondly, if somewhere, there is a problem in any particular area then a special scheme should be made with a sectoral approach. We want that it should also make progress. If today cement industry is making progress, commercial vehicles sector and steel sector are making progress and if recession is no more seen in these industries, it is mainly due to our policies. Due to our policies, housing sector and road sector are making progress. People are getting more job opportunities as a result of which progress will be made in industrial sector. Do you want to say something ?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : Sir, I would like to State that the hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a clear declaration about SAIL and IISCO, but many other units are also associated with it. We have addressed them as 'navrattan', what is the condition of other important public sector units, your policy about them is not clear. Today whether it is BHEL, or HMT or HPCL and all other big 'navrattans' are becoming sick. Not only the important units of public sector, but public sector units of states are also in poor condition. For the last so many months, the file of H.M.T. company is lying pending in the Ministry of Finance. Approval has not been granted to it. Therefore, does President's Address reflect the policy of hon'ble Minister of Finance in regard to all the public sector units ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of public undertakings is concerned, under a special scheme, during the last 18 months, the Government have provided special aid to all those public undertaking which could be revived and could be run on profit so that it may function properly. But I understand that Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari is aware that these are many public undertaking which are closed for so many years and we had been paying wages to the labour, every month. We shall have to give special attention to these undertakings. If you go through the study reports conducted year after year it can be observed that some of these undertakings cannot be run under any circumstances, then I do not hesitate in saying that our policy about such undertakings will be that voluntary retirement should be given to the employees of these undertakings, and these undertakings should be shut down, and whatever you get from those undertakings should be invested in other industries, to help them to make progress. Our policy is that the public undertakings which are running properly, should work more smoothly. Therefore, there is no confusion about the Government's policy about public sector undertakings.

Our first priority is that the public sector, which has played an important role in the industrial development of the country, should be maintained. But at the sametime, I had said in last year's budget, perhaps Shri Tiwari might be remembering that we will make disinvestment up to 74% in non-strategic, public sector units. This was what I had said in the last budget. We will move forward according to that programme. . . .(Interruptions)

I am completing in a minute, after that you can speak.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, Navratnas are the prestigious Central Public Sector undertakings, They make profit. They are one type. Normally, the public sector undertakings are known as sick. The disinvestment proposals are going on about which we are very much concerned and not with the Navratna projects. They are the assets of the Government of India.

So far as eight Central public sector undertakings in West Bengal are concerned, the Prime Minister gave an assurance in writing that this would be taken up for consideration for revival. At this opportune time, I would like to know from the Minister of Finance as to what steps are being taken by the Government for their revival. The hon. Prime Minister has given a categorical and written assurance to Kumari Mamata Banerjee that these undertakings will not be closed and all sorts of steps will be taken for their revival.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I have already said that in regard to public sector undertakings which could be revived, we have already taken a number of steps to revive such units. There are undertakings which cannot be revived. Study after study has proved that there is no way these units can run at all, much less run at a profit.

In such cases, I am saying quite candidly that we will have to take steps to wind up such units. The point that the hon. Member has made and the point to which Shri Tiwari has referred is about the *Navratnas*. My colleague, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, has recently come out with a statement saying quite clearly that we shall strengthen the *Navratnas*. We will also strengthen the mini *Navratnas*. This is the policy statement which the Minister of Commerce and Industry has made. In regard to the eight units of which the Member has referred to, the Prime Minister has assured that we shall study the prospects of revival of those units once again. That study is going on. Whenever we are ready with the findings of those studies, we will be in a position to take appropriate decision in that regard.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI (Nainital) : I do not want to raise a long debate at this point of time. I would just mention that a number of reports on restructuring of such units, for example that of the Hindustan Machine Tools and a number of other public sector undertakings, are pending consideration in the Department of Expenditure. I would request the Finance Minister to go into the details of all those public sector units whose restructuring proposals are pending in his Ministry.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I would assure the hon. Member, through you, that all such proposals are receiving my most earnest attention. When I talked about the Steel Authority of India, this is exactly what I meant. Why did I talk about the Steel Authority of India? It is because we discussed it and because this was a proposal which was pending. All such proposal will receive our attention.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the World Trade Organisation was referred to here during the course of discussion. It was stated that there was a brief mention in the President's Address about safeguarding the interests of the nation. President's Address cannot be the negotiating document of the country. In the President's Address there can be a mention of general policy matter that we will safeguard the interests of our country, we will do it more vigorously than ever before. All our efforts will be made to safeguard our national interests.

Meeting of the Trade Ministers is going to be held at Seattle from November 30. Our Minister of Commerce and Industry will also be attending the said meeting. He is not taking it lightly. Entire House knows as to what will be our negotiating position in the World Trade Organisation. In this context, the hon'ble Prime Minister had called a meeting at his level last week. We had decided some issues in that meeting but we do not want to decide all by ourselves. World Trade Organisation is not a party matter for us. It is not the concern of the Government only as to how to safeguard the interests of the country. That is why our hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry has told that we will discuss it with all political parties.

[*English*]

We shall have consultations with all the political parties in Parliament in order to finalise India's position in regard to WTO.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, in addition to this I would also like to inform the House that we are in touch with all developing countries and friendly nations. We have decided to prepare a common strategy so that not only

interests of India but interests of all developing countries of the world could be safeguarded. The meeting of the Trade Ministers of G-15 countries was held in Bangalore in September last. We want to continue it further. We will formulate our policy after having consultation with all political parties so that there may not be any apprehension in anybody's mind about the policy of the Government in the World Trade Organisation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, in the end I would like to draw the attention of the House to one more point. The point is as to how we should deal with the fiscal deficit. In simple words fiscal deficit means more expenditure as compared to income. The question is how we should maintain a balance between the two. I often jokingly say that my position is that of a new bride who goes to a new household where budget has never been a balanced one, where expenditure is more than the income. I became the Finance Minister and in this situation I am being asked to balance the budget. It is a big challenge. We could not overcome this problem during the last two decade.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, through you I would like to say one thing more. If we go through the Budget at a glance we will come to know that we are spending rupees 88 thousand crores on payment of interest on loans taken in previous years. Figures are there you can go through these figures. These figures indicate that the situation is serious and I wish that this House should discuss this situation seriously. We are already spending rupees 88 thousand crores on payment of interest on loans and Rs. 46 thousand crore is our defence expenditure and this figure is likely to go up. Provision of rupees 46 thousand crores has been made in the budget for this purpose. I am giving you the round figures. We are spending rupees 24 thousand crores on food and fertilizer subsidy, rupees 10 thousand crores on pensions and rupees 8 thousand crores on grants to States in terms of Finance Commission. The total comes to Rs. 178 thousand crores. What is our income? Tax and non tax revenue of the Central Government comes to rupees one lakh eighty two thousand crores. Rupees one lakh 82 thousand crores go to the five items which I just mentioned which amount to Rs. 178 thousand crores. Our annual plan is worth rupees 77 thousand crores which belongs to the Centre and the States both. Where from this money is coming? According to the budget we are borrowing Rs. 80 thousand crores from the market. It does not matter we will go to the market. Today I am the Finance Minister tomorrow I may not be the Finance Minister. I am concerned about the country. Just now discussion was going on about hike in price of diesel, agreed we will not hike the price. It involves an expenditure of rupees ten thousand crore, I will include that also in the budget. The question is why IOC or HPCL or other companies should suffer this loss, they are not

at fault. If we direct them not to increase the price, they will ask to account for the deficit in the budget and I will include that in the budget. Apart from this, as far as subsidy is concerned, I will explain that when I will come in the House with revised estimates as to where expenditure is increasing. As such it does not matter for me. I will borrow rupees one lakh thousand crores or one lakh twenty thousand crores instead of net borrowing of Rs. 80 thousand crores. Anyhow I will manage this year but there are two important questions related to this. One question is whether present generation has the right to push the future generation into debt trap? We are spending Rs. 88-90 thousand crores on payment of interest on loan, whether we have got the right to tell the future generation that you will have to make the payment of rupees two lakhs crores as interest during the next ten years? I want to know what effect it will have on the economy and on the budget of the country and what treatment we want to give to the coming generation? I would like to say that rupees 80 thousand crores is a huge amount and despite this if we go to the market to borrow rupees one lakh crores or one lakh ten thousand crores or one lakh twenty thousand crores then there will be hardly any money left in the market for the private industries and public sector undertakings because we are collecting all the surplus subsidy available in the market to meet the Government expenditure. If we go to the market to borrow to this extent then what effect it will have on inter-state? What will be the rate of interest? Industries of the country and Reserve Bank of India are asking us to reduce the rate of interest. How it can be reduced? Can we borrow such a huge amount from the market again and again? When I talk about fiscal deficit we will have to keep this fact in mind as to where we can effect cuts. We can do this only in non-planned expenditure because we do not want to effect cuts in the planned expenditure. In all Rs. 31 thousand crores are left in the budget. Rs. 31 thousand crores is not a big amount. I think Rs. 15 or 20 thousand crores will be the expenditure of non-plan salary and as such Rs. 10-15 thousand crores will be left. People criticise us if we curtail the Government expenditure because they say that you can save as much as you want from the remaining 10-15 thousand crores because you cannot do anything elsewhere.

[English]

You are in a straight jacket.

[Translation]

If you do not pay interest, your credibility abroad will go down. You cannot curtail defence expenditure because we do not want to compromise with security of the country. We can not reduce subsidy because there will be an

uproad in this House not to reduce subsidy at any cost. We cannot reduce subsidy on pension because aged retired Government servants will have to face hardship. How can we curtail grants to States as it is our constitutional obligation. We are bound to pay that amount to States under the Finance Commission. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will conclude but my concern is this.

[English]

Just a moment. Let me finish. I am about to finish.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am putting these figures in this House with all the seriousness at my command because I want this House to kindly appreciate the problem of balancing the budget of the Government of India. Balancing of the budget of the Government of India, just as balancing of the budgets of State Governments, is absolutely essential and unavoidable. If we do not do this, then we are not discharging the responsibility which the people have assigned to us, we are not fulfilling those responsibilities. I am not suggesting any solutions. There are some solutions in my mind. When I come up with my Revised Estimates before this House, may be I will explain them in greater detail. What I am saying is that this is a problem that the whole House should ponder, this is a problem that the whole nation should concern itself, so that we get out of this.

[Translation]

That is why we were thinking in terms of expenditure control and expenditure commission.

[English]

Unless there is a structural adjustment, unless we are able to reduce the burden of our budget, it will not be possible for us to establish fiscal rectitude. That is why we have talked in our NDA's Manifesto of a Fiscal Responsibility Act. I would like to tell this House through you that we are putting together the various elements of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, so that we can come before the House, we can come before the people of this country and put before them all the facts and take those hard decisions which this nation as a nation must take if we want that the future generation should live in peace and in prosperity. That is the problem.

Apart from that, as I said, the President has to be thanked and thanked most profusely for the very good

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

Address that he has presented to both the Houses and I am sure this Motion moved by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra will be passed by acclaim.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : I have a small question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can ask clarifications from the Minister later on.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : He has told me that he will answer afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, our leader madam Mayawati of BSP is not present here. I rise to speak on her behalf over the Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Sir, if the character of a nation, or a country or a person is to be judged then their past should be analysed.

Unless its past is analysed, it is not possible to evaluate its future.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, I have listened and read the President's Address very carefully. I have come to the conclusion that the promises made in it to the nation, are the deed of words only. Before reading the Address, the performance of the previous Government is to be thoroughly analysed during its 13 months tenure. My friend Shri Yashwant Sinha has just mentioned that our Government was toppled by a few people resulting in the economic deterioration due to which the country has to face a lot of burden. I would like to submit with due reverence that if the people like Shri Ram Vilas Paswan of JD (U), who allied with you during elections, had supported you during No Confidence Motion, there would have been no need to conduct elections. What type of democracy it is in which the people keep on changing alliances and parties and indulge in opportunism. The walls of Parliament House have been a mute witness to all the developments. It is good that the God has not lended voice to these stones. If the voice had been given to these stones, many people would have been exposed. The para 12 of this Address says about the situation of people.

[English]

"Crores of our people, particularly in villages, are still to be provided with basic services such as clean drinking water, reasonable shelter, primary education, health services and roads. Illiteracy is still a curse for large masses of our population especially among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OPCs, minorities and rural women."

[Translation]

Despite all this lamentation about the situation of the country, no concrete programme has been chalked out to Combat all these problems. In the whole Address only a single mention has been made about the minorities and Scheduled Castes that the Government will look after their interests. No mention has been made in the Address about the minorities, Scheduled Castes and OBCs. Judicial reforms, electoral reforms, economy and Secularism have been mentioned in the Address. A mention has been made about keeping the cities clean. I am in dilemma over what to mention first and what to later on ?

"Jakham Koi Ek Nahin jism hai sara chhalni,
Dard bechara pareshan hai, kanhan se uthe?"

I start my speech with secularism which has been mentioned in the para 6. In that it has been mentioned that we have full faith in secularism. I have to say with great grief as to what is the definition of secularism. Which secularism is mentioned so frequently? Secularism is used according to one's convenience.

How many faces can be seen here? Yashwant Sinhaji has left this place. Once he used to sit here. When Babri Mosque was demolished, I had listened to his speech. I felt that Yashwant Sinha Sahib was giving expression to our feelings. How much pain was there in his words? Today, he is sitting with the same people who were responsible for demolishing Babri Mosque. Still, secularism is being talked about.

17.39 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. George Fernandes is not present here. He used to deliver long speeches about secularism and minorities.

Today, on the basis of a few reasons, he is sitting on that side. What kind of a secularism it is that when required, mention is made of that and when the opposit is required, not a single moment is wasted in opposing it. Those who are talking of secularism, have injured the sentiments of minorities in this democratic country and demolished the Babri mosque and today they have been saying that we will construct the temple at that site even while the case is pending before the Supreme Court. These are the people who have been talking about the 'Ram Rajya' for the past fifty years.

I was under the impression that a mention would be there in the President's Address about the steps to be taken in realisation of the dream of Ram Rajya. With due reverence, I would like to say that Lord Rama had relinquished Sitaji to satisfy a washerman. In this country

with a population of hundred crores, there are 17 crores of Muslims who become terrified and start trembling over seeing the faces of political leaders of treasury benches on T.V. Screen.

I came to know from the newspapers that a Member of the ruling party who has been living in Mumbai had said that if any decision was taken on Srikrishna Commission report then whole of Mumbai will be in flames. With due respect, I would like to ask the Members of the ruling party as to whether they have tried to verify the falsehood of the statement. Let it go, I accept that it is wrong. The statements published in the newspapers can be wrong. Hon'ble Home Minister is sitting here. Has he tried to ascertain about it? I remember that when last time an effort was made to create trouble in this country, the Minister of Home Affairs of this country of 100 crores went Mumbai to sort out the matters. I would like to ask him that. . .

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, not a single Muslim was touched there.

AN HON. MEMBER : Your Government can do no wrong. Minorities have been given protection under the constitution. No Government can either kill or burn them.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I do not want to create any controversy. I would like to submit with great respect that. . .

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the things which are said against BJP and Shiv Sena by referring the name of a particular Community, are against the parliamentary decorum.

MR. SPEAKER : You, please take your seat.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I know that you are in the majority, and we are in minority.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : This is not a question of majority. Other people too have been living in the country.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I will speak the truth, even then I will be defeated, they will tell lies and will render us answerless. I know this thing.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are unparliamentary words.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : I would like to submit that has it ever been asked as to what action will be taken by the Government in response to the implementation of Sri Krishna Commission report whether Mumbai or the whole of India will be set on fire? Whether there is no law in India.

Sir, after this I would like to speak on Kargil issue. I do not want to repeat what has already been said but I support whatever has been said here. With this I would surely like to say that in Kargil, the mothers have sacrificed the lives of their young sons to safeguard the frontiers of the country.

Many mothers on being asked about their reaction over the martyrdom of their only son, replied that if they had more sons, then would have happily sacrificed them also. I myself have heard that a BJP spokesperson has said during elections that Kargil issue will benefit our party. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : No spokesperson of BJP has said so. . . .(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Nobody has said so. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : You people have been saying frequently that we want to take advantage of Kargil. Nobody from our side has said about Kargil. You have raised this issue and are putting blame on us. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : You are not saying the right thing. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas Athawale, I have been observing that you are disturbing the House frequently. You are a Member of this House for the second term now. Please behave properly.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the dead body of a soldier arrives in the village from the border, the whole village pays its tributes to the son of the soil while the tears run down the cheeks of the mother. If the mother comes to know that politics is played on the sacrifice of her son, no mother will ever send her son in the army.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you conclude.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Lot of time is still left. I have just started. You should give us the same time as has been given to others and now other but I will speak from the BSP side. Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made to take advantage of the Kargil issue once again by mentioning it in the President's Address. By this they are trying to mislead the public of the country.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : In the President's Address, there is mention of victory of our army and he is saying that we have been taking advantage of it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Thirdly, I would like to say something about judicial reforms. The faith of the people on judiciary of this country is eroding. It is neither good for the country nor for the democracy of the country. I would urge the Members of the ruling party to listen my views carefully and should take this out of their mind that a Member of the Opposition has been speaking. I would like to say with utmost sincerity that unless the Judicial system of the country is improved, a poor man cannot get justice. I also practice law in the Supreme Court. In 1993, a case came up for hearing in the Supreme Court which was filed in 1863 in a district Court. It was an issue regarding dispute over 18 acres of land. After its hearings in 1993, the Judges of the Supreme Court opined that it should be heard in the High Court once again and sent it back to the Supreme Court. Here neither Shri Arun Jaitley nor Shri Ram Jethmalani is seated here. They know the truth and I do not want to say in the House and neither it will be proper to say as to what is going on in the judiciary at the lower level. But every Member of the House know it. My opinion is that the Government should discuss these reforms in very clear terms. By looking at the judgement of a political case in High Court or in Supreme Court, it can be easily ascertained as to whether the judge was appointed during Congress regime or during any other regime.

I would not say anything more on this. The political system appoints judges of High Court. It is the creation of the political people.

[English]

We are all human beings.

[Translation]

We all have weaknesses, whether we be the Members of Parliament or the Judges of the High Courts and the Supreme Court. They will have a softcorner for the political bosses who appoint them. I have a very clear opinion in this regard that there should be only one examination for judicial system, and these should exit only one judicial service. The person who get appointed Munsif at the lowest level and first class Magistrate, should be promoted to the Chief Justice of India and only he should get the promotion. If a person becomes the Chief Justice of India only on the basis of his merit, the strength of his education and the judgments delivered by him only, then the Justice can be delivered honestly. The justice is so costly in India that it takes a lakh of rupees for a single hearing in Supreme Court. A common man cannot think of going to the Supreme Court.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have taken 20 minutes. But your party has got 12 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Sir, I would only take 5 minutes more before I conclude. I am not saying anything irrelevant but speaking in the interest of the nation.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of speaking irrelevant. I have to give everyone a chance to speak.

SHRI RASHID ALVI : This is all what I wanted to say about judicial interest.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the third thing which was said here is about economic reforms. Just now, Shri Yashwant Sinha has said that the country left in economic instability by the previous Government and it has become very difficult for us to run the affairs of the country. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read all the speeches delivered by the various Finance Ministers during the past 50 years and I have read all of them and whenever Government has changed every new Finance Minister in his speech has mentioned this in the very first paragraph that earlier Government has left the Finances in bad condition. This has made very difficult for us to move forward, it is not possible. . . . (Interruptions) This makes the position even worse. I want to say that by increasing the prices of diesel, the position of the economy will not improve. On the one hand you are saying that poverty is increasing in this country, in para 20 you are saying that the condition of this country is bad, there is no education in this country and people are dying due to starvation. And on the other hand you are increasing the prices of diesel arbitrarily. When results of election were going to be announced the next day, the way which you increased the prices of diesel makes it clear that intention of the Government is not good. Government does not want to do any work honestly. If you had increased the prices of diesel before election or before polling, than the people of the country would have decided whether the decision was correct or not. You thought that election results were going to be declared the next day, the people will be busy in counting and, therefore, the impact of hike in diesel prices would be over shadowed in the election results.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say fourth and last thing about the electoral reforms. I am going to tell you now to what extent the intention of the Government is clear about electoral reforms. B.J.P. candidate was opposing me in the constituency from which I have been elected. There was not a single police station in the constituency where station incharge was not of the caste to which the BJP candidate belonged. I want to ask whether sincerity of such a party can be relief in the matter of electoral reforms? How is it possible that incharge of every police station belonged to the particular caste to which the BJP candidate belonged? They have used all types of forces such as RSS against our leader Kumari Mayawati. Whole

administration, Government was against her and they wanted that she should be defeated. They do not want that a scheduled caste girl born and brought up in a poor family should win election.

In the end I would like to tell the members of the treasury benches that we want to run this House smoothly. Our party B.S.P. has never disturbed the proceedings of the House. We want to co-operate. But I want to request you, that when our leader speaks you must listen to her quietly. If you create disorder in this House then we will also create disorder, if you help in smooth functioning of the House we will also do likewise. We will do as you do.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I deem it a privilege and I am happy to participate in this Motion of Thanks to be adopted and submitted to the President.

I went through the Address presented by the President to this august House. In para 3 of the Address, the hon. President has started saying, 'We the people of India'. I would like to stress on this point that the Constitution of India was adopted on 26th November 1949 saying :

"We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens: Justice, social, economic and political; Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; Equality of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation."

This was adopted on 26.11.1949. It was not ratified in the Convention as that of the United States. Members of Constituent Assembly, including Dr. Ambedkar, had drafted this Constitution of suit the purpose of the time in 1949. This is being followed for the last fifty years. As the President has said, it needs review.

Much water has flown for the last fifty years and the President in para 27 has stated that :

"Government will institute effective measures to eliminate chronic delays in the dispensation of justice, . . . to attract the best talent of the Bench."

I would like to draw the attention of the House about the judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court in 1998, wherein they have completely taken out the Executive Consultative Process in the appointment of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court.

Now, the Executive has no role to play in the matter of recommendation or in the matter of appointment of

Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court. Only the Chief Justice of India has the primacy in the recommendation of appointment of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court to the President. Only a collegium consisting of Chief Justice of India with four seniormost Judges of the Supreme Court to recommend and appoint the Judges of Supreme Court and a collegium consisting of the Chief Justice of India with two seniormost Judges of the High Court could recommend the High Court Judges' appointment to the President.

As such, the President or the Executive need not be consulted at all. How are they going to attract the best talent to the Bench ? It is up to the Chief Justice of India. This Parliamentary Executive has lost its sovereignty in recommending or in opposing the judgement.

About a few years back in 1993, a similar judgement was passed by the Supreme Court in Advocate on Records Association Case, wherein they have said, 'If an Executive has got anything to say or to oppose they can come and oppose in the Supreme Court'. But nobody has opposed. So, article 124 now lies in the hands of the Supreme Court. This House or the President or the Prime Minister or the Home Minister has no role to play. They have surrendered their powers to the Supreme Court in the matter of appointment by virtue of this judgement.

I would like to say that the Chief Justice of India will be assisted by his seniormost judges to assess the merit of the candidate. They have also said merit should be the predominant consideration in the appointment of judges.

18.00 hrs.

Now we talk about the Mandal Commission; we talk about the representation of the Scheduled Castes. This judgement has taken out all your rights. Merit alone can be considered in the matter of appointment of the judgements of the Supreme Court. Now, there is no Scheduled Caste judge in the Supreme Court because of this judgement. It was not brought to the notice of this House and it was not stoutly opposed by any Member of Parliament on the floor of the House immediately after this judgment was delivered last year. Last year I was not in this House. Sir, this judgement needs a review. If the Government is interested in protecting the interest of the backward classes and the Scheduled Castes in the matter of appointment of judges in the High Court and the Supreme Court, it needs review.

Then, paragraph 41 of the President's Address says:

"The canker of corruption is eating into every institution of our nation. Government is determined to ensure probity in public life. . . ."

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

I think, the Minister of Home Affairs will be knowing about the judgment in regard to the *hawala* case passed on 18th December 1997. For the last one year this judgement had not been weighed by the Government. It was not appraised, it was not assessed, it was not examined at all. In that judgement, the Supreme Court had set seven principles of public life. One is selflessness. The holders of public office should take a decision solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefit for themselves, their family or their friends. The other principles are: integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness and honesty.

I would like to stress another point. In the very same judgement, it was mentioned that the Central Government should appoint immediately the Central Vigilance Commissioner to recommend the appointment of the CBI Director or the Director of Enforcement. This judgement was not at all looked into. So, I would like to say that this Government, for the last 13 months—whether they were functioning under the Government of laws or of men—had not looked at this judgement. These matters should have been placed before the House. Then only, public at large would have been benefited.

As far as untouchability is concerned, the Members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and also backward classes raised the issue that the practice of atrocities on Harijans is wide in the villages. Under article 17, as early as in 1950, untouchability was abolished but in practice, it is being followed. Untouchability was abolished under article 17 but it is being practised.

Now, in a Cabinet form of Government, the Parliamentary Executive has to assist the President in the matter of running the administration. All the Orders and Instruments are issued in the name of the President. Under clause 3 of article 75, it is a collective responsibility. The delay in disposal of cases leads to injustice. Travelling from Kanyakumari to Delhi for a poor litigant would also defeat justice. Under article 130, the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in other places as the President may from time to time determine.

I urge before this Lok Sabha to consider this. The Home Minister is here. Let him recommend to the President to establish a Bench of the Supreme Court in the South, either in Bangalore or in Chennai, to have an easy access to the Supreme Court. Why should a poor litigant travel from Kanayakumari to Delhi to get a small Stay Order or to enter a caveat or a bail application. For the last 13 months, whether the Government acted in accordance with the Constitution or under the law is in question. When I cited these two judgements, I would like to remind about

the oath taken by the Ministers. They take oath as "I will discharge my duties without fear or favour or affection or ill-will. I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established." But as far as the judge is concerned, the oath will be "I will uphold the Constitution and the Law." It is an addition. Did you see that they upheld article 270? Did you see that they upheld article 124, upholding constitutional laws while passing these judgements? It is for the President to see that he defends the law and the Constitution. He has to see whether the judge defended the law, whether he defended the Constitution.

So, apart from these two judgements, in 1975, in the St. Xavier College's case, minorities' rights were protected. A nine-Member Bench had passed a judgement promising guarantee for minorities. Are these judgements being followed by the courts, by different High Courts? No, each High Court is passing orders in a different way. The nine-Member Bench judgement needs review. Once it was sought to be reviewed. It was posted before one Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. He retired. Then it came to Justice Anand. For some reason or the other, it is being delayed. The judgement of the nine-Member Bench needs review. You have a law officer, Attorney-General, Solicitor-General and an Additional Solicitor-General. In addition to that, you have an Additional Solicitor-General as a Minister. So, at least now, you take up these issues before the Supreme Court to protect the interests of the common man. Otherwise, the common man will lose faith in Parliament. This Parliament is a mirror reflecting the aspirations of the people. It is supreme.

The Supreme Court had once held that Constitution is supreme. Parliament is supreme. With folded hands, you were elected; with folded hands, you got votes; and you are in this Parliament now. I would like to stress the theory of sovereignty. . . . (Interruptions) In five minutes' time, I will conclude. There is nothing personal. It is only on theory.

MR. SPEAKER : You have already taken 12 minutes. The time allowed to your party is eight minutes.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : We are 10 Members. It includes 69 lakh votes from Tamil Nadu. No other Member is speaking.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other Parties also which have more Members than your Party.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : We have got 69 lakh votes.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I would like to stress Austin's theory of sovereignty. "If a determinate human superior — that is the Government — "not in the habit of obedience to a like superior" — you are not obeying anybody —

"receive habitual obedience from the bulk of the society" — the entire people of India — "is sovereign of that society." So, this sovereignty should not on any account be compromised. The people's sovereignty resides with Parliament. People's sovereignty does not reside with the Executive. You may be a parliamentary executive but under the parliamentary control. So, I would like to stress that the Home Minister will take up all these issues before the Supreme Court to settle all the problems of common man. I have cited these judgements. I think you are also aware.

Let me come to the appointment of the Central Vigilance Commissioner. The President has made a reference in paragraph 41 itself. The Bill is to be introduced. It has already been introduced. It should have been introduced last year itself. For the last one year, how did the CBI function? The CBI is a powerful weapon in the hands of the ruling party.

I would once again state that at one instance the Prime Minister said: 'I will ask all the Ministers to declare their assets before the House.' Was it done on the last occasion? It was not done by all the Ministers. It was not published. It is not for your consumption. I have a right to know about my Ministers; you have a right to know about your Ministers; and the people of India should have a right to know about the assets of every Minister. So, at this juncture, I would stress that the Government should direct their Ministers to do so in accordance with the law.

Lastly, to enforce the fundamental right, one has to come to Delhi. That is why, I asked for a Bench of the Supreme Court in the southern part of India either in Bangalore or in Chennai. In the meantime, Parliament has another power. Article 32(1) provides for it. Article 32 clause (iii) provides that Parliament may, by law, empower any other court. Parliament can empower even a munsif's court or a district court to exercise within the local limits of jurisdiction all or any of the powers exercisable by the Supreme Court. But for the last 50 years it was not done. At least for a *habeas corpus* case why should a man come from Kanyakumari to Delhi? Article 32 clause (iii) provides for that. This is an important Bill. So, the Government can bring a Constitution Amendment Bill immediately to amend article 32 clause (iii) to empower the local courts to exercise the jurisdiction.

Again, if the power of the Opposition parties is taken away by removing the No-Confidence clause in the rules, then there cannot be any democracy. Now, you have come to the House with so many parties. You have not obtained any Confidence Vote and you are sitting here. You are not able to move confidence vote immediately because the procedure does not provide for it. The No-Confidence Motion is the privilege of the Opposition parties to exercise their rights to bring to the House the lapses of the

Government at least in every six months. So, in that way, it will amount to silence the Opposition parties. If the Confidence Motion is there, then the Government can be there. The Opposition parties have to be at the mercy of the Government or somebody else.

Then, I come to a fixed term of five years. The Constitution provides 'Parliament until or sooner dissolved shall continue for five years'. So, there is a clause 'until or sooner dissolved'. If there is a provision for right to recall and if it is introduced, then you can have a definite term of five years. Otherwise, the Government cannot be questioned, M.Ps cannot be questioned and people will be in peril. So, in that way, Parliament need not amend the fixed term of five years.

Then, I charge the Government for having brought the Insurance Bill on a priority basis. They have not done anything for the people. Today morning, we consumed more time. Yesterday, we consumed more time for multinational companies. Are they our voters? Are they our electorate? We are fighting here. The Government is also fighting with the Opposition parties to support the multinational companies.

This Bill could have been brought in the next Session. They have not brought any other Bill. The electoral mandate for the Lok Sabha in 1999 is for fulfilling the immediate concerns of the people, not for multinationals. The IRDA Bill is a blatant and sincere attempt to allow the entry of multinationals in our country. It will spoil our country's economy.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I shall finish in one minute, Sir. I do not want to put you in an embarrassing position.

Then, Sir, I charge the Government for the lapses when they were in power during the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The UTI prices were raised, steel prices were hiked over and above the international prices. The Finance Minister should know. All these things I learnt from the newspapers.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Your party also was in the Government.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I was not a Member at that time, otherwise I would have had the first-hand knowledge here. What did they do with this hike? Was there any kickback? Why should the UTI prices be raised? What about Maruti, taken over by Suzuki? Who is behind this? Who is cementing the whole country? The Southern States are being cemented. Who is cementing them? There cannot be any cementing in politics. There is a cementing in Andhra, there is a cementing in Tamil Nadu, there is a cementing in Kerala. This sort of cementing cannot be done in the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Pandiyan, please try to understand. There are other Members also to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I am concluding, Sir.

As far as the Kargil war is concerned, I salute the martyrs on behalf of our party.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Not the Government!

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : I shall come to that. If the Prime Minister or the Home Minister or the External Affairs Minister or the Defence Minister are Generals, I will salute them. But they are M.Ps. Because of them the Kargil war was declared unofficially. You must know that. Did they conquer any territory? They were trying to regain the territory. They allowed the Pakistanis to infiltrate. They slept for ten months. They did not bother about the military intelligence. They did not work for the people. They did not work for the country. They worked for the party. After having entered this House, they must work for the country. In the Lobby they may work for the Party, but in the House they must work for the country. Had they worked for the country, had they been vigilant, the Kargil war would not have been declared unofficially.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record now.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN : Thank you, Sir.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the time I am standing to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, the coastal Orissa has been completely devastated by the worst cyclone of this millennium and my constituency is perhaps the worst affected. The plane could not land in Bhubaneswar today. At this time I feel quite disturbed. But when I am going to speak on this Motion of Thanks. I shall not take much time of the House. I shall confine myself to one area. I have been inspired and influenced by paras 48 and 4 of the President's Address.

In para 48 of his Address, the President says :

"The people who have elected you have high expectations from all of you".

I am sure both the bureaucratic and political Government would be quite responsive to the responsibilities of the Members in discharging their duties towards the people of their constituencies, of the State which they represent in this House.

Secondly, in para 4 of his Address the President has quoted Gandhiji :

"I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice."

Sir, even after 52 years of our Independence and 50 years of our Republic and after Nine Five-Year Plans, poverty has not yet been eradicated. When Shri Joshi was speaking, Shri Shukla has said that poverty has been reduced and he was asking about question of the percentage. Yes, the percentage has been reduced. But what about the absolute numbers? The absolute numbers have increased. Poverty has not only increased but the very concept of poverty and the methodology to measure poverty is defective. The methodology by which we decide people below the poverty line is defective. I request the Government to re-define poverty and also see that the methodology by which the measurement of poverty is being done is changed. These two things are defective. We always quote that so many people are below the poverty line or so much percentage of people are below the poverty line in so and so State etc. My request is that these two things should be studied and re-defined and the methodology should be corrected.

My point is that the eradication of poverty will only be possible when regional disparities are removed. There is no reference of removal of regional disparities in the President's Address. I harp on that point only. In the past 50 or 52 years of governance, for 45 years, the country was under the rule of the Congress Party and the regional disparities have not been lessened but they are growing. There is only one thing I want to say. There are States which are becoming poorer and poorer year after year. Orissa represents one such backward State.

The paradox is that the State of Orissa languishes in the whirlpool of abject poverty in the midst of abundant natural resources with 98 per cent of country's chromite, 88 per cent of nickel ore, 70 per cent of bauxite, 33 per cent of graphite, 31 per cent of rare-earth, 28 per cent of manganese, 25 per cent of iron ore and 24 per cent of coal with 56,000 square kilometres of forests, 450 kilometres of coasting and 10 per cent of the water resources of the country for five per cent of land area and four per cent of the human resources of the nation. These puzzle many. With such abundant natural resources the State of Orissa is languishing in abject poverty. Sir, the President has quoted Gandhiji's dream of future of India.

Gandhiji had visited Orissa in 1921 and after visiting Orissa, he had written :

"The picture of the crowd of the men, women and children in their fleshless bones under the very shadow of Jagannath haunts me. I invite the sceptics

to visit Orissa, penetrate its villages and find out for themselves where India stands. Orissa is the epitome of India's poverty."

Nearly 80 years after Gandhiji visited and wrote, things have not changed. People are dying of starvation, parents are selling their children to save themselves from hunger.

As far back as in 1912, Lord Curzon had rightly said – I would request the hon. Home Minister to pay attention – in the House of Lords :

"Had people of Orissa been an agitating class which they are not, the demands would be long heard."

Till date, the people of Orissa are really not an agitating class and their demands have not been heard.

Sir, I feel that in independent India, principles so devised, plans so designed, finances so devolved, resources so transferred, Constitution so framed, laws thereunder so enacted and administration so-behaved, have helped the rich regions grow richer and the poor region, poor States poorer. After 52 years of Independence, Orissa's relative position among the body polity of nation is alarming and disastrous. More than 50 per cent of its population is illiterate. The infant death per 1,000 births is more than 100, being the highest in the country. In Orissa, only 30 per cent of the net sown area is irrigated and 22 kilograms of fertilizer is being used per hectare of cultivated land, being the lowest among the States. The foodgrains production per hectare is only 10.42 quintals which is one of the lowest among the States. The per capita consumption of electricity per annum is only 226 Kilo Watt Hour, thus revealing a very low quality of life. Seventy per cent of the villages of the State are yet to be electrified whereas many States have achieved one hundred per cent electrification of their villages since long. Railway route length is only 13 kilometres per 1,000 square kilometres of area, being the lowest among the non-special category States. Only 10 per cent of the roads are surfaced and among eight major ports, Paradeep port's shipping cargo handling is the lowest.

Sir, at the time of framing of the Constitution, in the Constituent Assembly, Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru had emphatically said :

"If federation means anything, it means that there should be a transfer of wealth from the richer to the poorer provinces. Just the very concept of social welfare implies that there should be transfer of wealth from richer to the poorer people. So, the concept of federation, the concept of national solidarity implies that the richer provinces should part with a portion of

what may be in strict theory be due to them, for the benefit to raise the less developed provinces to the level of more fortunate provinces. It will not even be possible to guarantee that the social services in the less developed provinces will reach a minimum standard."

He further added :

"Provinces like Assam, Orissa, Bihar and C.P. (now Madhya Pradesh) which are starved for want of funds and whose condition is as to extort sympathy of all fair-minded people, would remain forever in the backward condition that they occupy now."

The words were no doubt prophetic. The conditions of Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have not undergone any change for better during the last 52 years.

Now, I come to the debt position of some of the poorer, backward States. The debt burden of Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has reached such a stage that more than 70 per cent of their own revenue has been spent on payment of interest and repayment of loan. They are now taking loan to repay their earlier debts. Under article 293 of the Constitution of India, no State can take loan of even one rupee from whatsoever source, without the consent of the Central Government.

This is the position. The decision of the Central Government for Plan assistance to States with 70 per cent loan and 30 per cent grant has pushed these backward States into a debt trap. The Central Government, under the able leadership of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, must help make a deep study of the regions of persistent backwardness with rich natural resources, and find out remedies to bring them at par with at least the national average within a period of five years. We have lost fifty-two years; now, within five years, we want that these backward States, with rich natural resources, should be brought at par with the national average at least. No serious thinking has been done during the last 50 years of Independence, despite the fact that we have been following a centralised planning.

Sir, a reference to Sarkaria Commission has been made in the hon. President's Address. According to the Sarkaria Commission, royalty on minerals, coal and oils should be revised every two years positively. More than five years have lapsed, since the last revision of royalty on coal. No upward revision has yet been done, and a State like Orissa is starving for finance and incurring heavy overdrafts to meet the day-to-day routine expenditure. So, an upward revision of royalty with proper perspective should be done quickly. I request the Government, through you, that for proper federal harmony, the backward States

[Shri Trilochan Kanungo]

which have the potential to develop should be looked after seriously and sincerely, with a time-bound programme to remove regional disparities.

I do not want to take much of your time. I am of the opinion and I am convinced (it is a fact) that if we want to eradicate poverty, the first step is to remove regional disparities. It has not yet been attended to. My request, therefore, to the Government is that all attempts, all efforts, should be made to remove regional imbalances or regional disparities in socio-economic, infrastructural and educational fields. If this is not done, I tell you that there will not be any federal harmony. My request, therefore, is that attention should be paid to it. I am sorry to tell you that no reference has been made in the President's Address in this regard.

I belong to Biju Janata Dal, I am a new Member and this is my maiden speech. I am thankful to you for having given me the time to express myself. I have heard the Finance Minister, when he was replying, with rapt attention, but there was no reference to regional disparities and as to what are his programmes. I am sure, the hon. Home Minister, while replying, will make a definite reference to it; he will give a definite answer as to how or in what way the Government is going to remove the regional disparities, and that is a must. As a partner of the Government, I can only say that this is the demand of the three-and-a-half crore people of Orissa, who are starving and selling their children to meet their daily needs. This is the condition there. I am sure, it will be properly looked after. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to crave your indulgence. I did not want to interrupt the hon. Member, who was my President in my college and also because it was his maiden speech. We had just received a very distressing news that one of the super-cyclones of the scale of T-70 has hit Bhubaneswar.

Sir, we are unable to get through to Bhubaneswar because everything has collapsed there. Even the radar at Paradeep of the Indian Metrological Department has collapsed. Now, the hon. Home Minister is here and we would like to request him, through you, Sir, if we could get some information about it because the entire State of Orissa is now facing a 240 kilometer super-cyclone which has never occurred in India before.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, earlier Shri Madhavrao Scindiaji had drawn attention to this fact and now an hon. Member from Orissa, a senior Member, also has drawn attention to this fact. We have been in touch and whatever information we have is

becoming delayed and out-timed. Sometime back I was told that all the nine districts of Orissa have been affected by this cyclone. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Sir, the cyclone has touched Orissa today only. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Everything has broken down. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : As Prime Minister is not well today we have just decided that the Minister of Defence and myself will go there tomorrow early in the morning and whatever help is possible would be provided there. Till now Shri George Fermanades himself is supervising that. Army would provide whatever help is possible, they are already engaged in this task. By the time the House adjourns something would be done in this regard.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, now the Cabinet Secretary is chairing a meeting and if the hon. Home Minister could share some information about it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I have given whatever information I had. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, we are getting very distressing signals from all over Orissa. The hon. Minister is here. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has communicated to you whatever information he had.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, now the Cabinet Secretary is chairing a meeting. The hon. Home Minister is in a position to give us some information. . . .(Interruptions) Sir, it is a question of sufferings and miseries of the people. . . .(Interruptions) It is not an ordinary matter. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is also taking it seriously.

Now, Smt. Kanti Singh.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave to my party.

Giving due respect to the President's Address I would like to say that the President's Address was in short an outline of the work which Government did and the work

which Government want to undertake in future. They have woven fine web of words. I think they are trying to mislead the people by making false promises. The reason is that in our country there are crores of people who are oppressed and deprived. For such people there should have been some programme but no scheme was formulated for them. They have merely touched the programme so that their attention is diverted and they remain in a world of dreams.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the President's Address this Government has given information about the works done by the Government in 13 months and its future programmes. Further, it has been stated that the Government will run for five years. But the oppressed and down trodden people are suspicious about the intention of the Government. The reason for this is that in the last 13 months, prices have increased to such an extent that it has become difficult to make both ends meet even for the middle class people leave alone poor people. We have just returned from the elections where we had the opportunity of visiting the localities of poor people. We repeatedly hear complaints, though in a hushed tone, about rising prices. How poor people, farmers and labourers can feed their families in such a situation ?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in para 4 they have mentioned about India of Gandhi's dreams. But there is no mention of the last man of Gandhi's dreams, who is eager to walk on the path of development and tries to move forward, but he does not know who will work as torch bearer for him. No time bound programme has been formulated for him. Gandhi had said that people of all communities will work together and every poor will feel that he too is contributing in the country's development. But today no one has tried to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. Rich people are living luxurious life whereas poor people are compelled to live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today our country is passing through a very delicate phase. The work relating to the economic development of the country, security of the country's borders and making a place for itself in the world, can be possible only if all people work unitedly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in para 36 of President's Address, there is a mention about cordial relations between the Centre and the State Governments. But there is a big difference between what they preach and practise. I am saying so because our Bihar is a big State. Water released every year from Nepal flows into Kosi, Gandak and Kamla rivers as a result of which North-Bihar is affected by floods two three times in a year. A mention about it was made yesterday also but nothing has been done to check the floods even after 50 years of independence. Every year

flood washes away all the development works that have been undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have abundant mineral wealth but no increase has been made in the payment of royalty. I was also a Minister here and I took the matter of royalty on coal to the Cabinet as the royalty should be paid advalorem. But till now no action has been taken in this regard and the royalty is paid on the basis of weight only.

18.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Bihar's financial resources help in country's development whereas Bihar's own development remains unattended. The Centre wants that we should help in maintaining cordial relations between the Centre and the States. If Centre wants that we should cooperate with them, they should give us our due right. If we get our right then only we will provide help for the country or society. But if they want to oppress us and do not take decisions in regard to Bihar, then, of course, we will not extend any cooperation. Opposition is there only to check the Government from wrong acts; it is like a sword hanging above their heads.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, during elections Bihar was given a bad name; it was said that ballot boxes were being manufactured there and ballot papers were also being printed in the State. An attempt was made to humiliate Bihar in the entire country.

I want to know as to why the Bihar State is humiliated in such a manner ? Did not Bihar have any participation in Kargil's war or hadn't people of Bihar participated in getting Independence ? Are not the talented persons of our State working as officers throughout the country ? Then why such type of conspiracy is hatched to humiliate Bihar State ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Chief Minister of Bihar is today a backward caste woman who was elected constitutionally. But the Central Government wants to humiliate our Government by saying again and again that there is mafia raj, jungle raj etc., in the State. Does this show that we should create cordial atmosphere and become 'yes man' in all their decision. Besides all of us want reforms in electoral process. Today when we have come to this House after passing through the phase of elections, I would like to tell the situation which develops in villages at the time of elections. Poor people of villages are not able to reach election booths. Will the Government evolve any rule or programme to ensure that poor people reach the election booths. Today we say that Babasaheb Ambedkar has given us the power by bestowing in us the right to vote. But today poor people remain deprived of their voting rights.

[Shrimati Kanti Singh]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, about Kargil war our colleagues have spoken in detail. But I want to say that today our national security is facing several challenges. After 27 years of Shimla Agreement of 1972 Pakistan has intruded into India's border. For so many years Pakistan was not able to take courage to intrude into our borders. But Pakistan intruded about thirty kilometers into our border. . . . (Interruptions) Infiltrators were allowed to enter in our borders and our Himalayas which act as our security cordon were attacked.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to say about Bihar that the soldiers who laid down their lives in Kargil for country's pride and security, included some soldiers from our State and their bodies had come to our State for last rites. We had met their families and come to know that these jawans were not from well to do homes. These soldiers were members of poor families, families who even were not able to feed their families properly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : I salute the soldiers who laid down their lives in Kargil and I also want to thank the soldiers and their officers for the victory achieved by them. Besides I want to say about those unsung heroes who sacrificed their lives in the war of country's independence; today no one is there to take care of their families or to see the condition in which they are living. Today they do not have the courage to say that they participated in the war of independence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Kanti Singh please conclude now.

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of reservation for women is concerned, women are shown alluring dreams of 33 per cent reservation by saying that even poor women will become Members of Parliament. We are only offered alluring dreams and from our fifty per cent population they manage to get votes. Arrangement for providing reservation to women is never made either by the opposition or by any other party. They do not want that women should get reservation. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want that women should get reservation and provisions of reservation should also be made for women belonging to OBC, SCs and STs. Besides giving reservation to women I also want to draw your attention towards women belonging to rural areas. . . . (Interruptions)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the basic necessities of rural women should be fulfilled because in rural areas 50% women sit by the roadside to answer the call of the nature

and cover their face if a vehicle passes with its headlight on in the night. Such is the position in our country. In rural areas women work as labourers and sustain their families on the wages which are given to them. So far, no programme has been implemented for their upliftment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our Government has said that 20 lakh houses will be constructed but I would like to know whether only 20 lakh houses are required in our country ? In our country crores of people are such who do not have any shelter even today and they are compelled to live under the trees. Whereas on the one hand in winter we use heaters to keep our houses warm on the other hand homeless people in villages are compelled to live under the trees in severe cold. Therefore, I would like to tell the Government that arrangement should be made to see that development of poor people is done properly and they get adequate facilities for their livelihood. Such arrangement should be made so that they can get food, cloth and shelter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention one thing in this House. Everybody says that all should get social justice and there should be communal harmony in the country. Pope John Paul, the religious head of Christians is visiting our country but the activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad organised a procession in protest in Jhabua district as a result of which Christian people or tribal people have become panicky and apprehensive. Everyone knows what is happening in our country. We can take the example of Orissa. Injustice was metted out to several Nuns there and Christians were killed. Entire House knows these things.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, finally, I would like to say that plea of this Government, which is saying that it has got the mandate for stability is not correct. The parties and persons who used to misled the people in the name of stability have joined the Government and now they talk about stability. All these 23-24 parties who have joined this Government cannot provide stability because even today their members are craving to become Ministers. Even their party members are angry with them. They plead that the senior members of our own party have not been assigned with ministerial berth where as ministerial berth has been given to the members of alliance parties. We cannot expect stability from the people of such parties whose intentions are not good. Therefore, I would like to say that this Government cannot last long. The members of these parties have bad intentions towards this Government and their longing to become Minister will not allow this Government to last for long. Their Government cannot last for five years. This Government cannot provide stability. If this Government runs for five years, then it is sure that no leader of the ruling alliance would go to the door of a poor

man and when no leader would approach poor people and listen to their grievances, then how these would be redressed. Therefore, I want that elections should be held every year so that leaders approach poor people and their hardships are mitigated and grievances redressed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. With these words, I conclude my speech.

18.54 hrs.

RE: FOREIGN EXCHANGE MANAGEMENT
BILL

(English)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Today's business was up to the motion of thanks on the President's Address. With that, the business will be over. When we discussed in the BAC yesterday, we said we would cooperate to pass all the Bills that were introduced earlier. Now at 5.55 p.m. only five minutes before the normal rise of the House at 6 o'clock, some additional and supplementary list of business, this FEMA Bill, which is one of the significant and important economic legislations, has been circulated.

Sir, it is not fair to sneak in business in this manner, in the last minute, without consulting the Parties. I strongly object to this. No other business should be taken up today except the Motion of Thanks. This is not the way. They have circulated the Bill just five minutes before the normal rising of the House and we are taken aback. . . .*(Interruptions)* This is not fair. The hon. Minister can introduce the Bill in the next Session. This is not the way, to sneak in business five minutes before the rising of the House by putting it on the Table. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, this is an important Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Why was it not circulated earlier? . . .*(Interruptions)* It was decided on 21.10.1999 to introduce the Foreign Exchange Management Bill but it has not been circulated earlier. . . .*(Interruptions)* If that is so, we are deprived of getting the Bill introduced earlier. We are deprived of studying it. We submit that in no way should it be allowed to be introduced. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, this Bill should not be allowed to be introduced. The House should not be treated like this. . . .*(Interruptions)* This is an important Bill. They have circulated it only now, without any prior information, and they want to introduce it immediately. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : This has been treated in a very casual manner. This is a very important legislation. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, an important Bill like the Foreign Exchange Management Bill is being introduced just five minutes before the House rises. . . .*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Sir, we are taken for a ride. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Since the hon. Speaker has agreed to waive the Direction 19-B, I think, he can be allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : This is an important Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : How can you introduce a Bill like this? It was circulated only at 5.55 p.m. and six o'clock is the normal rising time of the House. . . .*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, it is not at all the intention of the Government to do anything in a non-transparent manner and sneak business into this House. That is not our intention. . . .*(Interruptions)*

There were certain procedural delays. It was the demand of various sections of this House that the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill and the Foreign Exchange Management Bill should be taken up together and that was why this was included in the Supplementary List of Business when the procedures were completed. I will leave the judgment entirely to the hon. Chair to decide in what manner you want to dispose this matter.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Why do you want to bring in the hon. Chair in this matter? Why do you not withdraw it?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : That is because the Supplementary List of Business has been circulated.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You can withdraw it now. You can put it off to the next Session.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am saying on behalf of the Government that we have no objection to it. We can introduce it in the next Session but we are doing it now because there was a demand that the two Bills should be taken up together.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Who demanded it? There was no such demand.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : This Bill can be taken up in the next Session. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let me inform the hon. House. Since it is in the Supplementary List of Business and since the hon. Speaker has waived the Direction 19-B, this Bill can be introduced.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is not proper. How as Opposition Parties will we get the time to properly scrutinise the Bill and raise our objections? This is not a minor Bill. This is a very important Bill. . . .(Interruptions) We have not been taken into confidence. We have not been consulted. The Opposition Parties have not been called. . . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : In deference to the wishes of the House, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to introduce it in the next Session.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Very good.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then, the matter is closed.

19.00 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Palanimanickam. You may be brief. We will have to rush.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur) : I will conclude within my limited time of ten minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party, the DMK, on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I thank my leader Dr. Kalaignar and my voters of Thanjavur Constituency for this opportunity.

I thank the people of India who have given a clear-cut and decisive mandate for the NDA. It is a tribute to the Indian people - their heads are held high. It is here that we must appreciate one billion countrymen of ours for the peaceful election. People accept that "NDA is new; NDA is the future and NDA is the broad-based movement for progress and justice." We are proud that NDA is representing both the national interests and the regional aspirations. After all, NDA is nothing but the mirror image of our nation's unity in multifaceted diversity, rich pluralism and federalism. This is a Government which is representing

people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and from Maharashtra to Arunachal Pradesh.

There has always been freedom of thought in this country. The days of monolithic parties ruling the country are over and now it is the era of coalition Government. It is better to form a Government with different parties than having a Government by one party with its Members putting in different directions. The coalition Government has come of age and it has come to stay here.

It is not the intention to hurt the feelings of anybody, but at the same time, I will be failing in my duty if I do not recall the fact that the age-old national party could not come to any conclusion as to whether to have a coalition Government or not and it has become a debating subject for its members. The people of our country have rejected the selfish personal agenda of those who instigated others to topple. All the national parties have become regional parties because they are not representing all the States.

NDA has come to power to honour the sentiments of the minorities and weaker sections. The minorities have clearly understood and accepted us and voted for us.

The long interval between the dissolution of the last Lok Sabha and the elections for the 13th Lok Sabha which has witnessed a grave and a serious challenge to our national security is over now. The armed aggression in Kargil by Pakistan was decisively foiled by our brave jawans, the airmen, the officers and the people of that area. We bow our heads before them. Pakistan has suffered a double defeat - defeat both on the war front and on the diplomatic front. Our Government gave a package of assistance for the welfare of our brave soldiers' families who laid down their lives and also for those soldiers who were invalidated or incapacitated due to injuries.

Our Government is committed to harmonious Centre-State relations which are fundamental to a healthy federal polity and to achieve a balanced socio-economic development. Now, the dreams of our late leader Anna and our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar have come true.

If the percentage of reservation for SCs, STs or OBCs exceeds 50 per cent in some States, it will be sanctified through legislative measures. But the first State to reserve more than 50 per cent for these categories is Tamil Nadu. It reserved 69 per cent for these categories under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar.

Our Government is keen on taking time-bound steps to link Ganga with Cauvery. On behalf of our farmers, I urge upon our Government to take steps to link all the Southern rivers initially.

Our commitment to the nation will be clear if all the 19 languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the

Constitution are made official languages, in order to honour the sentiments of all the people.

The President's Address mentions that more importance would be given to agriculture and agro-based small industries, creation of employment opportunities, assurance of health care, clean and potable drinking water even to the remote villages, female literacy, primary education, and a massive 'Shelter for all' programme to make India proud and prosperous.

We are giving more importance to reforms. Reforms means less inflation and more expenditure for primary schools, hospitals and shelters as it is done in China

Sir, with these words I support the Motion moved by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the President's Address.

When we look at the issues mentioned in the President's Address, we observe that even after 50 years of Independence, we have not progressed as was expected. I know that in our social system poor people are not getting their due share. We have failed in fulfilling our claim of their progress. We observe that the congress remained in power since independence. It was in power for almost 45 years. Even they had also promised this. They had also mentioned similar economic policies in various speeches and various programmes. But today when we look at the situation, we find that the rural populace of the nation have not progressed as per our expectations.

According to R.S.P., there is no difference between the Congress Government and the Government of BJP and their alliance partners. Both are two faces of the same coin. In the President's Address many policies have been mentioned but I don't think that the people belonging to SCs and STs will be benefited. I am very happy that the time limit of reservation which is at present 10 years has been extended. I would like to thank every member of this House for this. But in reality even today, there is no potable water available to several villages and the farmers, who helped us in bringing green revolution, were struggling hard for two square meals.

Therefore, I request the Government to implement those policies and programme, which have been mentioned in President's Address in a proper manner. As has been said today, the people of Orissa including Bhubaneshwar are facing natural calamities. There is no mention of steps proposed to be taken to tackle the menace of natural calamities in the President's Address.

If we want to overcome the disaster caused by natural calamities particularly flood and cyclone due to which our industries gets affected, condition of poor people becomes pitiable, houses get ruined and cultivable land is rendered unfit for cultivation, we should formulate a master plan for this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that a master plan should be prepared so that we can face these natural calamities in a proper manner. Besides, there are many other reasons also. Further, we should hold talks with Nepal and Bhutan and then we all three nations, should set up a joint river commission. This commission will help in finding out reasons responsible for this destruction. I request the Government to take some measures so that these natural calamities could be tackled in a proper manner. New Ministers have been included in the cabinet. One new portfolio should be created for this purpose so that natural calamity could be tackled properly.

The allied organisations of the ruling party, the Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad are opposing the arrival of Pope John Paul II, who is a Head of the State. We regret it and we want that such steps should be taken by the Government as to arrange proper welcome for the pope. The people who have been opposing his visit should not be allowed to do so and I wish that the journey of pope may be successful. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and with this I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you may tell the time as to when you will ring the bell so that I will try to conclude my speech before that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will first give you a caution bell.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address moved by Shri Pramod Mahajan and seconded by Shri Malhotra.

At the outset, on behalf of the Trinamool Congress Party, we would like to salute the heroes of Kargil, the *jawans* who have lost their lives and certainly to the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who very cautiously tackled the situation. Probably, this was the first time when Pakistan was isolated from the rest of the world. It could not gain support from any corner. But it was disgraceful and unfortunate on the part of the Opposition deliberately targetting the Government saying as to why the Intelligence failed, how did Pakistan gain entry into our territory or

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

capture India's territory and so on. Not a single Member of the Opposition ever talked either about the attitude and the aggression of Pakistan backed by their ISI Agency or the heinous way in which their Army had crossed the Line of Control and thus compelled India to go for a battle. It was never condemned. On behalf of my Party, I condemn the attitude of Pakistan.

Earlier, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had made an historic bus trip to Lahore and a Lahore Agreement was signed there. In this background, we unequivocally condemn the betrayal on the part of Pakistan. All of us should at least be united on this point, otherwise, the soul of all those *jawans* who have lost their lives during Kargil war will not remain in peace.

I would specifically like to speak about the problem of unemployment. The Hon. President has assured in his Address that one crore job opportunities will be created in the next financial year. Shri Somnath Chatterjee raised an issue in this regard and the hon. Finance Minister wanted to respond to that. In our State, the unemployed youths are really frustrated, disappointed and disillusioned. In our State, the registered unemployed youths are perhaps the highest in India. It has crossed the figure of 58 lakh. They do not know how to get jobs and employment opportunities. According to a study the number of unemployed youths may grow from 50 lakh to one crore. I would request the Central Government to release a White Paper so that unemployed youths can get a direction and could know in what way they could get employment opportunities. I would even request the Central Government to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of different States. If a meeting of the Chief Ministers is convened with the initiative of the Central Government and if this matter is taken up with top most priority and is also considered a burning problem of the country at this juncture, then the youths of the country can get a direction. The things have come to such a pass that the hungry unemployed youths may lose their confidence in the Parliamentary system.

When we contest elections, the youths take major responsibility to see that their candidates are elected. They believe that if such and such party comes into power, they will certainly try to do something in this regard. So, it will be my humble submission to this Government — where we are also partners — that it should take all the initiatives to see that unemployment problem is dealt with top most priority.

Just now my colleague from Orissa was speaking. We must say that the Eastern zone is the worst sufferer of the regional imbalances so far as the Central Government's

assistance is concerned. After 50 years of Independence, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and also the North Eastern regions are really not getting the desired financial assistance. It is our agony that even after 50 years of Independence, Eastern zone is suffering from regional imbalance. Our urge will be that Central assistance, Central projects and Central financial assistance should be extended for all out development of the States of Eastern region.

Sir, we are deeply concerned about the price rise. You know better that when the elections come, the national political parties take financial assistance from the industrial houses and big trading houses. After the election, these business houses have a tendency to increase the prices and try to make their profits in a bigger way. Now elections are over. The Government should remain very much vigilant to see that price rise do not take place and all sorts of positive efforts in this regard are taken.

Sir, electoral reforms have been proposed in the President's Address. Our Party, Trinamool Congress, still believe that introduction of Identity Cards which was initiated earlier, should be pursued. Huge money was spent for photographs and for distribution of identity cards. Seventy to eighty per cent people received identity cards throughout the country. We would like to request the Government that the should further take initiatives to introduce identity cards for the future elections. This is to be considered. Sir, still the election process in our country is not getting a proper democratic identity. Suppose a candidate has been defeated in five to six Assembly segments but in one Assembly segment, he gets more than 65,000 to 70,000 votes, what will happen? A candidate who has secured even upto 80,000 votes in one assembly segment, but who has been defeated in five-six other assembly segments, is declared elected by a margin of 10,000 to 12,000 votes. Is it parliamentary democracy? Is it the way parliamentary democracy will function? So, it is our utmost request that electoral reforms have to be taken up on priority basis. It should not remain only confined to the President's Address. This matter should be taken up very positively.

Introduction of Lokpal Bill is also required. Prime Minister's office should also come under the jurisdiction of Lokpal. Can you imagine the Chief Minister of a State for the last 23 years goes abroad and stays there for a long two-three months at a stretch? How much expenditure has been incurred by the State Exchequer is never reported in the State Assembly. Who are the persons who provide facilities to him; which are the hotels in which the Chief Minister stays? Why not these matters are inquired in a proper manner? These are the questions being raised every time by the people of our State. We would therefore

request you to see that the provisions of Lokpal Bill are properly implemented. The expenditure incurred by different Chief Ministers and even the Central Ministers who go abroad should be inquired into. How many days they stay abroad, what is the foreign-exchange they are getting from the Government of India should also be probed. One inquiry is to be initiated for this purpose, which we demand very firmly.

Reservation of seats for women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies has been mentioned in the President's Address. We want to induct them in Corporations and Municipalities also. 33 per cent reservation for women should be penetrated and percolated down to Municipal and Corporation areas also.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : There is already a Constitution amendment regarding this.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : But that has to be enacted by the State Governments.

I would like to mention that work culture is to be introduced everywhere. This slogan and this idea is to be projected from the Central Government to all States because work culture differs from one State to another. Maharashtra has a good work culture; Andhra Pradesh has a good work culture, Delhi has its own work culture; and Bangalore has its own work culture. But in West Bengal we have no work culture as such. It is just because the party which is ruling the State for the last 23 years has destroyed the work culture system there. So, this is a matter which has to be taken up on priority.

The Central Government should give a slogan to promote and increase the production. The slogan should reach lower levels of society also. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : A slogan for increase of production should reach the farmers and labourers. This matter should be looked into on priority.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You will have to wind up now.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I am going to conclude, Sir.

So far as the education system of our country is concerned, can you imagine that the Vice-Chancellor of a university just resigned from his post in the city of Calcutta and contested the parliamentary election, got defeated by a margin of 2.5 lakh votes and again joined as the Vice-Chancellor of the same university? Is it proper? Is it the system by which education can proceed

in this country? To be more specific, this happened in South Calcutta constituency from where Kumari Mamata Banerjee contested. The Vice-Chancellor of the University has again joined and the people of West Bengal have strongly condemned it.

I do not want to take the time of the House. On behalf of my party, I convey our thanks to the hon. President for the Address which he had given to both the Houses of Parliament.

[Translation]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is true that Kashmir is far from Delhi but oblige us by not keeping us away from your heart. This is my request.

[English]

We have already suffered a lot and we do not want to suffer more.

[Translation]

I remember the day when the Chief Minister of Kashmir and the leader of National Conference Dr. Farooq Abdullah achieved a tremendous success by getting 2/3rd majority after 8 years of devastating militancy. The leaders of all the allies of ruling party at the centre were present during his oath taking ceremony. The Congress President was also present. When Dr. Farooq Abdullah was taking oath, tears were trickling down from his eyes as he was thinking at the same time that he is being sent to the battlefield and whether he will be able to win the battle or not? All those leaders who had come from Delhi consoled him by saying that the entire country is with him and he is fighting for the country and not for himself. I am saying all this because at that time it was said that loss would be compensated. It was assured that full assistance would be provided to reconstruct the bridges, school and college buildings which were burnt but till today those promises are not being fulfilled. I am saying this because it has been mentioned in the President's Address that the Jammu and Kashmir Government would be extended full cooperation and assistance.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Your party has got one Ministry.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Getting a Ministry is a different thing. This issue concerns the entire country and not any individual. This issue is related to my constituency. Ours is a small State. Before 1991 we used to get 70% loan and 30% grant. This decision was taken in Delhi. J&K comes under the category of 10% loan and 90% grant but nobody listened to us. It was in 1991 that the Central

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

Government had conceded that the State should get 10% loan and 90% grant. This injustice was undone in 1991 whereas it should have been done much earlier. In this way our Rs. 1275 crore is still pending with the Central Government. It should be paid so that developmental work could be taken up. My second point pertains to security related expenditure which has already been spent but so far this matter could not be solved with the Centre that how much funds remain in this item. According to our expenditure crores of rupees are with the Central Government. This matter is pending since 1996, now it is 1999 and soon the year will change to 2000. It is my request that this issue should be solved immediately.

The second point is that Kashmir should have been given infrastructure package as it bore the brunt of militancy and suffered huge loss, but it was not offered. I request that this issue should also be solved immediately.

Thirdly, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government towards another point that :

[English]

Our State has been endowed by nature with plentiful resources. More than 15000 mega watts of power can be generated by the optimum use of this endowment, which, in turn, can be used to create an industrial revolution in the State, with the financial and technical support of the Centre.

[Translation]

In context of Indus Water Treaty, I would like to say that it was a treaty between India and Pakistan Governments. We were not party to it. In that way.

[English]

The Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan has frozen the share of the State's irrigation potential from the Chenab and Jhelum rivers at the level which was in force in 1947. We neither can use the waters of these rivers to extend our irrigation potential nor make reservoirs for generation of new power project. Our country enjoys the same rights over the waters of Ravi and Sutluj rivers. Our State has thus been deprived of a divine gift for which we are suffering immensely.

[Translation]

I would like to say that this water treaty between India and Pakistan has deprived us from using water of our rivers which was given to Pakistan. It created difficulties for us. I would request that we should be given compensation for it. It is really sorry that due to militancy in Kashmir 3 lakh Kashmiri pandits shifted from the Valley

and so far no decision could be taken with regard to their rehabilitation. In this context I would like to tell Kashmiri Pandits that :-

[English]

They are Part and Parcel of Jammu and Kashmir. They are flesh and blood of Kashmir and there can be no Kashmiri civilization without the Kashmiri Pandits.

[Translation]

A package should be offered, by the Central Government for rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits. It is my request that immediately decision should be taken in this regard.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek support of this House on two or three points and one of them is regarding unemployment.

[English]

The unemployment graph which rose alarmingly in the last 7-8 years, has been contained by our Government, to some extent. But to make a decisive dent, we will have to secure our share of jobs from the Central agencies, its public sector and even private sector friends. The Central agencies recruit thousands of young man every year, but our State has got a negligible share out of this quota. We seek that a reserved quota in this behalf be made for ten years for Jammu and Kashmir State so that this problem is, to some extent, solved.

[Translation]

Another problem is . . .

[English]

Our State has generally been neglected in industrial sectors by the Centre. The Centre should take note of this fact and see what kind of industries can be started in Jammu and Kashmir and I would request that they should pay immediate attention to this aspect.

[Translation]

Another issue relates to the announcement made by the Central Government.

[English]

That loans especially agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000 will be revoked.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India came to Jammu and made this announcement in a public meeting but so far no such orders have been issued.

[English]

With the result, the people are after the State Government and are saying that that Government of India had already written off the loans.

[Translation]

Why are you recovering from us? It is an important issue for us. My area including a few districts of Jammu faced drought this year. Three months ago a central team came to study the situation. State Government demanded a package of Rs. 250 crore for tackling this situation but so far no decision have been taken. I request you to decide the matter at the earliest. For the last 50 years our State has not been provided an alternative road. There is only one road linking Jammu and Kashmir which remains blocked for almost fifteen days in a month.

[English]

Then, constructing of an alternative road has not been thought of till day by the Central Government.

[Translation]

There is one more problem for which I met the, then Minister of the concerned Department. People of Kashmir do not see the programme telecast by the T.V. Centres of Delhi or Srinagar.

[English]

There are some technical difficulties and with the result, the people of Jammu and Kashmir tune to Pakistan T.V. We have brought this matter to the notice of the Central Government and requested that all the technical difficulties in this regard should be removed, so that the people will be in position to see the television programmes telecast from Srinagar and New Delhi.

[Translation]

When Indiraji was the Prime Minister she said that Jammu would be linked to Srinagar by train. Only 15 km long railway track has been said since then. Last time when hon'ble Prime Minister came to Srinagar he laid foundation stone at Baramula and Kaziguda but so far nothing has been done to lay rail track or for providing railway facility.

[English]

These things give a wrong signal in Kashmir.

[Translation]

It seems that a joke is being played on us. Hon'ble Prime Minister visits an area and makes an announcement

but nothing is done. Another trouble has been created from the side of Pakistan. It attacked Kargil at ceasefire line. Due to continuous firing by Pakistan thousands of people of Jammu residing along international border, have been displaced. They have been shifted to camps and school buildings. So far nothing has been done for rehabilitation of the people, who have been displaced from Kargil. I request the Government to discuss this matter with Government of Pakistan at the earliest. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ali Mohammed Naik, please conclude now. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : The people of the State have a vision about restoration of full autonomy which has been promised by the founding fathers of the Republic. We would like to seek credible guarantee for the constitutional arrangements of the State with the Centre, so that the tragedies of the past are not repeated.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while thanking the hon. President, I would like to say as to what he has stated in his Address. In the first page, he stated that the just concluded parliamentary election was the last of this century. You hon. Deputy-Speaker, and other hon. Members have been elected. But I am sorry to say that there is a part of our country which is an Indian enclave. Not only one or two or three persons are living there but there are more than a lakh of Indian citizens. They are surrounded by Bangladesh. They have not been able to take part in this election which is the last one in this century and the first one in the twenty-first century. It is not a small figure. It is shameful for all of us. While the Minister of Home Affairs visited that site, he spoke loudly about its position. He is there for the last 20 months. What has he done for these people? They are living under a rule of jungle. Who is responsible for it? There is no administration. There is no police. There is no defence. There is no panchayat. There is no MLA. There is no hospital. There is not even a primary institute. Who is responsible for it? The Congress Party has also been responsible for that.

For the last 50 years, they have not been able to exercise their franchise. It is a tragic position. Are you speaking of democracy? Is this the democracy? While we have good relations with Bangladesh. We had the bus 'yatra'. The Prime Minister was there. Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Jyoti Basu, and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee were also there at the time of that bus 'yatra'. We have now cordial relations. Even then, why can these people not be allowed?

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

I am happy that you have had the votes of the Kashmiri Brahmins. They can exercise their franchise. You have made arrangements for them. We have good relations with Bangladesh. Why can you not have it there? Have you tried for that? No. You have never thought of it. You have neglected those two lakh Indian citizens. That is the attitude.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I do not know the total population of your area. I think it is much bigger than of that area. Why have they been neglecting it for the last 50 years?

Secondly, there is no reference about the land reforms. It is a matter of shame. We would like to have rural development. How will there be rural development? They are not for that. In the First Five-Year Plan, we have had the land reforms in every State. But I am sorry that even during the regime of the Congress Party, that is, during the Sixth Five-Year Plan, they did not mention anything about the land reforms. You have intentionally avoided that. Those people who are in power today do not like it. They would like to have only the landlords.

In our country, we do not have the land reforms.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : There was Zamindari system in West Bengal. We introduced the Land Reforms Act. We brought the land reforms.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : No, no. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I think, you have forgotten that. ... (Interruptions) You check up from your bigger partner, that is, CPI (M).

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : There were land reforms in 1955. But you did nothing for that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Can you tell me how many acres of land have been distributed uptill now under your regime? Can you quote the figure?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Yes.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Have you got the figures?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Dasmunsi, please do not interrupt now.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Surplus land has been distributed. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We do not have time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : No, no; we are not resigning. We are in support. It is the Government of West Bengal. The hon. Member may say whatever he likes about work culture and all these things. But land culture is there. We have given land to the tiller, that is, land to the landless people. We have distributed it. In this Report, it is the Central Government who have a praise for it. ... (Interruptions) Sorry, the name is 'Bannerjee'.

On page 11 of the Address, para 39, it is said :

"We are committed to safeguard the interest of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and minorities. ..."

I am speaking mainly for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people because of the fact that one community here in Delhi may come under Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe but it may not come under Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe in other States. For this purpose, once and again, it was stated in this august House and so far my knowledge goes, every time we raise this issue this way or that way, we were told that a comprehensive Bill would come up. But that has not come up to see the light of the day.

When we are speaking about the North-Eastern Region, particularly, Assam, terrorism is going on always. What happened in Assam? You will be astonished to learn that these tribes like Santhals, Munda, Oraon, etc. throughout the country they are treated as tribals, but if you go to Assam, you will find that they are not the tribals. The tea garden workers who are living there, they are not one or two but they are about 80 lakhs, they are also not treated as tribals.

In the Eighth Lok Sabha, there was a Select Committee and of course, it was headed by me. That Committee gave a recommendation that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of that area should come under this List. The last Government did not come up with a Bill for that and I do not know whether this Government will come up with a Bill or not. But it is a fact that if you would like to develop the areas and stop insurgency in that State, then first of all what you need to do is to recognise all the tribal people as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution of India. But that has not been done because they have got some fear because the ULFA insurgents are sometimes with the BJP and sometimes with the Congress. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI (Kaliabor) : No, this is not correct. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Yes, Now they are siding with the BJP and they will come forward again. ... (Interruptions) They had so many Army Operations there.

like Operation Bajrang in 1990, Operation Rhino in 1991 and so on. But I would like to know what is the result. What is the attitude of ULFA? It believes that Assam was never a part of India before it was annexed by the British. This is their attitude. . . .(interruptions) Sir, you can imagine this easily what is going on there in Assam.

This is the position in the North-Eastern Region of our country. I know the main reason is that once you declare the tribals of that area as Scheduled Tribes then it will ultimately be a Tribal State and just to refuse that whether it is Congress, BJP or Janata Dal, whoever is in power, it will try to undo it. For that fact they did not do.

I would like to appeal to the Government that if you want to stop insurgency and disturbance and you like the ISI activities to be stopped in that part of our country, then you must come forward with a comprehensive Bill that these tribals may be treated as Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution of India.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful that you have allotted some time to a Sikh representative of the Shiromani Akali Dal. I hope you will be a little liberal with me because there is no Sikh Minister in the Union Cabinet and I will try and represent my nationality as best as I can.

I wish to transport your thoughts to 1984 when the Indian Government with the full force of the Armed Forces razed the Golden Temple to the ground and killed thousands of pilgrims, who were innocent people. The Government of India had said that they were cleaning the Golden Temple of terrorists. This is the lame excuse and I do not agree with it nor do the Sikhs agree with it.

I take the case of the Babri Masjid. Were there terrorists in the Babri Masjid when it was razed to the ground? Christian nuns are being raped. Are they terrorists that they should be raped like Sikh women during the Operation 'Blue Star'? The Pope is not being allowed to come to India and obstacles are being placed in his way. Is the Pope a terrorist? Churches in Pondicherry had been burnt and razed to the ground. Did they haul up any terrorist?

The President's Address is very careful and it says that terrorism has got to be finished. Terrorism can be finished when there is an action and a reaction. That cause all sorts of terrorist problems I blame the Indian State for terrorising the minorities and putting us to death. I myself have served seven years in prison. I myself have been tortured. And the height of it all was that though article 21 of the Constitution gives us the right to life and liberty, it was taken away by Rajiv Gandhi's Government by introducing the 59th Constitution Amendment Bill, which declared that

we could be finished off without the due process of law. Now, these are the sort of laws that have been promulgated in this country.

There are hundreds of Sikhs who are in prison since 1984. TADA has been repealed on the surface of it but I am attending the TADA courts. I am a TADA prisoner myself. How long is this kind of justice to continue? How long are we to wait to get to our cherished dreams which Jawaharlal Nehru promised that we would get a territory in India where we could feel the glow of freedom? We do not feel the freedom. Our passports have been confiscated. We are not allowed to travel abroad, not even myself though I have become a Member of Parliament. It is a privilege of a Member of Parliament to get a diplomatic passport. But this is all being denied to us.

What about the river waters of Punjab? The Constitution is very clear that the subject of river waters is in the State List but all the river waters of Punjab have been taken over by New Delhi. New Delhi distributes river waters. Our natural resources are looted by the State of India. We are very annoyed with all that is happening to us in Punjab.

There is no liberty. There is no money to pay the Government servants. It has got so bankrupt that it has become a State which is about to wither away. The same is true of most of the States. I heard about Orissa and West Bengal. They do not have any money. So, what are we going to do? How is the Centre going to provide money to all these States? I fail to understand because if the Centre provides all the money, it weighs the jackboots which we do not want it to weigh.

Regarding the question of death penalty, I say that when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was assassinated, the alleged assassins were put to death. When Rajiv Gandhi's assassins were found, they are facing a death sentence. But what about the 1984 massacre of the Sikh people? Why did the State not take the murderers to task-. . . and their company? They are still at large. . . .(interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : They have been cleared by the courts. He has been cleared by the courts. . . .(interruptions) It should not go on record.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It should be expunged.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : These Benches have committed the genocide of the Sikh people and they want to reduce me to silence. It will never be done. If they want to face us, they are welcome to face us anywhere. But they cannot shut us down. That is impossible. I will not

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Simranjit Singh Mann]

allow myself to be shut down by some demonstrators in Parliament. This is a speaking House. I have heard them patiently. Let them have the guts, the patience to hear us also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mann, they are all patiently hearing. There are certain expressions which are not to be on the record. Therefore, I have expunged them.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, these people have been named by the people who have been assassinated. I will tell you what is happening in Kashmir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kindly concentrate on Presidential Address.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Yes, I am concentrating on the Presidential Address. I am telling you why terrorism is raising its head. These are the reasons. The State itself has started committing terrorist acts. None of the perpetrators of 1984 violence, massacre, have been brought to book. What a great shame can there be ? I say that these political murders must be accounted for. I will tell you from our experience that when Maqbool Bhatt was hanged in Kashmir, and he was hanged for Kashmir, militancy started in Kashmir. When Satwant Singh and Kehar Singh were hanged, the Sikhs became militants. Now I do not want the Tamil people to become militants. Four people are on the death road from Tamil Nadu. One is a woman. If they are also executed, I dare say this will arouse Tamil nationalism. . . . (interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : How can he say this ? . . . (interruptions)

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : We have heard you. You please sit down.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : He cannot talk like this. This is too much. . . . (interruptions)

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : It is not too much. . . . (interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mann, those expressions are expunged. They are all expunged. This kind of things cannot go on record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : We know that the Member is first time in the House but he must understand the restraint of language in the House. He must restrain. There are some expressions which cause much more problem in the country. He should keep that in mind.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why, I am telling him.

(Interruptions)

20.00 hrs.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Sir, I want to speak about the Sikh people. There are no Cabinet Ministers or Supreme Court Judges. Why is this discrimination being carried on by the present Government which vowed that it is for the Sikhs and the minorities ? Today, the Christians are scared, the Muslims are scared, the Sikhs are scared. Is this the sort of polity we want in India where the minorities do not feel safe ? What about the Staines' killers ? That person has not been brought to book as yet. What about other people ? In Gujarat, what has happened to the Christians ? Are we to understand that the authority of the State does not run down to the States where these murderers can be caught and brought to book ? This is all that is happening before this august House. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SIS RAM OLA : Please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : I will sit down when the Deputy-Speaker tells me to sit down. When you become the Speaker, then you tell me to sit down. . . . (Interruptions)

Sir, please control your Congress benches. They cannot shut my mouth. They have committed the genocide of the minorities and the Sikhs. It is a fact that they have committed a genocide. I would rather say that New Delhi ought to extend a new hand. We want a surgical operation of the Indian Constitution so that it satisfies the Sikh opinion in the Punjab and internationally also. I am a peaceful man and I would say that all Sikhs are peaceful. It is time that we thought about the Sikh problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mann, please conclude.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN : Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time of the House has to be extended. Now, it is 8 o'clock. There are seven or eight speakers. So, we may have to extend the House for about 40 minutes. We will have to give two or three minutes each to all the speakers.

Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time up to 8.45 p.m. ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Please extend the time up to 9 o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, the time of the House is extended up to 9 o'clock.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, please allow each speaker five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Everybody will plead his case. When it comes to him, he will take ten minutes. That is what I have seen.

Shri P.C. Thomas. Now, please confine yourself to five minutes, if you can.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I know there is a paucity of time. So, I will confine myself to a few points. I wanted to analyse the President's Address on the basis of some of the basic policies, but as the time is very limited, I am confining myself just to the State of Kerala because not much has been said about the State of Kerala till now in this discussion.

Our State is basically an agricultural State. There is one difference in the type of crops which are being grown. These are mainly cash crops, coconuts and the like. I am very sad to find that there is no mention of any specifics about cash crops. There is no mention of any encouragement for the farmers who are cultivating rubber, coconut and other horticultural as well as cash crops in very large numbers.

As for as rubber is concerned, I would like to call the attention of the hon. Finance Minister as well as the other Ministers. This Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee last time, had decided the floor price of rubber as Rs. 34.05. I just want to ask whether they are not duty-bound to give to the farmer at least the floor price, the minimum price, the support price which they have declared. I think I have every right to ask that. There is a price which has been fixed but that has not been given. The price was Rs. 70 when the Members sitting on this side were sitting on the Treasury Benches three years back. That has come down to Rs. 25, Rs. 22 and like that. Today, the price is Rs. 28. No cultivator is able to cultivate rubber. There is absolutely no way to go further. So, I would request the Government to take at least this Rs. 34.05 as the basic price and procure rubber at this price. I refer to the price because if you procure rubber at this price, I am sure you need not have to procure more because the big industries and the tyre manufacturers are the purchasers. They will have to come and give this price to farmers and purchase it. So, you only have to make this mechanism to work. Twenty-eight thousand tonnes of rubber was about to be procured. Now that period has terminated. Now a further order is necessary immediately. Since nothing has been stated about this in the President's Address, I urge upon the Ministry to pay special heed to this. The Finance Minister is going to start the process of preparing the Budget from tomorrow onwards. So, I would request the Finance Minister to stop all imports of natural rubber as well as

artificial rubber. As the natural rubber is not being imported in the form as the industrialists want, they are turning to the import of artificial rubber. Polyurethane is one item which is being imported in large quantities. So, the poor farmers cultivating rubber are put to further difficulties. I would urge upon the Government to take a very strong action with regard to this. If no action is taken, I think we would also have say what Shri Mann has said. I do not agree with Shri Mann totally, but we may have to say what Shri Mann was referring to because we are being sidelined. The people of Kerala have been sidelined just because this cultivation is mainly in the State of Kerala. But this is one cultivation which has given to the nation a lot of revenue. A lot of revenue and a lot of foreign exchange has been saved on account of the hard labour put by ten lakhs of poor farmers, about eight lakhs of whom are below the marginal line. So, that is one point.

Another mention which has come in the President's Address is with regard to coconut. It is there in Lakshadweep, it is there in eight States, it is everywhere. But as far as Kerala is concerned, one very serious disease has effected the coconut. The whole cultivation is going to be devastated. It is almost just equivalent to the cyclone which is hitting our eastern areas. I am really pained to hear that the cyclone has gone to the extent of very-very serious stage. I call upon the Government to take some serious action with regard to the coconut cultivators in this country.

Sir, I am making a very short speech. Just as the cyclone has come, the natural calamities have affected not only Kerala but also many other States.

Sir, I think some clear-cut formula has to be evolved for the purpose of making payments. The Tenth Finance Commission which has made some regulations is not taking into account the real loss which the farmers are suffering and the sufferings of the ordinary people. In Kerala, in my constituency, landslide has occurred during the past 3-4 days and there are heavy rains. No assistance is coming from the Centre.

As far as the Centre-State relationship is concerned, our Party has got a very important say on that. But because of paucity of time I have to conclude my speech.

The States are to be given more money especially seeing their geographical location and other specialities. Some States require more money. The quantum of money which is given should be not only on the basis of either the area or population, but I would submit that density of population should also be considered. If density of population is considered, I am sure that more money will come. Many States, including Kerala, have been sidelined. I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to take these matters very seriously.

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

With these words I conclude and thank you for the opportunity given.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of thanks on President's Address moved by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and seconded by Shri Vaiko.

The Hon'ble President began his address while quoting Gandhi and Ambedkar that the poorest among poor should get the benefit of freedom. I welcome this gesture. National Democratic Alliance has been constituted on basis of this ideology and I support it.

Several issues have been raised here. Contribution of our brave soldiers in Kargil war cannot be forgotten and its credit goes to hon'ble Prime Minister and his cabinet. Performance of our Government was recognised throughout the world and hon'ble Prime Minister should be applauded for it.

A mention has been made about price rise. I am surprised that inflation has not increased even after such a big war. Even then this issue is being raised. I would like to tell that in Madhya Pradesh probation tax on electricity has been raised. It has put considerable burden on the employees and no attention has been paid towards it. I hope that the Government would take action in this regard.

Now I would like to tell about the good works done by this Government. I am all praise for the performance of the Government for the 13 months period of its rule. It has taken up such work which could not be done during the last 50 years. In context of providing 33 per cent reservation for women, I request you to support this bill. Last time this Bill could not be passed and now you all should think over it.

Just now an hon'ble Member was asking about the achievements of the Government. The cauvery water dispute which was hanging over for last many years has been prudently solved by the hon'ble Prime Minister. Narmada water dispute will also be resolved in this manner and 'Bandh Sagar Yojana' will commence. Not only Madhya Pradesh but Uttar Pradesh and Bihar will also be benefitted by this scheme in the field of irrigation. It will benefit farmers. About 340 irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh are pending with the Centre under Forest Act, 1980 clearance. These schemes should be given clearance for benefit of poor farmers. Today our Government has promised to construct 20 lakh houses. I congratulate you for it. These houses would be provided to poor. People,

who proclaim to be protectors of poor and backward classes do not think about it. It will provide employment opportunity to a large number of unemployment.

The issue of national highways has been discussed comprehensively. I am speaking only on points as I got this opportunity with great difficulty. I commend the Government for taking the decision to formulate a national highway scheme. There is a proposal to link north-south and east-west highways. I would like to say that national highway passing through Madhya Pradesh is in dilapidated condition, so required attention should be paid towards it. There should be proper utilization of funds allocated by the Centre to the State Governments. There is a provision to provide pension to old and destitute women but they are not getting it in time. Recently, I went to a village and found that they are not getting pension for the last six months. The State authorities are not distributing it properly. I came to know about a case of an old woman, who did not get pension for last six months and ultimately she died. The Government has proposed to provide drinking water facility, which is really commendable. The problem of shortage of water in Jabalpur, Katni and many surrounding areas would be solved if drinking water schemes of this area are completed. The Government has proposed to set up a division for welfare of SCs and STs. I welcome this. It will help them in making progress in life. I thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, President's Address is being discussed here for the last four days. Members from ruling party are making tall claims. They are making announcements that earlier their Government worked for 13 days, later on for 13 months. Previous Government of 18 parties worked for 13 months and it seems that present Government of 24 parties will last for more than 9 months. . . . (Interruptions) It will be better if the Government works for its tenure but alliance parties will not allow you to work. They are making announcements that what will be done but the fact is that if this Government want to do something their allies may oppose that. You will not get an opportunity to fulfil your promise. We have no objection if this Government remain in power for 5 years. We have never tried to pull down your Government because we know that there is no need to pull down a Government which is going to fall due to its own conflicts. We need a secular Government for removing casteism from the country. BJP Government is required for encouraging casteism. Sharad Pawar can be an appropriate person to face Atalji similarly in Uttar Pradesh Mulayam Singhji can give a tough fight to Kalyan Singhji and Lalu Prasadji can face Shri Sharad Pawar very well. You have raised several issues here. You have stated that the Government is going to make some amendments in the Constitution framed by Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar

and a commission will be constituted for this purpose. I would like to say that the Constitution framed by Babasaheb Ambedkar is secular one and provide equal justice to all irrespective of caste and creed. Dalits will come to road if your Government tries to make any amendment in the Constitution. We are not going to give. You an opportunity to amend the Constitution. You are trying to include persons, like Arun Shourie in this commission who tried to write against Babasaheb Ambedkar. He has freedom of expression but it will not be good for him if he tries to distort the facts. We will oppose if this Government try to change the secular structure of the country. There is no need to set up any commission. If amendment is required than bring the necessary amendments in the Parliament, we will support you, otherwise we will not support your Government. If you want to amend the constitution on the issue of reservation or want to have a discussion in this regard we will support you. Bring forward a bill for the betterment and try to amend the constitution. For two third majority besides our party, congress, N.C.P., C.P.I., C.P.M., Forward Block, Samajwadi Party, R.J.D. and Shri Thomasji are there. We all are ready to support you but our support will be only for nine months.

There may be a feeling in your minds that since you had demolished the Babri Masjid Ramrajya would come in the country. If you are dreaming of Ramrajya by demolishing the Babri Masjid it will be a mistake on your part. Lord Rama was secular but you are not secular. You are not true devotee of Lord Rama and you are acting against his teachings. Therefore, Ramrajya is not coming in the country instead we will usher in Bhimraj in the country. Forget about Ramrajya in the country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Efforts should be made to bring secularism. . . *(Interruptions)* Sir, should I continue or not ? I have come here to express my views. Pandharpur is my constituency. As maximum funds are allocated for organising the Kumbh Mela similarly there is a need to allocate Rs. 200 crores for my constituency. Provision should be made for this in the next budget. Vithal and Rukmani temple is situated in Pandharpur. . . *(Interruptions)*

My second demand is that there is a need to set up the Baba Saheb Ambedkar national memorial. There is a need to set up a national memorial at 26 Alipur Road in Delhi where Baba Saheb Ambedkar breathed his last. A scheme worth Rs. 400 to 500 crores should be formulated for this purpose. The Government says that we have no money. . . *(Interruptions)* The Government gave a good assurance about unemployment situation. The President's address was prepared by the Government and hon'ble

President read it out in the joint session of the Parliament. He has mentioned about removal of unemployment. How you are going to remove unemployment ? Have you formulated any scheme for the removal of unemployment ? I have to give a suggestion to the hon'ble Finance Minister that duty hours in all the companies should be reduced from 8 hours to six hours and existing three shift system should be converted into four shift so that unemployed persons could get employment. By adopting this system a good number of people will get employment. You should think over it. I have many points to submit but due to paucity of time I will put them some other time. We hope that this Government will run smoothly and there will be no infighting. You should remain united to run the Government. Had we been united you would not have been in the treasury benches, you are in power because of us. I request you to kindly to run the Government collectively.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegon) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on behalf of Janata Dal (S). I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, initially Bharatiya Janata Party raised Ram Temple issue to come to power and also adopted the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi and there was downfall of the Indian National Congress which split due to inner conflicts. In the meantime Kargil intrusion took place which paved way for the alliance of 24 parties to come to power. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on your right hand side members of treasury benches are sitting, I have no grudge against them. I am a followers of Baba Saheb Ambedkar but at the same time I welcome democracy. It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure security of the nation and to eliminate disruptive forces. We will have to uplift farmers, organised and unorganised labourers, women, unemployed and suppressed classes. This is the responsibility of the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government remained totally unaware of the intrusion in Kargil. I want to know as to how did it happen ? I consider the hon'ble Minister for defence an honest and impartial person and I hope he will bring out the truth.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, district Dang in Gujarat is adjoining to my constituency. Religious leaders visited that district as Christians were attacked there. This type of incidents took place in my constituency. I and Shri Athawale also visited that place. It is the responsibility of the Government to eliminate disruptive forces and ensure communal harmony.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last year traders took away the entire onion crop from the farmers and at the time of next crop of onion the Government imposed ban on export

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

of onion. Farmers are facing hardship. This caretaker Government sacrificed 400 jawans in Kargil without any valid reason. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I never go to bed without praying to Lord Rama and I remember him in the morning too. I am a Hindu and a person who considers himself a Hindu, respects other religions as well whether it is Christianity or Islam. But the people sitting on your right are not true Hindus. I always remember Lord Rama, there is a temple of Lord Rama in my villages. The people belonging to R.S.S. and B.J.P. never go to that temple to worship Lord Rama. We visit that temple. Bali was a tribal, Lord Rama killed him through deceit. Bali was very powerful, Lord Rama killed Bali by deceit. I am also a tribal. Similarly the Government had deceived the tribal people. They have been deceived in the matter of increasing their quota in jobs and reservation in higher education. They have not been deceived through judiciary, they have been deceived by hiking the price of diesel. When Shri Devegowdaji was the Prime Minister he pointed out that the price of diesel has increased in the international market. This Government deliberately hid this fact from the people due to which condition of the farmers and the whole nation turned from bad to worse. Therefore, I say that your policy and intentions should be very clear. You talk about policy but your intentions should also be clear. With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, and my learned friends who are present here, I would like to speak a few lines on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address wherein I will try to draw your attention to certain very genuine issues. In this regard, first of all I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations to the President of India for taking a lot of pains in presenting a lot of points in regard to the developmental aspects of the country. Today I would like to try to speak in Assamese language so as to make the people of Assam understand the exact sentiments of the downtrodden and struggling Bodo people of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please continue.

*SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today I would like to deliver my speech in Assamese. With a very heavy heart, I am expressing the agony of the people of Bodoland. I would have been very happy, if I was allowed to speak in Bodo language, my mother tongue. The Bodo people living in India and abroad would have felt highly honoured, had

I been allowed to speak in Bodo. Our Bodo language is a very rich language. It is our misfortune that after long 52 years of our independence too, Bodo language has not been included in the VIII Schedule of our Constitution. It is our long standing legitimate demand and I request the Government of India to make necessary arrangement for including Bodo language in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India w.i.e.

Here, I would like to refer to para 36 of the President's Address, where it has been stated that necessary action will soon be initiated for the creation of Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh as new States. In this regard, I on my behalf and on behalf of the people of Bodoland extend support to this proposal. In this regard, it has been a matter of great regret and unfortunate that no policy matter regarding the creation of a separate State of Bodoland, which is our legitimate and genuine demand has been mentioned. It is a heart rending event in the history of the 13th Lok Sabha. We, the Bodo people are the original inhabitants of Assam; we were the rulers of Assam for many centuries. We belong to that ruling Bodo dynasty, and so to say, I am also a prince - like representative of that dynasty. It is the irony of fate that today we are being treated as slaves.

During the long span of 52 years after independence, the Government of Assam has deprived us from our legitimate and genuine rights. There has been no development worth the name in the Bodoland area. There ought to have been much more development in the Bodoland area. Even the Union Government also failed in their duty in the field of development in the Bodoland area and in providing safety and security to the Bodo people. This is the only reason that the people of today's Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal and our Garo, Khasi and Jaintia hills brethren also were compelled to go out of Assam during 1960s and 1970s. On the same ground and analogy only Bodo people have been demanding a separate State of Bodoland, and this is their just and legitimate demand. Therefore, I demand that alongwith Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chhattisgarh, Bodoland also should be created with immediate effect. Otherwise, it will not be possible to preserve the identity of the Bodo people and their language, culture, customs and traditions. The safety and security of all the ethnic groups in Assam are at stake. The AGP Government headed by Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta miserably failed in giving protection to various ethnic groups.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : There has been no development in the Bodoland area. By hook or by crook and under any circumstances, this present NDA Government should take a concrete policy

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese.

decision to create a separate State of Bodoland. It is a very genuine and legitimate demand, and it is our birth right.

Sir, the creation of a separate State of Bodoland is very much related to the question of preservation of our own distinct ethnic identity, language, culture, tradition and customs and that is why, it has been a must.

I am happy that a new Ministry to look after the tribal affairs has been created. We welcome this; but at the same time, there is apprehension in our minds regarding the power and authority to be exercised by the new Ministry or all the powers will remain with the Ministry of Home Affairs and also with the Ministry of Social Justice and Employment. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs should be free from the clutches of both the Ministries of Home Affairs and Social Justice and Employment. There should not be any interference by the Ministry of Home Affairs and also by the Ministry of Social Justice and Employment in the affairs of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : The next point I would like to raise is that hon. President is kind enough to make a mention in his speech about the North-East Council that the Government will soon restructure the North-East Council for faster socio-economic development of North-Eastern States; but there is no indication about its plans and programme.

Another burning problem of Assam is the illegal influx of large number of foreign nationals into Assam. This has created varieties of problems in the State. I do not know how the problem of foreign nationals will be solved by the Govt. and the Hon. President's speech is silent on this vital issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Please conclude now, Please wind up.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I am going to conclude my speech. This is my maiden speech. Please allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not your maiden speech. You have been here for sometime.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I would like to reiterate my strong demand again to create a separate State of Bodoland by this present Government of India under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Bwiswmuthiary, please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : By hook or by crook and under any circumstances, this

present NDA Government should take a concrete policy decision to create a separate State of Bodoland.

Sir, creation of a separate State of Bodoland is very much related to the question of preservation of our own distinct ethnic identity, language, culture, tradition and customs, and it has really been a must so as to ensure the question of survival and existence of several millions of indigenous Bodo people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I would like to thank the present Government of India for having created a separate Ministry for tribal Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Please conclude now. Please wind up.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I am going to conclude my speech. This is my maiden speech. Please allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is not your maiden speech. You have been here for some time.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I would like to make a strong demand again to create a separate State of Bodoland by this present Government of India under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Shri Prabhunath Singh will speak now.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on President's Address moved by on Vijay Kumar Malhotra. In this Address, on one hand, hon'ble Mr. President has clearly exhibited the future programmes and the policy of the Government and the intention of the head of the Government and of the House Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, on the other hand by mentioning the words of Gandhiji, he has thrown a light on the policies and intention of the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Gandhiji had said :-

"I will struggle for such a constitution which will free India from all kinds of shackles and shelters. I will work for building up such an India in which the poorest of the poor will feel that the country belongs to him and

*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

could take provide in his effective participation in its building; where neither the upper class nor the lower class shall exist; where the people of all the communities will live together. . ."

This was his quote. The Government has expressed its intention by including the Gandhiji's intention in it. The Government feels that the previous Government have not been successful in realising the dreams of Gandhiji. Therefore, under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, it is the resolve of this Government to follow the policies of Gandhiji, Through these programmes the dreams of Gandhiji will be realised and the country will be guided by his thoughts. Action will be taken to attain the equality among society as per the dreams of Gandhiji.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it has been written in the para 5 of the hon'ble President's Address that :-

"... the voters have ended the phase of instability in the Centre by giving a clear and decisive mandate".

This is right.

20.45 hrs.

[Mr. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

While, during past 18 months in the Centre when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government was engaged in winning over the support and confidence of the people by its programmes, the opposition was busy in hatching conspiracies and drafting manouvers for attaining power. In that context, the people of the country felt unhappy towards the opposition parties and revealed it through their mandate that you can not rule over the country merely by hatching conspiracies. Alongwith this, the public also showed that only that person can rule the country who will win the confidence of the people and this is the reason that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has become the Prime Minister of the country.

I would like to tell you that the Kargil issue was very heatedly discussed here. I do not want to go into the details of this issue because a lot of Speakers have already said a lot over it but surely, our whole country is grieved over the soldiers who have laid down their lives for the country and have expressed its gratitude by extending financial and other help to the victims.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the first war which the country has fought. Our country has faced several other wars earlier. Sometimes we have lost 38700 square hectares of land and sometimes 5700 square hectares of land during the wars. If, in any war we have won any land, we have lost is by going to the United Nations but it is

for the first time in a war that we have not lost our land but have added to the glory and prestige of our country. People are in a strage situation. I am not laying any political statement but the people of the country have affirmed their faith in the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The reason for all this is that we have had such a Defence Minister during the war who would raise the morale of the soldiers amidst the shells and mortars hatched by enemy's artillery. No one expressed his opinion in this regard and when the country was facing the question of defending its borders, the opposition was busy in demanding the calling up of a special session of Rajya Sabha to debate the issue . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now you please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Therefore, the public of the country took this decision and the result is that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has become the Prime Minister.

I would like to tell that it has been written in the para 12 of the President's Address that despite our achievements we have not been able to control the poverty and provide the basic amenities like clean drinking water, habitat, primary education, social service and roads. It has also been mentioned that illiteracy is a curse for the Scheduled Castes, backward classes and rural women. Lakhs of youth are unemployed. These is an urgent need to check the population explosion. I would also like to tell that the programmes which have been mentioned in it, surely, are very appropriate but no clear mention has been made about providing employment to the lakhs of unemployed. Therefore, we would like that the Government should draft a clear policy in this regards so that the youth who have been going astray may not do so. A definite and clear policy should be framed to guide them to the right path.

As far as the issue of development which has been discussed in it is concerned, I would like to tell you that the State Governments are provided grants by the Central Government. I would not want to make any comment on any State but the development and growth of a state depends upon its leadership. As far as my State Bihar is concerned, I do not want to remark on any other plan but would like to say very clearly that 25 per cent of the amount of Rs. two crores provided to the Member of Parliaments for the development of their constituency, is deducted by the Govt. officials. . . .(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have made us sit like disciplined students since yesterday. At least give us a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : I would like to tell that the money is not being used properly. Therefore, if the

Centre Government is concerned about the development, it has to draft a clear policy so that the pace of the development could accelerate and the development of the villages could take place.

A lot has been said about the barren land development and agriculture credit system etc. I would like to tell that the farmers face a lot of problems in getting the agricultural credit. Farmers do not get the fertilizers and seeds at the right time. Therefore, a law should be enacted in favour of farmers. Today, the farmers are quite distressed. The Govt. has particularly increased the prices of diesel. On that day we had said in the House that hiking of price of diesel would cause hardship to the small and medium farmers and labourers. We admit even today those problems are not going to end. Therefore, we urge upon the Government to kindly think over it seriously and reduce the price of diesel so that farmers could be saved from hardship.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, yesterday you have said that you would give a ruling today, when I raised the issue that the Minister has promised to the House that he would come back to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday I said that I would go into the records.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, today is the last day of this Session. You have promised yesterday. I am not going beyond the rules. You have said that you wanted time and that you would give the ruling today. You can go through the records. Now, you may ask the Government to give a statement today.

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday, I have said that I would go through the records.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He is also pleading for that.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : In para 37 of the President's address a reference has been made to amendment in the Constitution. We are of the view that the Constitution was written according to the situation prevailing at that time. Today certainly there is a need to amend the Constitution. Therefore a Committee at the national level should be constituted to suggest amendments in the Constitution. The Committee so constituted should not have members who sit in air-conditioned rooms but it should have people who are well aware of the sufferings of the people living in countryside.

Several hon'ble members have said that this House should have a fixed term of five years. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Some questions have been raised and I want to answer these question (Interruptions)

We are of the view that there should be fixed term of five years for this House.

In para 40 a mention has been made of electoral reforms. Several candidates contest elections and some of them have won the elections. The candidates whose party is in power in respective states win election for the Parliament but the candidates whose party is not in power in respective states find it quite difficult to fight the elections. I have been elected from Bihar. During the course of elections when we take telephone call or Fax to the Election Commission to file some complaints there is hardly anyone available in the Election Commission to receive our calls. The Election Commission issues arbitrary orders. Therefore there is a need to exercise a check on the Election Commission too. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now. You have taken much time.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : It has been stated that in order to curb corruption a Bill will be brought in the Parliament to accord statutory status to the CBI. It is certain that the Government will not compromise on corruption but. . . . (Interruptions) I am raising very important issues, atleast listen to me please. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : The Bofors issue is being raised in the House for the last several days. It is being said that name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been shown in para 2 and the Government should drop his name from it. I would like to tell you that para 2 has been specially meant for the accused dead or at large. There cannot be two opinions that the Government have the power to drop his name from para 2 but if the Government does so it will affect the morale of investigating officers on one hand and on the other hand the question of interference in the judiciary will also be raised. Shri Manishankerji has raised a point that a deceased person cannot defend himself in the court of Law. I would like to tell the House that a deceased person can also defend himself in the court of law. Once the Patna High Court. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please conclude. Are you concluding or not ?

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please listen to me. I would like to cite an example in this context.

I would like to cite an example in this regard. The son of a deceased person filed a petition in the Patna High Court and in his writ he submitted that as his father was no more and he was finding it difficult to put forward his legal points, hence he may be permitted to put forward his contention before the court. In its judgment the Patna High Court stated that the kin of the deceased can put forward his or her views before the court by filing an affidavit in the court. Thereupon the other party took this matter to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court also upheld the judgment of the Patna High Court. This case was filed in Patna High Court in 1987-88.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Therefore, it is not correct to say that a deceased person cannot defend himself in the court of law. The judgements of Patna High Court and the Supreme Court in this regard are there. If you want to have copy of the said judgements then I can produce them in the House.

I will have to conclude now as you are not allowing me to speak any more. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's address, which is a very important discussion. I would also like to thank you for the assurance you have given in your speech while assuming the office of the speaker that you will take special care of backbenchers. I am grateful to you that you have translated that promise into action. I will not take much time of the House, as our leader is here and she has to speak.

First of all, I would like to start from the mention of Kargil issue in the President's address. An impression has been given to the entire nation that the Bharatiya Janata Party had played a leading role in the victory of India during the Kargil conflict. I am reminded of one thing. I got an opportunity to go through the book of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which is related to his forty years in the Parliament. A reference of 1971 war has been given in this book and it has been stated that under the leadership of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi India's achievement was one of the greatest task of the country and of the world. The author of the book on Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. M.M. Ghatate has written that he was accompanying Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to Gwalior. We told Shri Vajpayeeji that now Shrimati Indira Gandhi would order holding of general elections early. At that time Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not respond and later on in a rally at Gwalior Shri Vajpayeeji

said in his speech that nobody would be allowed to take mileage out of the sacrifices made by our martyrs. This Government took mileage of Kargil conflict and have insulted the martyrs. . . . (Interruptions) Please listen to me. We have listened to you patiently, Please sitdown. . . . (Interruptions) In remembrance of those martyrs who laid down their lives for the country in Kargil and Dras today I am reminded of a couplet by an Urdu poet, which reads :

"Jis ghar se koi Maktal mein gaya,
Wah shaan salamat Rahti hai,
Is jaan ki to koi baat nahin,
Yeh jan to aani jaani hai."

21.00 hrs.

Our martyrs have made great sacrifices and the nation is grateful to them. The hon'ble Home Minister is here, I would like to request him not to play politics by merely presenting sewing machines to the families of martyrs. They should be provided all possible help from the Government on priority basis and the Government should use its discretion in the matter. . . . (Interruptions) I am sorry to say that on the one hand we were celebrating success of democracy in our country and on the other hand our neighbouring country Pakistan, which was visited by our hon'ble Prime Minister by bus and signed the Lahore declaration through which he had tried to give out an impression that the distance between two neighbours was reducing but now that democracy in that country has been murdered and the elected Prime Minister has been deposed our Prime Minister and the Bharatiya Janata Party did not utter a single word in this regard. This is very shameful.

Now, I come to the important point. The name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi who led this country towards the 21 century, is being dragged in Bofors issue even after his death. Perhaps this is the first Government in the world which have included in the chargesheet the name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, a great son of the country who was awarded the highest award of the country 'Bharat Ratna'. I would like to quote what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said in his obituary reference when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated :

"There cannot be a greater sacrifice than the one Shri Rajiv Gandhi has given for his country. The coming generations will be proud of the fact that we were in power despite being in the opposition. Once when Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi heard about my illness he immediately came to my house and talked to me about my health and within one day he made arrangements for my foreign visit for treatment."

On the one hand, there is sagacity of politics and on the other hand the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party has

included the name of a person in the chargesheet who is no more and who had never indulged in corruption. You have vitiated the atmosphere in the country by making provocative speeches and chanting slogans like "Kasam Ram Ki Khate Hain, Mandir Wahin Banayenge, Talwar Nikale Myan Se, Mandir Benega Shaan Se, Jo Mangega Babri, Uska Din Hoga Aakhari, Hindun Ko Jagao, Musalmanon Ko Bhagao." Where is the temple, where are those people who were bent upon constructing the temple? I have myself witnessed the ten thousand kilometer long Rath Yatra of Shri Advaniji. His Rath Yatra divided the country for which future generations will not forgive him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will conclude after making one more point. I would like to say something about issues related to Punjab. Punjab is in severe financial crisis. Earlier Bharatiya Janata Party has been demanding transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and to provide water to the State. My friend Shri Mannji has raised this issue but I think he could not raise it properly. Akali leaders Shri Tohra and Shri Badal were more responsible for it during the operation Bluestar but they blamed the Congress for it.

There is a mention in the President's Address about creation of Uttranchal and Chhatisgarh States. As far as Uttranchal is concerned I would like to say that the sentiments of the people of Udham Singh Nagar should be kept in mind. 300 out of 327 panchayats, have expressed their desire to remain in Uttar Pradesh, they do not want to be a part of Uttranchal. This is an important issue.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will speak. But before that I think the House will agree to extend the time of the House till the completion of today's business.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. Discussion has not been held in this House regarding backward castes. It has not been mentioned in President's Address. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you. Please take your seat. There are other Members also who have not got the chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, please take your seat. This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, what the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is doing?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, please take your seat. This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I want to know whether he represents the NDA. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Can we know which party he belongs to? Is he an Independent? Does he have a party?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Which party does he belong to? . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mandal, it is not right. What are you talking about. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to the President, but at the same

*Not recorded.

[Shri K. Francis George]

time I oppose this Motion of Thanks obviously because the President's Address is the policy statement of this Government. I just want to mention two-three points only.

As far as the agricultural sector is concerned, I would like to refer to the policies being followed by this Government, by the previous Government and also the policies started in 1991 by the Congress Government. The then Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao initiated the policy of liberalisation. I would like to say that as far as Kerala is concerned, my State is reeling under the falling price of rubber. The economy of the State is totally shattered. The small, medium and tiny cultivators, especially the rubber cultivators, are facing a very grave crisis.

This Government came on the plank of Swedeshi. But what we see today is this that this Government led by the BJP and by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is trying to outsmart the Congress Party as far as the economic policies are concerned. It has directly affected the State of Kerala and also the small farmers of Kerala.

Shri. P.C. Thomas spoke about the rubber farmers of Kerala. The pre-1991 position was that the Costs and Accounts section of the Finance Department used to study the expenditure regarding rubber cultivation and fix the floor price every year. But now there is no floor price any more. That has been abolished from 1991 onwards. That position has to be restored. Every year, the Finance Department should study the expenditure and the cost involved in the rubber cultivation and the floor price should be fixed. When the price falls below the floor price in the market, the State Trading Corporation should intervene and procure rubber at the floor price. Now, there is only minimum support price. That is not mandatory. There is no mandate for the Central Government to buy within the minimum support price. But if floor price is fixed, the Central Government is bound to procure rubber within the floor price. Only then, this problem can be solved. So, it is very necessary and urgent that the Central Government reverts to pre-1991 position as far as rubber is concerned. The economy of the State has to be saved and the farmers have to be saved. I represent a constituency where almost all the cash crops are being cultivated. These cash crops and the farmers of that area are facing a great crisis due to the policies of the Central Government. The export-import policy declared by the then Commerce Minister, Shri Hedge is going to directly affect all the cash crop cultivators because free import of cash crops is definitely going to reduce the price of the cash crops like cardamom, pepper, tea and so on. All these crops are going to be affected. So, my constituency and State are the worst hit so far as the economic policies of the previous Congress Govern-

ment and the present Government are concerned. So, I am demanding that these policies should be reviewed.

Now, a Ministerial Conference of the WTO is round the corner and those clauses which we have agreed to and which are adversely affecting the farm sector of this country as a whole have to be reviewed. If it is in any way possible, we have to renegotiate with the WTO and those clauses have to be taken out of the agreement.

Regarding minorities, I would like to say that they have been attacked. You know when the attack started. Now the Pope is being attacked, and even our patriotism has been questioned. Now, I would like to say that we are not in any way less patriotic than any other section of the society in this country. If there is a political conflict between Rome and New Delhi, whom do you think we will stand by? We will definitely stand by New Delhi and not Rome. There is no doubt about it because we are citizens of this country; we are born here; we live here; and we are going to die here. We are a part of this country. Let there be no doubt about that.

There is a section in the Christian community called Dalit Christians, the converted Christians. Lakhs and lakhs of converted Christians have been denied the benefit of reservation. Just because a person opts for a particular religion, is it fair to deny him the benefits of reservation as is being given to other socially and economically weaker sections of this country? It is a negation of justice. It is against natural justice. The other day, we were discussing about reservation. These questions have to be addressed and due to paucity of time, I am winding up.

I hope the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the concerned Ministers will take all these issues into account. . . .(Interruptions)

Everybody spoke about Kargil. The Defence Minister of this country said that the information came from a shepherd. It is a shame that in this great country, the information had to come from a shepherd in spite of having so many intelligence agencies like the IB, the RAW and different intelligence outfits of the armed forces. It is very unfortunate. I do not know what you have done for that shepherd. Some citation or a medal or something has to be given to him, because but for his presence of mind and patriotism, this country would have been in deeper trouble.

I express my thanks to you, Sir, for having given me an opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address moved by Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra and seconded by Shri Vaiko.

The President's Address highlights a number of important economic, social and political issues. But, Sir, before I start talking about some of these issues, I want to State that the action taken by the Government on the Bofors Chargesheet is despicable. An innocent man lies condemned without a trace of evidence. The right accorded to each Indian, to defend himself from charges has been snatched away from Rajivji my husband. This Government has acted solely for political reasons. This Government has acted maliciously. This Government has acted vindictively. I wish to reiterate that the Bofors inquiry must go on; the guilty must be identified and punished; the law must take its course. But what we will not tolerate is the framing of an innocent man, a man who is not here to defend himself today.

Sir, we will continue to fight for the honour of our departed leader. We will do it in all the fora available to us and we will do it with the people of our country. However, the interest of our country tops the list of our priorities. What we will not do is disrupt governance. Where our cooperation is sought, we will, after deliberation on the issues, cooperate. But let me State clearly that creating, crafting and continuing a consensus is not the responsibility of the Opposition alone.

Sir, there are some issues on which I would like to elaborate. We would have liked a much stronger and comprehensive discussion on Anti-Poverty Programmes in the President's Address. The essence of economic reform is the rapid abolition of poverty and the accelerated generation of employment. Investments in Anti-Poverty and Rural Development Programmes need to be stopped up significantly. More importantly, we believe that all Central funds for Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development should be transferred directly to elected Panchayat bodies without any further delay.

Sir, the President's Address talks fleetingly about the population problem. A vigorous and determined effort is required at managing the growth of our population, particularly in North India. The spread of female literacy, the empowerment of women, the provision of nutrition and food security through the PDS, the expansion of Primary health facilities and an innovative communication campaign will all contribute to success in fertility decline. These must be pursued in full earnest.

Sir, we believe that modern, secular, scientific and technical education is the key to building the India of our dreams. I stress "modern, secular and scientific." Education must not make us prisoners of the past. It must not inflame passions. It must not arouse antagonism. Education must open the mind. It must expand horizons. It must make the personality sensitive, broad-minded and unprejudiced.

This was the objective behind Rajiv Gandhi's New Education Policy of 1986. That Policy remains as relevant today. We are deeply concerned that efforts to saffronise our educational institutions continue unabated in spite of the Prime Minister's assurances to the contrary.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is reading allowed? . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Sir, the Congress Government launched an innovative national social assistance programme in 1995 which focussed on the aged, the disabled and those in the unorganised sector. We urge that these schemes and programmes initiated to provide social security are continued and funded adequately.

Sir, our youth needs a new vision. Our youth needs a new sense of purpose and I am quite happy to have noticed that there is an extensive programme outlined in the Address by the President on the youth of this country. But what I am most concerned about is the welfare of our children, particularly those children who are forced to work, particularly those children who are destitutes and particularly those children who are exploited.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE : Sir, she should be allowed to speak in Italian. . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, the Leader of Opposition is speaking. This is not correct. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : Sir, investment in children is investment in the future. In our Manifesto, we have highlighted a number of programmes and schemes for their welfare. I would urge the Government to pay special attention to these.

Sir, we attach the highest importance to the welfare of Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs and minorities. Many Dalit organisations have met me and pointed out that the implementation of existing reservations for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes is subject to administrative circulars and interpretations. This has caused unease and confusion. In our Manifesto, we have suggested a separate reservation act, which will codify all existing reservations and their implementation. In the past, the Congress Government had started a number of finance and development corporations for the weaker sections of society, but we find that, the funding for these corporations has been cut drastically.

Sir, we expected mention, in the President's Address, of some programmes for the minorities. Here again, we believe that education is the key to uplift them and empower them. The nation would like to be re-assured that the Government is committed to the Places of Worship Act

[Shrimati Sonia Gandhi]

of 1991 I would also urge all political parties to evolve a consensus on how to increase representation of minorities in all walks of Public life.

The President's Address takes pride in the fact that the incidence of communal riots has declined. One view is that this occurs because those who cause them in the first place are in power. But let us leave that aside.

We are concerned about the divisiveness and terror being spread by certain fanatical organisations which sustain the party in power. We condemn the lack of the Government action against them.

Sir, diversity has defined us. It is being used to divide us. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This is not correct, Sir. Shri Advani must make a note of it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, please.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He is a leader of the House at the moment. . . .(Interruptions) This is not correct. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI : We in the Congress Party will resist this with all our might. We will not allow our secular heritage to be subverted and destroyed.

Sir, the President's Address talks about a Commission to review the Constitution. January 26, 2000 marks, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of our Constitution. This is an occasion to celebrate the Constitution, not denigrate it. The Constitution has strengthened the foundations of representative democracy in our country. Let us not fritter away this precious legacy. Let not the review be a smoke-screen for yet another hidden agenda.

Sir, the President's Address makes some suggestions for ensuring the longevity of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas. By all means, let us debate these proposals. Let us discuss about these proposals. But let us not, in the name of stability, usurp the basic democratic right of the people of our country.

Sir, it gives me particular pleasure to note that the President's Address lays so much stress on information technology. I recall that it was when Rajiv Gandhi first ushered India into the computer and information age he has bitterly criticised. It seems yesterday's critics have now become today's champions.

Sir, we congratulate our scientists and technologists for their outstanding achievements in the nuclear and

missile field. Successive Congress Governments have been responsible for this, a fact that I wish the Government acknowledged once in a while.

Sir, we need a fuller debate on nuclear doctrine on confidence building measures to reduce the risks of nuclear and missile wars in our region. On India's approach to creating a nuclear-weapon-free world. It is important that a national consensus is reached before a decision is taken on the CTBT. I, earnestly hope that the Government will keep us informed about the findings of the Kargil Review Committee. There are far too many unanswered questions on Kargil. The country has a right to know.

While we deal with cross border terrorism with more than a firm hand, I believe that we must pursue the dialogue and diplomacy with Pakistan under the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Finally Sir, we respect the verdict of the people. We will play our role with responsibility and dignity. We will work with the Government if and when our cooperation is sought.

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy *Diwali*.

21.35 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Damage caused by Cyclone in Coastal District of Orissa

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Sir, I would like to know whether I should speak about the Orissa Cyclone first or reply to this debate first

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Cyclone first.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, what the overall information that I have received is from the Cabinet-Secretariat. A very severe cyclone characterised as super-cyclonic storm hit the coast of Orissa from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. today causing vast devastation. The eye of this cyclone of highest severity hit the coast at Paradeep. The diameter of the cyclone was very large and wind speed went up to 260 kms. per hour at some place.

All the nine coastal districts of Orissa and three adjoining districts have been gravely affected. As per preliminary reports received from the State Government, the devastation caused is enormous. Heavy loss of life is

expected to have taken place. About one-and-a-half crore people have been affected. Damage to houses is expected to run into lakhs. Damaged buildings and fallen trees have made movement inside and between the cities and villages almost impossible. The communication with districts of Puri, Jagatsinghpura and Kendrapada has got broken down. All the coastal towns starting from North, down to Puri, including Cuttack and Bhubaneswar have been plunged into darkness. Power supply and water supply, road services and telecommunication services have been disrupted.

As strong winds in all the coastal districts have heavy rains in some of them are still continuing, proper assessment of damage would be possible only after surveys which would start from tomorrow. Right from the receipt of first information from India Meteorological Department regarding formation of the cyclonic storm on the 26th of October, a regular and close contact has been maintained with the State authorities at the highest level of the Cabinet Secretary and the Agricultural Secretary. Army and Air Force have been on the alert to render all essential help to the State Government. AIR and Doordarshan have been informing the people through news bulletins, special bulletins and hourly bulletins during the last four days. Helicopters have been kept ready and would start air-dropping of food stuffs and other essential item from tomorrow morning.

The State Government took action during the last three days to warn the people and for arranging evacuation to safer places and stocking essential supplies at selected places. Dry ration packets have been under preparation. Community kitchens and distribution of dry ration have commenced at many places. The Government of India has decided that the Department of Agriculture would arrange and indent supplies of food stuffs, essential medicines, polythene rolls, diesel generating sets, etc. as per requirements projected by the State authorities.

Help is also being mobilised from neighbouring States. The Union Department of Power has been asked to rush as many ERS teams as possible for restoring electricity without awaiting request from the State Government. Indian Railways will carry free of charge the food stuffs and relief materials to the affected areas.

Airlifting of essential medicines to the affected areas would start from tomorrow morning. The concerned Central Government Departments and the Ministries have been directed to rush all necessary help to the State without waiting for a formal request from Delhi. The Cabinet Secretary is reviewing the situation regularly and closely in consultation with the State authorities. The Union Cabinet will also meet tomorrow to take stock of the

situation so as to render all help in meeting the challenge thrown by this unprecedented calamity.

Besides this overall report, I have specific reports from the Army, from the Air Force and from the Navy given to me by the Ministry of Defence. Operation 'Sahayata' is the name given by the Army to the entire operation. If the House wants, I can read out all the details. But broadly speaking, the Armed Forces have been mobilised. The Air Force including their helicopters, etc. have been mobilised. Many helicopters have been kept on alert and besides, the Navy has indicated that it has given assistance to fishermen both for Andhra Pradesh as well as for Orissa. Several ships, several vessels, two Dorniers, four Cheetahs, INS Gharyals have been deployed for cyclone relief activity.

This is briefly the action taken by the Central Government in this regard till now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, West Bengal is also somewhat affected due to this cyclone. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The Cabinet will be meeting tomorrow. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are appreciative of the Government's immediate response. I wish to thank the Government. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : The West Bengal State Government has said that presently they do not need it. When they need it, we will send. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, we heard on the television in the evening that the Midnapore district and 24 Parganas have been affected. But fortunately and comparatively, West Bengal has not been affected as severely as Orissa. Sir, we sympathise with the affected people of Orissa. I am sure that the Government will make all efforts that they have indicated and we appreciate it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a submission. Andhra Pradesh is the neighbouring State. The Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu has taken a decision to send all the essential commodities, medicines and other things to Orissa. Like that, this House should request all the State Governments to render their help to Orissa because the efforts of State and even the Centre are not sufficient to meet this situation. Through this House, we request the other State Governments to give immense help to the State of Orissa. That is my submission.

21.43 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S
ADDRESS – *Contd.**[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before replying to the discussion held on Motion of Thanks on President's Address. I am sorry to say that hon'ble Prime Minister will not be able to attend the House as he is not well. It would have been better if Prime Minister had himself replied to this debate. This is new Government after all and there must be some reasons behind the mandate it has got. However, no one will deny the fact that the people have faith in the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The manner in which he successfully lead the country during the last one and a half year is the main factor behind this mandate. Therefore, it would have been better if he himself had replied the debate. Perhaps more than 30 members have participated in this debate and expressed their views. Though criticisms were also there but on the whole, it was a meaningful debate. Those who were of the view that the new Government which is a coalition of many Parties will not be stable, they also wanted the Government to complete its term but had apprehensions about its stability. I agree that the people's mandate is in favour of Stable Government I remember that while framing our manifesto, we have stated the reasons for the formation of N.D.A. :

[English]

"NDA came into being because of an historic need and realization among us that our young democracy cannot bear the fits and tremors of frequent elections which will undermine the people's faith in the democratic process."

[Translation]

13th Lok Sabha elections have been concluded. India got its freedom a little more than 50 years. The country witnessed eight general elections during the first four decades.

[English]

In the previous four decades, we had eight elections which means two per decade.

[Translation]

Having two elections in one decade is a normal constitutional provision. However, in the last decade from 1989 to 1999, the country has faced five elections. It has created worry among the people about the stability of the country. This is the main reason behind their mandate. The

last five elections ended in hung Parliament leading to the formation of minority Governments. In the last five elections, it is for the first time that voters have not elected hung Parliament.

Shri Sangma is not present here. While giving some figures, Sangmaji has tried to make us understand that it is also a minority Government, which is not a fact. While stating so, he was not including TDP and Lok Dal as member of NDA and on that basis stated that the present Government is not a majority Government. But he forgot the fact that till now 538 members have been elected and not 543. Elections of remaining 5 seats have been held today results are awaited. Those members are not present in the House. Even if we do not count Telugu Desam and Lok Dal, still this Government has full majority. It is not a minority Government. Vajpayee Government is 1998 was a minority Government. That time BJP had 252 members. TDP supported us fully that time. We proved our majority many a times till one of our ally withdrew its support during the month of February-March. Last time TDP did not support us, even we contested elections against each other. However, this time all the allies whether it was TDP or Lok Dal supported us and projected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as our Prime Ministerial candidate. This is the basic difference between the current situation and the previous one which should be well recognised in perview of the discussion which is being held now and then regarding the stability of present Government. On the contrary, since 13th October when this Govt. was formed, the people who came to congratulate me say that the Government will complete its 5 year term . . . *(Interruptions)* 13 years are not granted to us. Elections will be held after 5 years. . . *(Interruptions)* Thank you. That's why I have stated that the discussion was a constructive one. Even the people who had apprehensions about the stability of the Government were also in favour that this Government should complete its full term as it is in the interest of the nation. I will not deny the fact that the success which we have achieved this time is because of the people wish to have a stable Government.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : You are not aware of the opinion of the members of your party . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Had the President not accepted the fact, we would have been discussing Confidence Motion today rather than discussing the Motion on President's Address. A unique point that needs to be noted here is that first Shri Vishvanath Pratap Singh and then Shri Narasimha Rao had to bring Confidence Motion when they became Prime Minister in 1989 and 1991 respectively. Thereafter, Shri Vajpayee, Shri Devegowada and Shri Inder Kumar Gujral were made Prime Ministers. Then Shri

Vajpayee was re-elected as Prime Minister. During the tenure of all these Prime Ministers, there was a hung Parliament leading to formation of minority Governments. Therefore, the Hon'ble President did not take their majority as granted and they were asked to prove their majority on the floor of the House. After a decade or we can say that after 1984, it is for the first time that the people of the country have elected a Government which do not require Confidence Motion.

In this context, Shri Sangma tried to make me understand that our party has not been benefited in this election. He stated that earlier BJP had got 181 seats but this time it had won 182. Some one said BJP Government was pulled down due to one vote, they have asked for one vote and got the same.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Shri Advani, you were not getting his hint.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I understand, I understand his hint. I understood it in 1996. Up to 1996, Bharatiya Janata Party strengthened itself and the result was that in 1996 elections it was the single largest party though in 1984 general elections, it got only 2 seats. In 1996, hon'ble President invited Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the Government not because he had the majority but because he was the leader of the single largest party in the Lok Sabha. Shiv Sena who was our electoral ally supported us and Akali Dal which was not our electoral ally also supported us after the election in forming the Government. However, we could not get support of other parties and the Government lasted only for 13 days. We got this point at that time and after 1996 we tried to make people understand that may not agree with the ideology of the BJP but they to realise that BJP members are patriot, sincere, honest and work in the interest of the nation. It has the leadership which if comes to power can provide a good administration. Lateron, we consulted each and every party and they agreed to work under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party by formulating an agreed programme. In 1998, we formed the Government on the basis of this mutually agreed programme.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Their trial is going on in Meghalaya. We are understanding but not you.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : It happens at many places. Trial is going on in Maharashtra also. Therefore, the Members sitting behind me were thinking to ask about Maharashtra also when Shri Sangma was speaking.

[English]

Let us not make scoring points. Today, I do not propose to score any points because I am extremely happy that

the debate has been very constructive. I do understand the sentiments and feelings of the Leader of the Opposition who spoke last.

[Translation]

But I will come to that point also.

[English]

But on the whole it has been very constructive.

[Translation]

The whole debate was constructive. It makes me believe that the approach we have adopted after 1996 will yield good results. The same has happened. I was a Member of Morarji Bhai Government which was having majority in the House.

[English]

It was functioning at least as a single party.

[Translation]

It was not an alliance of many parties. Only four parties together formed the Government. After emergency four opposition parties joined hands to merge as Janata Party. They might not have a similar agenda but at least had the banner of Janata Party. Janata Party had clear majority in Lok Sabha but not in Rajya Sabha. The situation that time was worse than that of today. I was a Member of Rajya Sabha that time and was leader of my party. But I think that that Government had the biggest shortcoming.

[English]

It did not represent the country. It has a majority.

[Translation]

It had the majority but they did not represent the country neither socially nor Geographically. It represented East and North. It prominently represented North-West and Central India, but it did not represent the country as a whole. One can say that the present Government is an alliance of so many parties and that is its weakness but I feel that it is the strength of the Government as allied Parties represent the whole country. It is stated that the Government is an alliance of 20-25 parties but four-five of them are major parties. There are many parties which have total number of members below the double digit. North-eastern region is represented by several such parties. However, it is not our approach to force them to merge in Janata Dal (U) or in the BJP as a precondition to give them the post or a Minister. We accept their existence. Therefore, what Shri Sangma has stated that the national parties are going down is not correct. He

[Shri L.K. Advani]

categorically stated that only BSP gained strength. Why this party is being given the status of national party is a matter of statistics. But I feel that BJP which is the main party in this alliance has gained strength continuously since 1984. We did not pay attention to increase our number of seats for the last 2-3 years. But this time while approaching the people we told them that hung Parliament should not be there. There should be a clear mandate and Shri Vajpayee should be the Prime Minister. In our Party meeting we always discussed that.

[English]

We must cross 300.

[Translation]

We must cross the figure of 300 seats. I feel that crossing the figure of 300 seats is a great achievement despite the set back in Uttar Pradesh. While the debate on President's Address is going on. I would like to avail this opportunity to thank the people of the country for giving us a clear mandate.

Yesterday Shri Mulayam Singh raised an objection that the two main parties joined hands in presenting the Insurance Bill. Is it a matter to be sad about? These two parties were not alone in supporting it, it is not a matter of concurrence of BJP and Congress only. It is the unity of alliance of 20-25 parties of NDA with the main opposition Party. There is nothing objectionable in it. I remember that someone in the Constituent Assembly had expressed his wish that though congress was the main party at that time and other small parties were not prominent but he hoped that a time would come when a system like other countries such as England, America and some European countries will come about where only two political parties existed and alternatively come to power.

22.00 hrs.

It would be better if such a situation prevails in our country. However, that situation did not arise in our country. Shri Indrajit Gupta is not present in the House. He had raised the issue of proportional representation. Personally I have been a supporter of it. However, consensus could not be reached over that issue in all the committees formulated for this purpose. However, all the Committees recommended to constitute an expert body to reconsider this electoral system. This recommendation was made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee which was constituted in 1971 or 1972 in connection with electoral reforms. Shri Somnath, Shri Indrajit and myself were among the Members of this Committee. Shri Jagannath Rao, the Law Minister was also its Member. That Committee had also

recommended to set up an expert committee. However, when Constituent Assembly accepted the present electoral system it was hoped that it would lead to two party system. Proportional Representation will lead to Multi-party system. It was forgotten that different States of our country have different levels of political development. There are regional parties also.

[English]

You cannot wish them away.

[Translation]

A resolution was made by the leader of Congress Party at Panchmarhi.

[English]

That was not a right analysis of the political situation. It was a right strategy for you.

[Translation]

Had the Congress Party followed that resolution, they would not have met this fate.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : We never expected that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Sharad Yadav would be sitting by your side on the treasury benches. The country had never expected this.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Please note that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Sharad Yadav were also with us when I was in the Janata Party. The thing which has forced us to join hands. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : You had to part company due to the dual policy of George Fernandes. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Shri George Fernandes. . . .(Interruptions) Yes we went there but for the sake of Jaiprakash Narayan. The movement launched by Shri Jaiprakash Narayan had linked all of us. As the question has been raised, I will mention the same. My point of view is that in our country though it is important for the political parties to have a specific ideology but idealism is more important here. Idealism is important than ideology. It is the idealism of people like Shri Jai Prakash Narayan that the member of Socialist Party, George Fernandes, member of Congress(O) and Jan Sangh and other parties had come under one banner.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : To get power, one has to forget such things. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Please do not tempt to do so. Sometime, in order to prove that what we are doing is

correct, we have to point out the wrong acts of others. However, I would not do so. I would only say about the complaint made by Shri Somnath that there is no mention of Indrajit committees in the President's Address. He might not have noticed that no committee has been mentioned in it. Only a comprehensive electoral role has been mentioned in it. Rather these committees have been mentioned in our Manifesto. Both the Committees in which you and I were among the members and the other in which you and Shri Indrajit were members have been mentioned. It has been stated while mentioning these committees that.

[English]

"We will introduce the necessary electoral reforms on the basis of the recommendations of the Goswami Committee, the Indrajit Gupta Committee and the Law Commission report. . . ." (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : You never follow your manifesto. That is why do not read it. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I know it. Here no committees are mentioned. . . . (Interruptions) If I were to mention only the Dinesh Goswami Committee, I would have been at fault. But I have not mentioned any Committee. But we have certainly said and we are committed to that. I have not spent the time. . . . (Interruptions)

In fact, it was during this period of this Government or rather the Vajpayee Government of 1998 that the Indrajit Gupta Committee was constituted and it went ahead. We will certainly implement what it has said and we will try to do it without delay.

[Translation]

There is no question of delay in it. Though there are some matters which inspite of having a part of electoral reform need to be dealt separately, issue of women's reservation and the question of delimitation are such issues. I feel that Shri Sangma has raised a valid point regarding population policy of the Government and the results of that policy. For the last 30 years, delimitation of the Constituencies has not taken place though the same has been mentioned in the Constitution. The last delimitation took place after the census of 1997. After that it was agreed that delimitation will not take place till 2001. It had to be done because at that time southern States especially Tamil Nadu had said that the States which are effectively following the policy of Family Planning will be left with reduced representation in the Lok Sabha if delimitation on the basis of population is done. Some States which do not follow the policy of family planning were referred as 'Problem States'. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

Therefore, these are very valid points. . . . (Interruptions)
Therefore, we have to. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Leader of the Opposition has mentioned in her speech that the Constitution of our country was adopted and implemented on 26th January, 1950.

[English]

It was adopted.

[Translation]

The coming 26th January will be an important date. It will be the golden jubilee of the adoption of Constitution.

[English]

Golden Jubilee of the adoption of the Constitution.

[Translation]

This solemn occasion is a time to ponder. While sitting here I have got an idea. I will talk to the Hon'ble Prime Minister also that as a special session of the Parliament was called on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence likewise a Special Session on this occasion can be called in which we should consider the problem of population and formulate a policy in this regard as it is a question which concerns all of us. Shri Shivraj. Shri Sangma and many other Members from this side have mentioned about it.

We have given importance to this matter in President's address. We have given so much importance to it and have said we will make National Health Policy which will have two main aims.

[English]

Para 15 says :

"National Health Policy will soon be presented whose twin aims will be the provision of adequate primary health services to all citizens and a stabilisation of population."

[Translation]

Stabilisation of population. Some people call it, population control or contain it.

[English]

It is a question of phrase.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[Translation]

At present, it is not there. It is not only the 'feel good factor', but I would like to tell them.

[English]

The whole country is feeling. He should also feel secure.

[Translation]

This Government will complete its five year term, there is nothing to worry about.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Can I just suggest one thing to save a little time in the end ? I will just suggest that from the Chair, the hon. Speaker could propose an appropriate resolution showing concern and sympathy for all the devastation that has taken place in Orissa which we could pass after the speech of Shri Advani. It could be suitably drafted and the whole House could then join in this.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : There can be no objection to that though at the moment, we have only a preliminary report.

[Translation]

I was listening to Shri Somnath and Shri Indrajēt. While criticising paragraph 37, Shri Indrajit has mentioned the constitutional reforms. It has been mentioned particularly

[English]

"That the Government will also examine replacing the present system of No-Confidence Motion by a system of constructive vote of No-Confidence, and a fixed term to the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabhas in order to prevent political instability both at the Centre and the States."

In that, fixed term is contemplated not for Government, but for the Legislatures.

[Translation]

I will support what Shri Indrajēt ji has said that there should be a proportional representation. If we all agree on it then we can adopt European system, where despite democracy, electoral system is different. All members are having fixed term over here four years-five years. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is the responsibility of the Council of Ministers to the House of the People.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I know that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is the very basis of the parliamentary democracy here.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : So, regarding the basic objection, I would certainly have to examine whether it goes contrary to the basic structure theory. That would have to be examined, but there is no harm in considering this matter. What is being said about the commission. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Advani, you will appreciate this. I said, our Constitution contemplates that the House may be dissolved before five years.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes, I know that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : In what circumstances it will be dissolved has been mentioned in article 83. It says, 'the duration of the House will be five years, unless dissolved earlier'. Therefore, this can be done by the President. Generally, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, it will be done. Yes, certainly, this has happened. Therefore, Constitution itself contemplates a shorter term.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : When you make an amendment of the kind that makes Indian democracy more akin to the European democracy than to the British democracy, then certain changes would automatically have to be made, and that is obvious. The conception is that

[Translation]

The views expressed by the leader of the Opposition are far beyond the imagination.

[English]

There is no question.

[Translation]

Many well-known people have time and again said that constituent assembly should be called. I used to tell them the people of constituent Assembly of India, 1947-1950 were very intelligent, and very patriotic. The Constitution framed by them was very good according to that time. It was considered a very good one for a long time, but despite all these facts, we have made many amendments in it. While doing amendments are we degenerating it, or finishing it ? Are we trying to find fault with Dr. Ambedker's intelligence ? No, Dr. Ambedkar had made a provision under section 368, so that Parliament could carry out amendments. They were not done in 1952, it does not mean that these should not be carried out even in 1999 ? He had not said so. I agree with its fundamentals principles that this country will never become a religious State, this country which is called a secular State, shall

remain so. The democracy will remain in this country. This will never become monarchy.

[English]

It will not be anything of that kind.

[Translation]

The fundamental principles of it will not be changed. The direction and orders in this regard will be given to them. The Commission, which will be constituted, could make recommendations only after considering all these facts. The decision has to be taken by the Parliament. And if both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will not pass the bill by two-third majority, then how an amendment can be made? Therefore, there is no need to be apprehensive in this regard. Shri Prabhunath Singh and another hon'ble Member has rightly said that the Members of the Commission should know the nerve of the public. Only legal experts are not sufficient. I agree with it and this is true also that basically on the basis of 50 years of experience, the amendments should not be carried in piece-meals. For how many times we enacted anti-defection law. Earlier, there was no law in this regard, but what was the experience after the enactment of legislation? The experience is that.

[English]

If a person defects, if he is a single defector.

[Translation]

He is a culprit. If the defects in singular he is a culprit, if he defects in plural, it is alright. Then it is a split. When Shri Shivraj Patil was the Speaker, he had especially called all the people and desired that it should be changed. Many discussions were held in this regard. After that the assurance was given, the Legislation will be brought but it was not done. I understand that now it is high time that on the basis of all experiences a commission should make its recommendations and Parliament should consider it. It can be considered in that context, whether old constructive no-confidence motion of Germany is good or the present one. But if present one would not have been there, perhaps these results could not have emerged. There is no doubt in this regard. The voting took place on 17th of April fortunately which was viewed by crores of people of the country. I know that whenever this issue was raised, how people responded. The Government was pulled down by one vote. The Government which had presented a good budget, only some days ago, was pulled down by one vote, that one vote was of Orissa's Chief Minister.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Sharad Yadav, and the Chief

Minister of Orissa had voted against the Government. What is the fault of Congress party, if you had not been able to woo Jaylalitha?

[English]

MAJO. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Shri Dasmunsi, now you are intervening. That is not correct.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Advani can look after himself. You do not have to support him.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, many Members have mentioned Kargil, that is quite natural and obvious. The President has mentioned Kargil in detail in his address. And all the Members, who have mentioned Kargil, have identified themselves with the tribute and respect paid to the soldiers by the President in his address. If the person like Shri Indrajeet Gupta goes to hospital and meet the injured soldiers, all the memories flash in his mind, how the soldiers had faced the enemy in war and what was the condition of their families. After doing all this, when I heard from a prominent leader, what kind of victory is this? The Pakistan has withdrawn because of American pressure. I understand that this type of analysis is not only wrong, but is also an insult to the gallantry and sacrifice of our brave soldiers. It is very wrong, that they have retreated under American pressure. It is not a fact, but the fact is that.

[English]

Almost the whole area of Kargil that had been invaded had been cleared by our jawans.

[Translation]

It was the last phase when the Pakistani Prime Minister had visited Washington on the invitation of United States President Mr. Clinton. He committed over there that the remaining intruders will retreat. Only some intruders were retreat. Only some intruders were left by that time. Our soldiers had bravely cleared, the area. This is a very difficult task. Somebody has rightly said it was an arduous task to a person occupying the height of 16 thousand feet.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, normally wars are fought in plains and if enemy had occupied some position, then the ration of 3:2:1 is required to dislodge them. Moreover, if the enemy who is the native of that place and is trained for it is dislodged by our jawans from lower positions then.

[English]

It was a marvellous achievement; a remarkable feat.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

[Translation]

And, therefore, it is absolutely wrong to say that we won the war due to American intervention.

Yes, it is true that whenever there is war its operation also holds importance. If the bravery and sacrifice of soldiers is important in war, then the command of war operation is also important. They asked me when the Government came to know about it. According to my information. The Government came to know about intrusion on 8 May and since then the Government had been regularly taking the decisions. I am not aware that the Cabinet Committee on Security had met so many times in the past as it had met in that one and a half month. Many a times the meetings took place twice a day. Not only defence people but other people were also there. It had three heads of defence forces. The continuous discussion on this was held, and even the small decisions taken on that time had shown good results. Earlier, it was the practice that if any Hindu or Sikh soldier was martyred, he was cremated at battlefield only, and his remains were handed over to his family, and if he were a Muslim or Christian, he was given proper burial over there, and his belongings were handed to his family. This time it was decided, the dead bodies of the martyrs should be sent to their native villages and their funeral should take place with full honour and respect. Initially, it appeared that it was not a right decision. The coffins of the martyrs were shown at television. Somebody objected its showing on television, they said you may sent it to their villages, but do not show it on television. But I think that this decision has kindled the feeling of patriotism hidden in the hearts of people all over the country. That had proven beneficial for the country. Though television, the martyrdom of the Indian soldiers reached every nook and corner of the country whether it was Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh or any other part of the country. While watching it on the television, the soldiers would have felt that the entire country was with them. This is of great importance. Although it was a small decisions, but its consequences were far-reaching. I except that if the kind of patriotism which we witnessed during war time, becomes the permanent part of the life of the people of our nation, it will be very beneficial. When I talk of war, I would also like to say that earlier also many wars had been fought with Pakistan. And Pakistan had always faced defeat from our defence forces in the battlefield. It had suffered defeat in 1947, 1965 and 1971 but it was the first time, when Pakistan has suffered double defeat, Army defeat in the battlefield, and diplomatic defeat in the international arena.

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Do not compare 1971 war with this.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not comparing. Do not misinterpret me.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This is going too far now. 1971 war was declared as a war by both the nations.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I know that. Even though this was not a declared war, the test which our *Sena* was put to was no less.

[Translation]

How long did the war last? We won the war within two weeks. Therefore, Shri Indrajēt has rightly said that when he met the soldiers they were more confident than the high ranking officer.

[English]

Do not try to underestimate it merely because there was no declaration of war.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The Jawans played their role. We want to know the Government's role.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuthurai) : Sir, would you not accept that it was the Shimla agreement that created the international consensus on the basis of which we were able to secure support? Please do not appropriate to yourself, just in this instance. Please grant that it is only because of the Shimla Agreement that we have been able to keep Kashmir out of international fora.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I definitely accept it. I understand that the Pakistan had attacked Kargil because—

[English]

They misjudged our system.

[Translation]

They felt that recently the opposition had pulled down the Government, and in that condition

[English]

'this Government will be totally isolated.'

They misjudged our system; they misjudged our people; and they also misjudged our Government.

[Translation]

Because of this three-fold misjudgement, they made a plan about Kargil. While mentioning the Lahore-visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, many friends have said that he was unaware of the plot being orchestrated behind his back. I agree that all this might had been planned at that time, there is no doubt about it and I am not denying it. But I am also of the view that the Lahore visit of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee served a great purpose. Earlier, it was publicised all over the world that all other political parties, except Bhartiya Janata Party want friendly ties with Pakistan. This party wants that the relations with Pakistan should always remain tense—

[English]

—that is not true.

Sir, this decision of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee disabused the minds of million in the world, many countries of the world. There in India, the entire countrymen would be happy if there is friendship between India and Pakistan.

[Translation]

Everybody want friendship between India and Pakistan. And I understand that the result of Lahore trip was that we experienced something at the time of Kargil war, which we had never experienced, if there is a war between India and Pakistan, and Kashmir issue is also involved in it, then the people of entire world used to support Pakistan, they do not support us. Whatever victory we had gained, was due to our armed forced, our leadership and that leadership might had been of Shrimati India Gandhi. Although we were in the opposition yet we did not hesitate to praise her. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had heaped praise on Shrimati Indira Gandhi, perhaps more than any other friend in Congress Party. He had praised her so much, because at such a time the leadership matters, which does every thing. .

[English]

... it is the *netritv*, the leadership which decides that you are not to cross the L.O.C.

[Translation]

The leadership decides that Line of Control should not be crossed. This decisions taken by the leadership, not by Army. This is also true that Army agreed, Army was the part of all decisions. It was discussed.

[English]

All these things matter.

[Translations]

But you are repeatedly saying, the victory is of our defence forces, not of Shri Vajpayee. There is no doubt in it. It is the victory of Defence Forces. But if we try to undermine the leadership of that time, what the leadership had done, how it had conducted war operations, we undermine ourselves, please do not do this. Yes, you should also see the fall out of the war. The fall out of Kargil war is that it has strengthened democracy in our country. The Government which came into being is more stable. But what is the fall out of it in Pakistan. It is a sharp contrast of what has happened here. In Pakistan, the democracy is undermined, and the military is ruling the country.
... (Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur) : Are you happy.
... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am not happy. Please, do not say all these things.

[Translation]

I will not like it, otherwise I can illustrate very bad example.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What happened to the letter of Brigadier Surinder Singh ?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I do not want to say anything about that letter because I understand, after a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Subramaniam, submits its report on Kargil. We will definitely discuss it in details, and all facts will come to light.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : About this only two questions were asked by the Members from this side—the first question was about the entry of these people as to how they were allowed to enter and why this was not noticed. How these people entered and what happened after that should be made known to us. Second question was that Lok Sabha was not there at that time as it had been dissolved and there was only caretaker Government. But Rajya Sabha was in session. Why then this matter was not discussed in Rajya Sabha ? If discussion could take place at the time of Second World War. Why this was not discussed this time. And if this could be discussed in Pakistan why not here. These were the two questions, as regards others on one raised any objection.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : As regards the first question which you asked I used to reply to that until three months back on the basic of information available with me till then. But after the constitution of the Committee I did not reply to

[Shri L.K. Advani]

it from Government's side. I think it would not be proper to reply to the questions after the committee is constituted. We should wait for the committee to give comments. Someone said, that we appointed the RAW Chief, who was the main component of intelligence, as Governor of State.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I raised this question because I have the information. He may not be RAW Chief any longer, but he was the RAW Chief at that time. He also appeared before the Committee and he gave evidence. Present RAW Chief also appeared and gave evidence . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Shri L.K. Advani I think you did not get what we are trying to ask. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Yes, I know this much. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : If you want to run the Government, your will have to reply to what Shri Shivraj V. Patil has asked. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : There is a system in the country, for you information. Do not abuse the system. This will not be tolerated. There is a standing army. The Home Minister knows the system.

MR. SPEAKER : Both the former Defence Officers are creating one more war in this House after the Kargil. Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri and Shri Rajesh Pilot are creating one more war in the House.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan television used to show their speeches.

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to remind you this much only. . . .

MR. SPEAKER : Shri L.K. Advani, how much more time will you need ?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am just concluding.

MR. SPEAKER : Motion is also to be passed.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I will just conclude.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I can understand Shri L.K. Advani's saying that a Committee is looking into the

matter to find out whether there was a default after the knowledge of the incursion. Shri Advani does not wish to say anything until the Committee makes a report. We do not know when the Committee will make the report. All these questions have been raised by hon. Members including the father of the House because many lives were lost. Many *Jawans* laid down their lives.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : There have been six wars, so many soldiers were killed in Sri Lanka, he is replying to that but you start interrupting.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Malhotra you please sit down.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no war is won without sacrifice. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you are now a Minister. Please understand.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If the Home Minister today wants a shield, that is a different thing. The Home Minister cannot defend himself.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Madam Prof. Rita Verma, now you are a Minister. Please sit down. . . . (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, when Members from our side speak, they stands up to interrupt. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

We are not the privileged people. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he has asked how the day of knowledge is relevant. Never has such a question been raised in the past. The date of knowledge is relevant because he has talked about the political leadership. We would like to know whether there was any default on the part of the political leadership. Therefore, the date becomes relevant. When this is being asked, when a clarification is being sought, we are being shouted down. So, let them alone run this House.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I am happy that Leader of Opposition has welcomed what was said about Information Technology in President's Address. She has said that entry in the field of computers was made at the time of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, to some extent this is true but those people who

were not in the Government and who were outside, the Government i.e. common citizen like me were interested in it even at that time and used to do their work on computer. Today we should understand that a new concept has been evolved in the field of computers specially after the advent of internet. Computer in itself was a big thing but interest is much bigger thing.

[English]

It is a kind of revolution.

[Translation]

Even the commerce is changing. Now people do business in crores through the internet. We can benefit a lot from the initial superiority that we have in this field. Yesterday only I was reading Indian Express newspaper and I was surprised to see one news item captioned :

[English]

'Indian with an eye for fibre optics climbs to top of the rich list.'

[Translation]

Among the richest person of the world there is one Indian.

[English]

The richest Indian is a young person.

[Translation]

Whose name no one has ever heard. His name is Guru Raj Deshpandey.

[English]

PROF. I.G. SAMADI (Dharwad South) : He is from Hubli.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : He is saying that he is from Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He wants to arrogate everything.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Whoever he may be but we feel proud of him. In 1991 I went to Seattle for the first time to see the microsoft. There I saw that all software engineers were Indians. I was overjoyed.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : If you go to the Silicon Valley, it is the same.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Nobody knew about the big companies which are there today in India.

[English]

Wipro, Infosys, NIIT and Satyam are far wealthier than the so-called big business houses simply because they were particular about the kind of change that is coming about because of the information Technology.

For the first time, the President's Address has devoted two long paragraphs to this particular aspect and also held out to the country ambitious targets.

[Translation]

Somebody said that one one hand you are terming the Ministry as down sizing the Government but on the other hand you are making new Ministry. We felt that making of this Ministry was necessary because for that perspective is needed ? It says :

[English]

"The Ministry will implement a comprehensive action plan to make India an IT superpower in the early part of the next century and achieve a target of \$ 50 billion in software exports by 2000."

[Translation]

An ambitious target has been set as I have made a mention of E-Commerce. The President has said :

[English]

"A legislation to promote E-Commerce will be introduced soon. A task force for the pharmaceutical and other knowledge-based enterprises will be constituted for making India a world leader in this respect."

[Translation]

As far as the question of finance is concerned, I think over Finance Minister has dealt with it in great detail. I will not mention that except saying that we have kept the objectives before us and that objective is as to how a weak person should be uplifted. This is possible by expanding the industrial network.

Therefore we have identified the sectors where we will increase employment—in agricultural sector, agro industries, small scale industries and I.T. About the internet. I would say this much only that Internet revolution is going on at present. At the time of industrial revolution, India

[Shri L.K. Advani]

was left behind, but it is the resolve of our Government that India would not beg behind in the interest revolution.

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan has said one thing in the end which I must mention. Our Government is conscious that there are many enclaves in Bangladesh to which no one is able to go and therefore development has not taken place there. As such voting rights are not given there. Similarly their enclaves fall on our side. But our enclaves are more as compared to their enclaves. According to statistics the population in our enclaves is about fifty thousand and there is also an agreement between India and Bangladesh. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbehar) : We are yet to reach this figure. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : This is our estimate.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : In 1951 census the population was thirty seven thousand and till now this is fifty thousand only. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : I know that but I can say this much only that Government is paying attention towards it and our External Affairs Ministry is in constant touch with Bangladesh.

[English]

The External Affairs Ministry is in constant touch with Bangladesh and we would like to complete this agreement soon.

[Translation]

Agreement was that our 111 enclaves are there in Bangladesh and 70-75 enclaves of Bangladesh are there in our country. These two should be exchanged. When this exchange takes place there will be option for the people living there to become either the citizens of India or Bangladesh—this is our agreement. In order to implement that agreement necessary action is being taken.

I am concluding by saying one more thing. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has said few things and you mentioned them briefly. Keeping in mind these feelings as well as all angles of the matter. We will do whatever is appropriate.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to say something about the policy adopted by the present NDA Government in respect of the problem faced by the North-East. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request the Home Minister to convey my best wishes to the Prime Minister for his speedy recovery.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by the hon. Members to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be put separately to the vote of the House ?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : No. You can put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the main motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on October 25, 1999."

The motion was adopted.

22.44 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th October, 1999 and transmitted to the Rajya

Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th October, 1999 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 29th October, 1999 agreed without any amendment to the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1999 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 28th October, 1999."

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister should follow the tradition of serving dinner whenever the sitting of the House is extended beyond eight o'clock. This is for the future.

22.46 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: EXPRESSING DEEP SENSE OF SHOCK AT DEVASTATION CAUSED IN COASTAL DISTRICTS OF ORISSA AND URGING TO RENDER HELP AND ASSISTANCE TO THE AFFECTED PEOPLE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, on behalf of the House I place the following Resolution before the House for adoption :

"This House express its deep sense of shock at the devastation being caused by the high intensity cyclone reportedly causing serious loss of life and property suffered by people in some districts of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh and urges the Central and the State Governments to extend immediately all help and assistance to the people affected by this

tragedy. This House offers condolences for the loss of life in the tragedy."

I hope the House agrees.

The Resolution was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot raised a point about the statement made by Shri Ram Naik, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas. According to the proceedings of the 26.10.1999, at page no 324, he said :

"In all earnestness and with all sincerity at my command, I had assured what I can do on the spot here that these issues will be taken up seriously and that I will take them to the Cabinet seriously. This is what I can assure."

This is the Statement made by the hon. Minister.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : This is an assurance.

MR. SPEAKER : No.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am afraid, it does mean an assurance.

MR. SPEAKER : He only said that he would take the issue to the Cabinet. It is not an assurance.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, it is not a question of legality. The spirit being raising this issue was that the Government can say today, as it is the last day of the Session, as to what consideration they are giving.

MR. SPEAKER : I wish a happy Diwali to one and all. Now, Vande Mataram will be played.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played.

22.48 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

22.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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