

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**First Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 26, 1998/Chaitra 5,
1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a serious question, with your permission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you after some time.

The Secretary-General may call out the names of Members who have not yet taken the oath.

11.01 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri K.H. Muniyappa (Kolar)

11.02 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister may now introduce the Ministers.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the august House, my colleagues who could not be introduced yesterday.

Cabinet Minister

Shri Ramakrishna— Minister of Commerce
Hegde

Ministers of State

Shri R.K. Kumar — Minister of State in the
Ministry of Finance with
additional charge of
Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Som Pal — Minister of State in the
Ministry of Agriculture

11.04 hrs.

RE : NOTICE OF BREACH OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice under Rule 222 and 223 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha for raising a question of breach of privilege of the Members of my party, including myself, in Lok Sabha.

Sir, as you are aware, after the results of the Elections to the 12th Lok Sabha were announced and the B.J.P. emerged as the single largest party, the Leader of the B.J.P. Parliamentary party was invited by the President and was asked to give letters of support of the supporting parties. As you may recall, initially he could give letters of support of only about a little more than 240 Members...(Interruptions) I have been allowed by the hon. Speaker, This is very important...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the conduct of the President cannot be discussed in this House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you permitted Shri Arif Mohammad Khan...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai-North-Central) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is all this happening?...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Minister cannot raise a point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, stop him...(Interruptions) ask him to sit down...(Interruptions). Have you allowed him to speak?

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I may be allowed to complete my submission...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I want to hear him.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the rules the hon. President's actions and decisions cannot be discussed in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, have you permitted him to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him. This is not good. Please be seated first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. Now I have allowed him. Please hear him first and then I will come to your point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I am extremely obliged to you. The point I am making is that this question which I am going to raise involves not merely the privilege of the House but a much more basic question as to whether the Members of this august House are going to perform their duties in accordance with the dictates of their conscience or their conscience is going to be influenced by the power of the Government by offering bribe, by offering perks, by offering favours and by intimidating them to succumb to the pressure and to the fear which this Government is trying to unleash.

Sir, on the first day the hon. Prime Minister could submit only a list containing names of not more than about 242 Members and then, Sir, this process of bringing pressure on us had started. I would like to draw your kind attention to a very important legal provision.

It is not a bribery when it is offered and accepted but mere offer of bribery is a criminal offence...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I come to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, this Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a minority Government from day one. They were trying to win over the support during those four-five crucial days. They have every right to appeal to the conscience and they have every right to tell the Members of this House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. I have given you time. You please conclude.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, you cannot allow a Member to raise a question which is a reflection on the wisdom of the President. You cannot allow him to raise such questions whether it is a minority Government or a majority Government. This Government has come into being by the order of the President...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please conclude.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : No, Sir. He cannot be allowed to raise a question which is a reflection on the wisdom of the President of India. This cannot be allowed to be raised...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, this is against the rules and this is against the conventions of this hon. House also. No question could be raised which reflects on the wisdom of the President of India...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : No, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I would like to assure you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : I am coming to your point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am on a point of order. I am referring to Rule 352 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. He is on a motion of breach of privilege. In the order of precedence the point of order will get precedence over the breach of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am not allowing you. I have not allowed you. What is this? This is not good. I am not allowing you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, for the benefit of the hon. Members, I will read out from the

* Not Recorded.

rule book and from the *Practice and Procedure by Kaul and Shakdar*. But first I come to the facts as you have rightly directed me. On 14th March, 1998, a Minister of the Government of Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please conclude. I have given you enough time.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I will conclude in just three minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : No, you conclude in only one minute.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, you are very kind to me. I am very obliged.

Sir, on 14th March, 1998, a Minister of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Lalji Tandon rang me to...*(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : Sir, how is he concerned with the Parliament? Shri Lalji Tandon is not a Member of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, he cannot refer a person who is not present here.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : This is in the notice...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have already made your point. Now I am calling Shri Ram Naik.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have raised your point of order. Now, I am calling Shri Ram Naik.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, according to the conventions of this House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have already mentioned your point. Now, I have called Shri Ram Naik.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, according to the conventions and rules of the House, the President's conduct cannot be discussed in the House. Moreover, a Motion seeking the confidence of the House is to be discussed in the House for which a notice has already been given and circulated. That is coming up for discussion tomorrow. So, when a particular Motion is coming up for discussion tomorrow, they cannot raise this issue today. Secondly, whether we are having a majority or a minority, that will be decided tomorrow. So, he cannot raise this issue today. Thirdly, according to Rule 222...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed one hon. Member and he has already mentioned his point. Now, I am hearing the point of Shri Ram Naik.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Now, he wants to raise the question of privilege...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan speak. You have allowed him to speak...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, according to Rule 222, regarding the question of privilege, a notice has to be given and it has to be considered by you. When you study it, only then such matters can be raised. They cannot raise such issues broadly.

That is why, Sir, the President's conduct cannot be discussed. The Motion of Confidence is already slated to be discussed tomorrow. A notice regarding breach of privilege has to be studied and discussed and then only it can be permitted. These are the three reasons why this discussion cannot be allowed and this is my submission.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Shri Khan has to complete his point. Under Rule 222, he has sent a notice and you have given permission to him. You should allow him to complete.

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed him and he has completed his point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I have given a notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan has given a notice...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have permitted Shri Arif Mohammad Khan...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. I have allowed one hon. Member. Why are you all standing? This is not good. He has already mentioned his point. If not, he will continue. What is this? If he has not completed he can continue and make his point. Please do not stand up again. Shri Khan, please straightaway come to your point.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Sir, I am on a Point of Order.

[Translation]

He has mentioned the name of a Cabinet Minister of U.P. State. The name of a Cabinet Minister of a State cannot be mentioned in this House ...*(Interruptions)*

Secondly...*(Interruptions)*. My Point of Order is that he wants to discuss the conduct of the President here. It is not permissible...*(Interruptions)* He wants to raise this matter on the basis of only a newsitem. President's conduct cannot be discussed here and also, the name of a Minister of a State cannot be mentioned here...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody. I am not allowing you. I will give my ruling also.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I am not giving any verdict. I am just merely stating the facts so that this hon. House can take a view in the matter ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

If I have mentioned such a name for which they feel ashamed of, then I will say that a Minister of Uttar Pradesh Government...*(Interruptions)* If you feel ashamed of a certain name then I will not utter the name...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving my ruling also. Please be seated. Please conclude.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : On 14th March, 1998 a Minister of the UP Government had called the leader of the BSP Group...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : They are not allowing me to speak.

[English]

How can I conclude if they do not allow me to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you and give you a chance to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : He is not allowing the House to function by raising other problems...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. I allowed only Shri Arif Mohammad Khan to speak and after that I am going to give my ruling. Please conclude now.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, before I proceed on this notice, I give oral notice of breach of privilege and contempt of the House against hon. Member, Shri Virendra Singh because you were on your legs and he was interrupting you. I give oral notice for this. Now I am coming to this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I have been observing for the last two days that our privileges are being breached...*(Interruptions)* They have come to know that their party is not going to run the Government. I may also be allowed to speak on this issue.

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If they keep on interrupting me like this, how can I conclude?

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : He is threatening that he will not allow the House to function. We should also be given an opportunity to speak. If he has a right to speak, then we too have the same right. We too have certain privileges. He does not have some very special rights...*(Interruptions)*. We both have equal rights...*(Interruptions)* His threats to stall the proceedings of the House are not going to work with us...*(Interruptions)*. Sitting in the Treasury Benches does not mean that we will keep on listening to all kinds of things...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, are they allowed to hold the House to ransom?...*(Interruptions)* Are they allowed to hold the House to ransom and violate the directions of the hon. Speaker? They do not allow me to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : We have learnt all these things from you only...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

I will not take more than three minutes if they allow me to state the facts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, please keep in mind that you have already mentioned your point.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : No, I have not yet made my point. I need just three minutes, not more than that.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a discussion. You have given a notice. So, you please mention the points only and not more than that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : All right, Sir. If you kindly ensure that they do not interrupt me, I would like to state that a Minister of the Uttar Pradesh Government called the Leader of the BSP Parliamentary Group and asked her to support the BJP in forming the Government and promised her that she would be made the Home Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

Then, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, while in Delhi, summoned one of the Members of the BSP Parliamentary Group, Shri Akbar Ahmad Dumpy and offered him a berth in the Council of Ministers ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I will take one minute...*(Interruptions)* I have not concluded. They do not allow me to speak. I will not take more than two minutes.

Sir, similar offers are made to other Members of the BSP Parliamentary Group...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to that only. When Shri Akbar Ahmad Dumpy refused to accept the offer, he was told like this : "If you abstain on the day of voting"...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down, please.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I am now concluding.

MR. SPEAKER : You should not make an entire statement now. Please mention the facts only and nothing more than that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 352...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : In this matter, I am giving my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, will you permit me to raise a point of order?...*(Interruptions)* I am on a

point of order. He is on a point of breach of privilege. Kindly see rule 352...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, please be seated. You have already mentioned it. Already 40 minutes have been taken.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Leaving aside their interruptions, I have not taken more than twenty seconds. I have one and a half minutes to go...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now I am giving my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please cooperate with me. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : This is a very serious matter. Kindly allow Mamataji to speak; kindly allow us to speak on this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE (Solapur) : This is a question of privilege of a Member...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Shri Acharia, what is this? You are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Let me conclude, Sir. I will take just one minute. They have not allowed me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can you give your ruling without hearing him?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? When I am on my legs, you are supposed to sit.

...(Interruptions)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I will not take more than one minute...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Let me conclude. Please allow me to state the facts...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me conclude...(Interruptions) you are not letting me to conclude...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not, interrupt again and again. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Please give me one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : I have given you half-an-hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. What is this? You please sit down first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Having made an allegation, let him get an opportunity to have his say...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You must know the rules. You must know the precedents.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sushil Shinde, please be seated. You are a senior Member. How can you talk like that?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, give me only half-a-minute more...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, you have already spoken for half an hour. Now, please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, how can you stand like this?

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give your ruling...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard you sufficiently.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this, Prof. P.J. Kurien? Please sit down.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I want to make a submission before you give your ruling...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the Speaker is on his legs, how can you stand like this? Shri P. Upendra, you are a senior Member. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, this House has a right to hear Shri Akbar Ahmed Dumpy. He is present here...(Interruptions)...Shri Akbar Ahmed Dumpy should be allowed to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please sit down. When the Speaker is on his legs, you are not supposed to speak like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sushil Shinde, what is this? You are a senior Member. I will allow you to speak later. But now please sit down.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Right, Sir...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, let me conclude...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, you please give your ruling now...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

* Not Recorded.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What about us? I raised my hands first. Everybody has a right to speak in the House.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Under Rule 222 you have been pleased to give consent to raise this issue in the House. Then, under Rule 225, if the Speaker gives his consent and holds that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, shall call the Member concerned who shall rise in his place and while asking for leave to raise the question of privilege, make a short statement relevant thereto.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Consent has not been given as yet.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It has been given. Under Rule 222 he has given it. You can speak later.

Then, under Rule 225(2)...(Interruptions) Rule 225(1) says : "Provided the Speaker has refused his consent under Rule 222...", this is not relevant here. We come to (2). If objection to leave being granted is taken, the Speaker shall request those Members who are in favour of leave being granted, to rise in their places and if not less than 25 Members rise the Speaker shall declare that leave is granted. If less than 25 Members rise, the Speaker shall inform the Member that he does not have the leave of the House. Therefore, you will have to be pleased to ask with reference to the leave whether it should be granted, in which case if 25 of us rise, then you will have to permit us.

Then, Rule 226 says that if leave under Rule 225 is granted, the House may consider the question and come to a decision or refer it to a Committee of Privileges. It comes at a later stage. The whole House has to decide whether it would like to decide it or refer it to the Privileges Committee. There is no question of your ruling.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Let me complete my short statement. They are not allowing me to do so.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Consent has not been given. So, Rule 225 will not come here at all...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, how can you speak? You must know the rules and procedures. The question is with regard to the admissibility of the motion only and not for the discussion. I have also gone through the rules and procedures. It is with regard to the admissibility of the motion and not for the discussion. Anyhow, I have given forty minutes of time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is too much. I have already given forty minutes. He has made his point.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I have not completed my statement. I have not yet concluded.

They have not allowed me to conclude ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good please understand me.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Who is going to protect the rights of Members?

MR. SPEAKER : I have given sufficient time also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to stand.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It is a very serious and grave issue. The name of a particular hon. Member has been mentioned here. Who is going to protect us? It is your responsibility. You are controlling the House. It is your responsibility to protect the hon. Members. You should give full opportunity to us and then give your ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards rule 353...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have not allowed you. Why are you unnecessarily making a statement? I have not allowed you. I have allowed the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, please keep it in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I have two objections. I shall confine myself to these two points.

[English]

Now, I quote rule 353.

"No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given [adequate advance] notice to the Speaker..."

[Translation]

Has he given any notice? He has not. I may simply tell you...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior Notice is to be given for levelling any charge against a Member.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : It is not only a question of Notice but it also involves the point, whether the advance Notice was given to the person concerned.

I would like to submit that he has only informed you but he has not given any notice with regard to the person concerned. Whether any such notice has been given?...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether any notice has been given to the person with regard to whom allegation has been levelled by him and whether he got any reply? I would also like to say that he has discussed the conduct of the President here. I would contradict his statement with all strength at my command ...*(Interruptions)* His allegation is politically motivated and is totally false...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : You disobeyed the court's verdict, demolished the Babri Masjid...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am on a very valid point. You have heard the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. You should hear us also before giving your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, what is this?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Can I be allowed to conclude in just half a minute? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is your objection?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I will take only thirty seconds. I promise you that I will not take even one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Let me conclude.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I am requesting you with folded hands to permit me to conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, you give your ruling now.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : How can you give the ruling without hearing us?

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard sufficiently.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am already on my legs. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the uproar created in the House is not one sided...*(Interruptions)* I do not know whether he considers me his friend or not but as far as I can understand...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I consider you much more.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Do not pretend. The allegation levelled by him is that the minority Government is resorting to corrupt practices to prove its majority.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I contradict this allegation. I have a suggestion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this that you are doing? The Prime Minister is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good to interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Prime Minister is on his legs. All the Members may please take their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Akbar, this is not good. That is not your seat. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When the Prime Minister is speaking, how can you disturb him?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Please sit down...*(Interruptions)* It will be proved tomorrow whether my Government is in minority or in majority...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be patient.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My Hon'ble friends can take up this matter tomorrow for detailed

discussion. They may also bring the related documents and we too will get the opportunity to reply in detail...*(Interruptions)* I can not give advice in this regard but Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may give you advice that please, don't give the ruling in this matter just now and this matter may be taken up tomorrow for discussion.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN Why?
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were not the member of previous Lok Sabha...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No further clarifications please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Please listen to me. You are often on your legs...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has stated very rightly. I have a suggestion to make in this regard. Hon'ble Prime Minister perhaps knows as to why we are having heated exchanges today...*(Interruptions)* If hon'ble Prime Minister may recall that when the discussion was going on in this very House on the Jharkhand issue and the entire country was listening attentively...*(Interruptions)* They are not allowing me to speak...*(Interruptions)* I am suggesting to the Prime Minister that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed only Shri Rajesh Pilot to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, if you allow him to speak, you may please allow the supporting parties also to speak. Then, no disturbance may be there. Please consider my request, Sir
...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if my colleagues remember that the members sitting

on the treasury benches today, were sitting in opposition at that time and we were sitting on the treasury benches and Mamata Banerjee was with us when the discussion on Jharkhand issue was going on...*(Interruptions)* I have a suggestion. Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated very clearly that if we have proof, we may bring it tomorrow. Hon'ble Member of this House may remember that the statement on Jharkhand issue was from outside and Shri Atalji was the leader of the Opposition. Through that statement you had levelled a charge against us. Today Members from both the sides are present here and the matter is being raised here. You give your opinion and refer this matter to the Privilege Committee. We do not have any objection
...*(Interruptions)* Will you care to listen to me?

SHRI LALMUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Arif Mohammad knows only how to increase the work of the Speaker, to breach the moral values and to spread anarchy in the country. These people are doing such things in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Chaubey. Please be seated. First of all, take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, his house was raided...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. I have not allowed you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is already one hour.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You do not look at the watch. I am concluding...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I have a suggestion...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

You do not allow the Members of the Opposition even to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Take your seats, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You are speaking without the permission of the Chair. So, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, how the House will function if they continue to interrupt like this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lalmuni Chaubey, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if they will not let us speak, we will also not allow them to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We will also not allow you...(Interruptions) It is a mockery of the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Pilot, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request Shri Khurana Sahib to ask his colleagues to keep quiet. He must remember that he is not in the opposition. He is now the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All the hon. Members are requested to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please take your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind my colleagues sitting on the treasury benches that the Jharkhand issue is *sub judice* and the credibility of the Parliament is going down in the eyes of the public...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, I am not allowing you. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good.

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : We have also got the Rules...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have carefully examined Shri Arif Mohammad Khan's notice of privilege against the hon. Prime Minister.

The case of the hon. Member is that there has been an attempt on the part of Shri Kalyan Singh, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kalraj Mishra and Shri Lalji Tandon to wrongfully and in a corrupt manner to influence Members of the House, Kumari Mayawati and Shri Akbar Ahmad Dumpy. Shri Arif Mohammad Khan has not produced any evidence. Mere allegations by the Member do not amount to any *prima facie* case even.

So, the notice is inadmissible. I disallow it.

...(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Datta Meghe and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

12.07 hrs.

THE CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yashwant Sinha may now move to seek leave for the introduction of the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950".

The motion was adopted.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26.3.98.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CONTINGENCY
FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT)
ORDINANCES — Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 and the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-21/98]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, please go back to your seats. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as item nos. 3 to 6 are to be discussed together, I propose that the Minister of Railways be permitted to move the Resolutions listed at item no. 6 first to enable a combined discussion on these items. I hope that the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar may now move his resolutions.

12.09 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE TWELFTH
REPORT OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION
COMMITTEE, 1991

AND

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF
RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE THIRD
REPORT OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION
COMMITTEE, 1996

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move the following Resolutions :

"That this House approves the recommendations made in Paragraphs 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47 and 48 contained in the

Twelfth Report of Railway Convention Committee (1991) appointed to review the "Rate of Dividend" payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 12.3.96".

"That this House approves the recommendations made in Paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67 and 70 contained in the Third Report of Railway Convention Committee (1996) appointed to review the "Rate of Dividend" payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 2.12.97".

I commend these resolutions for the consideration of this House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the matter is over. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How could you speak on this subject when the matter is already over and the Speaker has already given his ruling on it?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The matter is already over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? You must know the rules and procedure.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Speaker has already given his ruling.

12.10 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Datta Meghe and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rosaiah, a Congress Party Member, may initiate the discussion on Railway Budget.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member. You first listen to me. Please take your seat. The matter is already over. The Speaker has already given the ruling. How can you speak now on the same matter? You are all senior Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : The procedure is laid down in the Rules. It has to be followed
...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : You should not give a ruling till you have listened to us
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rosaiah, you may start your speech.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : I can only speak when the House is in order. How can I speak otherwise?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You come to my Chamber later on. We will discuss it.

12.12 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Akbar Ahmad and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER : Are you taking part in the discussion or not? Your name has been given by your Party.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : I very much want to speak but you please bring the House to order.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

12.13 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Akbar Ahmad and some other hon. Members went back to their seats

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Sir, you should protect the privilege of the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : I am ready to speak but how can I speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please start your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Chair has already given a ruling. How can you now speak on the same subject?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called Shri Rosaiah. He is from your Party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Rosaiah, a Member from your Party, to initiate the discussion. He is senior Member and he wants to speak on the Railway Budget. Please cooperate with him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, it is the sacred duty of the hon. Speaker to protect the Members. I am being threatened. I am being intimidated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the hon. Member, Shri Rosaiah who is participating in the discussion.

...(Interruptions)*

12.14 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Akbar Ahmad and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER : Please start your speech. Are you ready or not?

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, the mikes are not working. I am not able to hear even you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rosaiah says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Rosaiah. Nothing but what he says will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request the Leader of the Opposition to cooperate. There is no time.

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Anil Basu, Shri Vilas Muttemwar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : There is important business to be discussed today. Yesterday, you had finalised the list of business. I have allowed sufficient time on this. I have allowed Shri Rajesh Pilot, the Leader of the Opposition and Shri Shiv Shanker on this. I have allowed four Members on this matter. For a small matter, I have allowed four Members.

* Not Recorded.

12.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Anil Basu, Shri Vilas Muttemwar and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling on this. I have allowed four Members. This is a matter relating to the admissibility of a notice.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please go to your seats first and then speak.

12.19 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Akbar Ahmad and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand the position. This is a small matter with regard to the admissibility of a notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Is it a small matter? We cannot tolerate this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Money has been offered. You cannot say that this is a small matter. We cannot accept this...(Interruptions) Is it a small matter?

MR. SPEAKER : No, not the content of it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Money has been offered here. The CBI has been used and you are calling this a small matter. We cannot accept it...(Interruptions) Because of this, you are calling it a small matter, but it is responsible for the formation of this Government**...(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather unfortunate to see...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rosaiah.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet at 1 p.m.

* Not Recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the chair.

12.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes past thirteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at one minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I now call upon Shri Sharad Pawar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker Sir, discussion is continuing in the House, since two-three hours on an important question raised by Shri Arif Mohammad Khan. The points, which he has tried to raise in the House, have created a situation which may lead to breach of the privilege of the Members, of course including him as well. We had expected that some more Members would get the opportunity to present their views and a good solution might be found. You have already given your ruling and once the ruling has been given, raising the same question or repeating the same seems against the dignity and the prestige of the House. But the question raised here, seems equally important to me. I would request Hon. Prime Minister to make a statement on the question raised by Shri Arif Mohammad Khan. The most serious point, which seems to me is that a Government agency has been misused. I am, however not sure of it. Member has raised this question, so we seek few more details of it. If the Government

agencies are at all being misused then we need to strengthen the system and if not, then it is essential to present the facts before the people, as we should try to sustain the credibility of the agency. I hope that the Prime Minister will accept the situation explained in the Notice, given by him and the functioning of the House will go on smoothly.

Sir, I would like to make more point. I am unhappy, rather feel regret on some of the words, which you have used in the House. We do realise our duty of maintaining your prestige, therefore I would not hesitate in taking my strong words back, if there were any in my speech, as it involves your prestige.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I honour the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the Opposition Shri Sharad Pawar. His greatness lies in the manner in which he has tendered his regrets. It is an ideal for the entire House and ought to be followed in future as well. The point raised, which has been referred to by Mr. Sharad Pawar as well, during this 2-3 hours long discussion pertains to functioning of C.B.I. This functioning has gradually taken a particular shape over the years. We have ever been discussing, making statement on the merits and demerits of its functioning, but as for this case raised here specially involving C.B.I., I would like to assure that after having ascertained the facts of the case, remedial steps would be taken, if any political manipulations are observed therein. My Government would indeed follow a policy as would ensure that agencies like CBI are not manipulated to serve vested political interests.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to raise one more point. Only a few days are left for the session to conclude and we have to prove on 28th that we enjoy the confidence of the House. Albeit, we had to face the motion of vote of confidence on 29th but that day being a holiday we are compelled to prove it on 28th itself...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : 29th is a Sunday.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It would have to be accomplished on 28th itself. As for the vote of confidence, yet some financial business has to be transacted, but this hurdle has postponed for today atleast. Let us take up the items of business in a smart manner, so as to reach our goal at the earliest possible. This is what I would like to urge upon the members.

14.07 hrs.

INTERIM BUDGET (RAILWAYS) — GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (RAILWAYS) 1998-99

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1997-98*

AND

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE TWELFTH REPORT OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE, 1991

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE THIRD REPORT OF THE RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE, 1996

MR. SPEAKER : Now let us take up general discussion on Interim Budget (Railways) and other items.

Motions moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, *on account*, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16".

"That the Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund for India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1998, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof—Demand Nos. 10, 13, 14 and 16".

"That this House approves the recommendations made in Paragraphs 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47 and 48 contained in the Twelfth Report of Railway Convention Committee (1991) appointed to review the "Rate of Dividend" payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 12.3.96".

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

"That this House approves the recommendations made in Paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67 and 70 contained in the Third Report of Railway Convention Committee (1996) appointed to review the "Rate of Dividend" payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in the Lok Sabha on 2.12.97".

Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 1998-99 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2	3
1	Railway Board	12,22,93,000
2	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	57,93,21,000
3	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	432,89,33,000
4	Repairs & Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	857,05,00,000
5	Repairs & Maintenance of Motive Power	475,63,34,000
6	Repairs & Maintenance of Carriage and Wagons	870,54,82,000
7	Repairs & Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	448,73,53,000
8	Operating Expenses — Rolling Stock and Equipment	688,53,88,000
9	Operating Expenses — Traffic	2022,31,99,000
10	Operating Expenses — Fuel	1733,13,49,000
11	Staff Welfare and Amenities	330,15,19,000
12	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	415,26,46,000
13	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	1338,53,00,000
14	Appropriation to Funds	2088,33,33,000
15	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of Loans taken from	8,49,89,000

1	2	3
	General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalization	
16	Assets — Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	15,00,00,000
	Other Expenditure	
	Capital	3565,53,42,000
	Railway Funds	1496,82,00,000
	Total	16857,14,81,000

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1997-98 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House
10	Operating Expenses — Fuel	160,31,34,000
13	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	1168,62,48,000
14	Appropriation to Funds	1167,00,00,000
16	Assets — Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	Revenue	
	Other Expenditure	
	Capital	198,89,04,000
	Railway Funds	1,000
	Total	2694,82,87,000

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a point of order under Rule 210, 211 and 212.

Sir, I am here to request you to protect the rights of the Members of the House. When Demands for Grants are before the House, the Members have certain rights with respect to those Demands for Grants. Any Member can give notice of cut motions and these cut motions should be circulated. Both with respect to the Demands for Grants (Railways) and also the Demands for Grants (General), I had submitted a few cut motions and I submitted them in time. We were busy with the Budget till about two o' clock or so. The notices were to be given before

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

3.15. We took the trouble of going through all the pages and everything. With reference to demand numbers, pages, this and that, the notices were submitted by me by 2.55, i.e., 20 minutes before the time the notice could lapse. I am sorry to point out this. I approached you also in your Chamber with a request that they should be circulated. The notices of cut motions do not take any time. We do not even move them in the House by standing. We only send our slips. And I assured you also that if I am allowed to move my cut motions, I will not even speak on the Demands for Grants motion. On the Demands for Grants, my cut motions will be there on record. Yet I am sorry that in spite of all this offer of cooperation, I find that the cut motions have not been circulated and our rights are being erased.

I request you, Sir, that even if a few minutes are taken and cut motions are circulated even a little later, then we should be allowed to move those cut motions. In case our cut motions were found inadmissible for certain reasons, when I had even approached you in your Chamber courtesy demanded that I should have been informed so that I would not have taken the time of the House for this purpose.

My request is that those cut motions be circulated and I may be allowed to inform you of my intention to move those cut motions.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, it is an Interim Budget. Later the Minister will bring the General Budget. At that time, you can take up those cut motions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : No, Sir. Please see Rule 210 and 212. Please also see Rule 214 clause (4). I quote :

"...vote on account shall be dealt within the same way as if it were a demand for grant."

According to that a vote on account is dealt with in the same manner as a demand for grant in a General Budget. It is a serious matter of the rights of the Members. Earlier also we have moved cut motions. Even on vote on account we have moved cut motions. It is just to place our point of view and without even speaking I said that we will do that. We are here to cooperate with the Government
...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me. The procedure regarding moving of cut motion is :

"Cut motions cannot be moved if there is no time for proper discussion and voting, nor can they be moved by proxy. Intimation

from a Member that he would move cut motions to demands for grants regarding a particular Ministry is not enough for treating them as moved..."

Kindly cooperate with the Chair. You can move the cut motions later. You have already taken much time. Please hear me...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There are precedents. Earlier also we have been moving the cut motions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only two hours' time is allotted for this subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : How much time is allowed that is not the point. I have the right to move my cut motions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting the hon. Members to cooperate with me.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I will not be speaking. I will only move them. Even then I am not being allowed to move them. These are the rights of the Members. Let the cut motions come on record today...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : At this juncture again I am requesting the Members to kindly cooperate with the Chair because there is no time. These are financial matters and we have to complete the business today.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have to complete the business today. Please hear me. All the Party Leaders have agreed for this in the Leaders meeting itself. Please cooperate with me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Under what rule are you disallowing?...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK (Buldhana) : Sir, the business will have to be completed only by following the Rules of Procedure of this House. The rights of the Members will have to be protected. The rules will have to be followed...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : At certain times we have to adjust to rules also. Yesterday we have agreed to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I am on it because it is a serious matter of the rights of the Members. I have a right to move my cut motion. I say that I will not speak on my cut motion...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, Members' rights have to be protected...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, yesterday in the Leaders meeting we have agreed to pass them because of lack of time. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : The rights of the Members should be protected...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We agreed to finish it within two hours. But that does not mean that cut motions should not be allowed...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair. Unnecessarily the time of the House is being wasted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : This is a wrong procedure. You are once and for all erasing the rights of the Members...(Interruptions). No, this is a wrong procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please cooperate with me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : This is a wrong procedure...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please cooperate with me. Yesterday we all agreed to it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I am going to the extent of saying that I will not speak a word on the Demands...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We are cooperating. You please cooperate with me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. Please cooperate.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we have agreed to finish it in two hours.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you please stand by the rules. Otherwise let us tear them and throw them away...(Interruptions) There are certain rules.

MR. SPEAKER : You can move a number of cut motions at the time of the General Budget. You can move them at that time. Please cooperate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it is our right. This is not cooperation. You should protect our rights...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am once again requesting you to please cooperate with me.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : What cooperation?...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, but that does not mean that the Members should not be allowed to move the cut motions. There was no such agreement.

MR. SPEAKER : You can move the cut motions at the time of the General Budget and there is ample time also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we agreed for completing it within two hours.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, we will pass it without a word spoken as far as I am concerned...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, two hours are allotted for the Interim Railway Budget...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please cooperate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, this is most unfortunate...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing you. I have allowed only Shri K. Rosaiah.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the rules are not followed. The rights of a Member to move a cut motion are being denied under no provision of rules.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, please cooperate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I tell you that I am not going to speak on my cut motions. I will only move them...(Interruptions) Sir, you are erasing the rights of the Members.

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with the Chair because it was agreed to yesterday in the Leaders' Meeting.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, it is not cooperation. It is full operation of the rights of the Members...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can move them later. Yesterday you have all agreed to it.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, what sort of a ruling is this?...(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, you can move a number of cut motions at the time of the General Budget. I will give you time at the time of the General Budget. I will fully cooperate.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, under what provision or rule number are you disallowing me?...(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I am a new Member. I have informed the Chair also that I would

[Shri Konijeti Rosajiah]

like to speak in my mother tongue, Telugu. So, with your permission, I would like to speak in Telugu...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I request the Members to cooperate.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, it is not correct. The agreement was for completing it in two hours.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you used your right.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I only want to ask one thing. It was not decided yesterday that cut motions will not be moved. If there is no time for proper discussion, why should the Chair call for a discussion? Please give time to all the Members to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Leader of the Opposition is on his legs. Let him speak.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point of order raised by hon. Shri Banatwalla is a correct point. There is a provision and definitely every Member has got that right. But, simultaneously, we should not forget that this is an exceptional and abnormal time. We have to pass this Vote on Account before a particular date.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We are here to pass it.

MR. SPEAKER : You please hear him.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, it has to go to the Rajya Sabha also. Otherwise there will be a financial crisis in the country.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no question of financial crisis in the country. I have a right to move my cut motion. That is all that is there. It does not take the time of the House. I even do not demand a right to even speak on it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I appeal to hon. Member Shri Banatwalla...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : I want to just ask that if his right is so sacrosanct, that he is encroaching upon the time of the entire House? Why is a senior leader doing like this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Sir, this is not correct. The Leader of the Opposition is speaking. It is certainly not the way...*(Interruptions)* You please convince your Members...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I think you want a detailed discussion. I have no objection. Let Shri Banatwalla move them. Let us go ahead...*(Interruptions)* This is not the way...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I only want to move my cut motions. That is all. Let my cut motions be circulated and taken as moved. That is all.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The ruling party wants a discussion. The Treasury Benches want a discussion. There is a request from the Treasury Benches. So, we have no objection...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : I would request the Leader of the Opposition to continue. I am sorry that one of our Members interrupted...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banatwalla, the Minister is on his legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, which Minister is on his legs? He is the Leader of the Opposition and not the Minister. Ofcourse, he has the rank of a Minister. That is a different thing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Shri Banatwalla, I think we should accept this suggestion. Secondly this will not be treated as a precedent and we know that everybody is quite serious about the preservation and protection of the rights of every Member. But knowing well the peculiar position, I think we have to cooperate and we have to close this chapter as early as possible. We have to clear both the Budgets and that too today...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : We want a ruling from the Chair that it would not go as a precedent...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Hon. Speaker should say that this will not be quoted as a precedent...*(Interruptions)*. The Chair should give an assurance.

AN HON. MEMBER : What ruling should he give? He is very right on that. That ruling must come from you.

MR. SPEAKER : It will not be taken as a precedent.

SHRI E. AHAMED : It is a right of the Member. A right of the Member cannot be taken away. No rule has permitted to take away any right of any Member.

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you that as a special case, yesterday, all the party leaders agreed to it. That is why I am requesting you. Please cooperate.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : This matter is different. Kindly listen to us. You may please give a ruling. Otherwise, whatever the parties are deciding in the Chamber will curtail the privileges of the Members

which we cannot agree to. You please give us a ruling. We will agree by that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going to be a precedent.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : What matters is your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving it. This is not a precedent. This is a...

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : The only thing is that there is no proper time for a full discussion and voting. Here, there is voting. There may not be time for a proper discussion, but we cannot just rule out a voting. Voting is the most important thing. Since there is no time for a proper discussion and voting, this has been taken away, Sir. What is the argument? We cannot agree to that argument.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going to be a precedent. Because of lack of time, only yesterday all the party leaders have decided. That is why, we are asking the...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We will definitely pass it within the timeframe.

MR. SPEAKER : Since we have to pass the Bill today itself, there is lack of time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have not decided this. What we have decided is to conclude it within two hours.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I say that I will not speak on it. I came to your Chamber and assured you. I say only one thing that my cut motions be circulated and taken as moved. That is all that I say. How does this affect you?

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate.

Now, Shri Rosaiah will speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E. AHAMED : You are not cooperating. That is why, he is saying this...*(Interruptions)* .

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Please cooperate with me because I cannot even walk out against the decision of the Chair. That is my difficulty. So, you have to cooperate with me and take my cut motions as moved, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : At the time of general discussion, I will give you lot of time. I am assuring you. I am requesting you to please cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is not the point, Sir...

[Translation]

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have informed the Chair that I would like to speak in my mother tongue Telugu. So, with your permission I would like to speak in Telugu.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Railways has presented the Interim Budget (Railways) for the year 1998-99 to the House. For want of time a regular Budget containing all the details was not presented now. A Vote on Account Bill, 1998 which will be effective for four months has been introduced.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I express my dissatisfaction. I am totally dissatisfied. That is not the way in which the Chair should cooperate with the House, Sir...*(Interruptions)*... There is no realisation of the anguish.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing to go on record except what Shri Rosaiah will speak.

...*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude, Shri Rosaiah.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, there is nothing novel or new in the Vote on Account Bill which has been presented to the House yesterday. No progressive policies of which we can feel proud of are there in the Interim Budget. It is just a bench mark, routine budget. It has no extraordinary features. The present Government took over very recently and there was no sufficient time available at their disposal and hence they have come out with an Interim Budget. Much cannot be expected in this Budget, but I do hope when this Government presents a full fledged Budget, there will be a novelty and direction in it. I hope it would reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Sir, ours is a developing country. The only mode of transportation which is within the reach of middle classes, poorer sections and even the people below the poverty line is Railways. There was a day when people without stepping out of their threshold, could live comfortably. But that is not the situation now. It has undergone a sea change. People, to whichever income group they may belong, to whichever profession they may belong or to whichever region or language they may belong, have to step out and

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

** Not Recorded.

[Shri Konijeti Rosaiah]

travel to distant places for their livelihood. They have to commute from one place to another for pursuing their profession. The dependence on Railways is indispensable for anyone in this modern society.

Sir, the population is exploding, our cities and towns, even the smaller ones are expanding in an unruly, zig zag way. There is no proper planning visible anywhere. But the facilities available to the people have not been stepped up. In fact, degradation and deterioration are evidently visible in the scanty facilities which are made available to the people at exorbitant cost in these cities and towns.

As far as Railways are concerned, again I have to mention that there is hardly any planned development. In major urban centres like metropolitan cities etc., the Railway facilities have to be provided to the people who commute long distances in pursuance of their professions. Light Railway, Circular Railways and Suburban Railways are indispensable to the common people who live in these cities, for they are cheaper and easily accessible. But our thinking or planning does not reflect these needs of the common people. We are still pursuing the same age old, obsolete methods in formulating plans and deciding priorities. We have Railway lines worth 62,000 route kms. Out of which, we have Railway routes which have a length of 13,000 kms. Sir, 62,000 route kms. is not an achievement after our independence of which we can feel proud of. It is not my intention to find fault with anybody least with this Government which assumed office only the other day. What I want to stress is that the planning is not on proper lines. What I demand is that we should have proper planning according top priority for expansion of Railway network giving preference to backward regions.

Sir, we quite often discuss about North Eastern States. It is our considered opinion that North Eastern States are economically very backward. Not much of development has taken place in these areas. Sir, in my view, the development means the development of Railways also. Laying new railway lines is an integral part of economic development. Whenever we think of constructing new railway lines especially in North Eastern States and other far flung areas, we first think whether particular line is economically viable or not. If they are not viable we do not take up the construction. When a region is backward, when it has seen no development at all, where the people living there are economically backward, how can we think in terms of economic viability. It is not

proper. Sir, it is a vicious circle. Economic development depends on the availability of Railways. Railways develop only when there is economic development. Both are intricately inter-related. If transport facilities, especially Railways which are accessible to all sections, are available, there will be a free movement of goods and passengers. And that results in the development of the region. There will be prosperity all around. The income level of individuals also goes up. We cannot apply the yardstick of economic viability as we do in the case of developed areas, to the regions which are economically very backward. Otherwise, I am afraid, areas like North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar can never have new lines and hence can never witness any progress. Sir, in my State Andhra Pradesh too, there are several areas like Telangana and Rayalaseema which are economically very backward. The people living in these backward regions clamour and quite often agitate for new lines. Hence I advocate that there should be a major shift in our policy. We have to give up this policy of judging on the basis of economic viability. Instead, we have to develop new railway lines in the backward region on priority basis, so that they too can reap the fruits of development.

Sir, nearly one crore people travel by train everyday. Majority of these people belong to middle class or lower income groups. The Government has not been taking any interest in providing better facilities to these people. The facilities or amenities available to these people are either nil or too negligible. All the efforts are concentrated in providing more amenities to only upper classes like air-conditioned class and first class passengers. The passengers belonging to middle and lower income groups are totally ignored. To some extent the Railways are showing some interest in providing facilities to long distance travellers. They should be provided with more facilities. I do not dispute. But the passengers travelling for short distance and that too those who belong to middle or lower income groups should not be ignored altogether. It is injustice. The Government must think about them too. More amenities should be provided to the passengers of second class. More general compartments should be there in trains for their benefit.

Sir, your Honourable self, me and several others in this august House belong to Andhra Pradesh. The National interests are supreme, no doubt. But we cannot forget our regional aspirations at the same time. To ventilate our grievances, to highlight our problems and thus to invite the attention of the Union Government towards them at an appropriate time is also part of our sacred duty. Everybody in this august

House is well aware of the fact that Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh is very backward. A new railway line between Peddapalli-Nizamabad in this region has been surveyed and found viable. It was approved also. Subsequently in 1992, the then Hon. Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for this line. But unfortunately, the construction was not taken up. There is no progress on this new line. The things stand where they were earlier. Not an inch has been added. The foundation stone remains a foundation stone and not a brick is added to it later on. Sufficient funds which are necessary at later stages for the construction purposes are not provided. For want of funds, no work takes place. Hence the entire railway line just remains on the paper. So I take this opportunity to appeal to the Hon. Minister for Railways to kindly note this point and see that sufficient funds for the speedy construction of this line are allocated in the Railway Budget for the year 1998-99. What is more surprising, Mr Speaker, is that the office meant for land acquisition which was opened in 1992 after its inauguration has now been wound up. It is really very strange. It is one example to show that we are not moving in forward direction at all. What we are witnessing today is not progress. It is retrogression in real terms. Even the office meant for land acquisition has been wound up for no rhyme or reason in recent days. It is indeed very tragic. People in the region feel let down. They feel frustrated. It will provide sufficient ammunition to people to agitate.

14.32 hrs.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey in the Chair]

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I am the initiator. I think the Hon. Speaker has permitted me to speak for about 45 minutes. Please allow me to speak for at least 15 minutes if not 45 minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted to your party is 20 minutes and there are three speakers from your party.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Sir, I will complete it in another ten minutes.

Sir, Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh is equally backward. This region needs many new railway lines and new trains. Janata Express trains which were in operation earlier, were for sometime

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

discontinued. They have been restored now. But the Janata Express which runs between Chennai and Bombay via Cuddapah has not been restored so far. It should be restored immediately. The construction of a new railway line between Gutti and Pendekal should also be taken up at the earliest. The survey for this line was completed long ago and in fact the construction was also taken up. But the construction is too slow. Not even one km. is being added in a year. It speaks volumes of the slow progress for this new railway line made so far. So I appeal to you to speed up the construction work. Similarly the survey was completed for Nandyala to Yerragantla. It was sanctioned also. In the budget for 1997-98, Rs. 5 crores were allocated for the construction work of this line. Even Rs. 5 out of these Rs. 5 crores have not been spent so far. I do not know whether the money allocated for this line has been diverted for other purposes. I appeal to the Hon. Minister to see that the construction work of this line is speeded up and is completed early.

Sir, we have to introduce many more trains keeping in view the ever increasing demand. Guntur Division was inaugurated on July 5, 1997 by the then Hon. Minister for Railways and the Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. It was assured on that solemn occasion that sufficient funds required for the establishment of the Division Headquarter, buildings would be provided without any delay. The construction of building etc. has not yet been started. Not even one rupee was sanctioned for the purpose to this day. The inauguration of the Division remained on paper only.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Harin Pathak to speak. I have called another Member's name.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : One minute, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : I am the initiator and, Sir, this is a maiden speech of mine. Kindly permit me to speak for another two minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting anything more. Please conclude now.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : The doubling and electrification of Guntur-Bibinagar should also be taken up immediately. Traffic on this line has increased manifold.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record then.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : I am sorry, Sir...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then let him conclude.

*SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH : Bibinagar-Nadikudi railway line going upto Guntur should also be taken up for construction immediately. This will reduce the distance between southern States to the extent of 100 kms. We have to double the line as well. The hon. Members, forgetting their affiliations, had been requesting the successive Railway Ministers from time to time to take up this line and complete it speedily. But there is no progress at all. I am confident, at least the present Railway Minister would take up and complete this railway line as early as possible. The survey for electrification is already over. It is estimated that the expenditure would be around Rs. 150 crores. I appeal to him to take up this line without any further loss of time. Guntur to Murmgaon should also be taken up.

I thank you Sir, for providing this opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Shri Harin Pathak.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday at this very time Mr. Nitish Kumar, a senior Member, who had been Minister of Railways, also had presented Interim Budget for the year 1998-99 for four months. We all know this fact that railway is the back-bone of our transport system. In this vast country where transport facilities are insufficient and 40 percent people live in poverty, generally people travel by trains. Apart that the railway has direct bearing on their sentiments, they have to meet especially when relatives living at distant places. Therefore railways is a medium, which connect people.

The country has completed 50 years of its Independence. I remember there are few villages, where the train is still a curious object among the children. Many villages are still deprive of the railway facilities.

I do not want to give a long speech in the House, but I would like to thank Shri Nitish Kumar. During last few months Government celebrated the Golden

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Jubilee of Independence, wherein lot of lightening and fun fair had been done, fire-crackers were lit, but public did not participate. Only Government buildings were decorated with the lights and official functions were organised, but masses did not participate in that as they could not partake the benefits accrued to the nation over these 50 years of Independence.

I feel happy to say that on 19th March, we saw a glow of expectations on the face of myriads of people as at last the Government imbibing their expectations has come to power under the leadership of honourable Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ... (Interruptions) A sense of confidence developed among the people... (Interruptions) I have been elected four times to this House. I have listened many speeches, schemes declared by Ministers of Railways. Rather I am unhappy with the fact that whenever the Rail Budgets are presented, many ambitious schemes and projects are announced, then surveys are made. But those schemes are not implemented. Mere shallow declaration are made in Rail Budgets, such as new rail lines will be laid, surveys will be conducted to make us happy. Many of you might agree with me.

I would like to give one example of railway system of my area. You are also unhappy with that. In Ahmedabad, the then Minister of Railways had declared a new division on 10th April, 1995. Inauguration also took place but my dear friend former Minister of Railways, Mr. Ramvilas Paswan and the then Prime Minister Mr. Inder Kumar Gujral reach there after one year only. Now few days are left to complete three years since the project was declared, but the division of Ahmedabad has not been set so far. It is not a question of Ahmedabad only, it is applicable to other places also including those falling in your region as well.

As I said earlier, if we want to make the railways more effective, then this type of mere pretention would not help. We have installed Modern facilities like television sets etc. at the railway stations. When I reached Ahmedabad, which is the 6th biggest city in India, no television was installed there at the platform. I met the Superintendent and the area Manager, they urged me not to allow installation of T.V. sets here as that would facilitate the incidents of pilferage. On having asked him the reason, he explained that the trains generally came late and so waiting passengers enjoy the television programmes and thieves did their work at ease. I mean to say that equipping the railway stations with modern facilities or declaring the plans would not help anywhere in the improvement of railways.

During the last one year you must have observed almost every day, the news of rail accidents involving goods trains, Local trains, Express trains or Super fast trains, or Rajdhani etc. through the newspapers.

Trains derail. All these incidents occur due to lack of maintenance of railway lines and lack of imparting technological knowledge to linemen and gatemen.

I do not have ample time. Our friends are sitting here. When Shri George Fernandes was the Railway Minister, he had prepared a status report. My submission is that when you come prepared with the next Budget, please place before the House, the details, a status report of all the schemes related to various ongoing projects in different states, schemes announced for various states, whether related to gauge conversion, doubling of railway line or related to erection.

Other thing I wanted to tell is that Shri Ram Naikji is our Minister of State for Railways. Maharashtra is a very big State. There is a long pending demand of the people of Mumbai for the establishment of Mumbai Suburban Rail Corporation on the lines of Konkan Rail Corporation, so that their demand could be met and the remaining work may also be expedited.

I would further like to submit that after considering the demands of all the States and listening to the problems of the respective constituencies of all the MPs, our Railway Minister could give a new direction to the Railways in the ensuing budget. I would like to inform the new members that many a time it has been seen in the past that members of a number of States walked out of the House in protest because they felt that their demands were not fulfilled and their areas were neglected. I would request Shri Nitishji to kindly pay proper attention for the developmental work of entire country, especially Purvanchal areas, backward castes, by providing railway lines to the remotest part where this facility is not available and fulfil our aspirations by meeting our demands.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Railway Minister in his speech has admitted that there is a need for a change in our approach. I have been insisting on this for the last several years.

In the Standing Committee on Railways, we had also recommended that the market share of the Railways should be increased. What was their freight share in the year 1951-52? At that time, the share of

the Railways was 80 per cent and the share of the road transport was only 20. Today, it is just the reverse. The Railways' share is only 20 per cent and the share of the road sector is 80...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, he has stated that there is a need to change and there is a need to increase it. He has stated like this. But we do not find it either in the Annual Plan or in the target fixed for the year 1998-99. For freight transport, in respect of the Railways, the target is only 450 million tonnes. That is, an increase of only 20 million tonnes. Whereas today the Chinese Railways is carrying about 1000 million tonnes of freight with 67,000 km. of railway line.

We have 63,000 kilometres of railway line. China today has decided and planned to have another 10,000 kilometres of new railway line within the next five years. We are not giving that importance to Railways as China is giving. I suggest that the problem which has not been dealt with here, should be dealt within the regular Railway Budget. I hope that the Railway Minister will take all these suggestions and points into consideration.

Why are Railways lagging behind? It is because of our line capacity. The emphasis is not given to increase of line capacity. When we are asking for an additional line, say from Howrah to Panskura because that section has already been saturated ten years back, from Howrah to Panskura and Panskura to Kharagpur, that proposal is not being considered by the Ministry of Railways. It is not a single case but there are a number of cases where there is a need for an additional line because the existing capacity has already been saturated. Unless the capacity is increased, our target cannot also be achieved. We are achieving the targets. But we should not be satisfied with mere 430 million tonnes of freight. Our bulk traffic is of coal. The Indian Railways is carrying coal to the extent of 130 million tonnes out of our total production of coal of about 300 million tonnes. Why can the Railways not carry an additional 100 million tonnes of coal?

Last year when I spoke on the Railway Budget, I had asked as to what would be the revenue earning of the Railways if the Indian Railways could carry another 100 million tonnes of coal. It would be to the extent of Rs. 6,000 crore. I have also worked it out that if the share of railway is increased by 20 per cent, then the impact on our economy, impact on the consumption of petroleum, impact on the import content will be much and you can save to the extent of Rs. 5,000 crore. So, there is need for a change. I hope the Railway Minister would consider this in the next Railway Budget. But the question is, how can this be done? Unless more funds are allocated from the Finance Minister, this cannot be done.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Shri Yashwant Sinhaji, earlier the budgetary support was to the extent of 75 per cent during fifties, sixties and seventies. But in eighties, it was gradually reduced to 50 per cent. During the regime of the United Front, it was increased from 15 per cent to 23 per cent.

My suggestion is that next year, that is, in 1998-99, this should be increased by at least 50 per cent. Why? We all know that in other countries like China, the Great Britain, France and Germany, the construction of railway line is the responsibility of their Central Governments respectively. The entire expenditure is borne by their Central Governments. But here in our country, the system is such that even now for the railway line which was constructed 100 years back, the Railways are to pay the dividend to the Central exchequer to the extent of seven per cent.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Basu Deb Achariaji your party has been allotted only seven minutes. Please conclude quickly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I know the time allotted to our party so I am inviting your attention on some of the important points...*(Interruptions)* Our former minister has also arrived and is sitting beside me. He also knows.

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, we, the newly elected members do not get opportunity to speak. Please give us opportunity as well...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the new Members also want to say something about their constituencies. The senior Members are saying again and again the same thing repeatedly. There is no change in their speeches for the last 10 years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you please give chance to new comers. We want to say something about our constituencies which has not been done yet...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already cautioned him to conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is the recommendation of the Railway Convention Committee as well as the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Railways that the dividend, which was payable to the line which was constructed prior to 1952, should be exempted. But that was also

not agreed to by the Ministry of Finance. Here, my request is that at least this recommendation of the Railways Convention Committee as well as the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Railways should be accepted by the Ministry of Finance.

My suggestion is that in order to increase the capacity, funds should be made available. We have 10,000 kilometres of overaged track but there is no fund to replace and reevaluate the entire backlog. If that is done, at least, 10 per cent capacity of the Railways can be increased by investing about six to seven thousand crores of rupees for gauge conversion. There is no impact in our capacity...*(Interruptions)*

Our former Railway Minister, Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief who is sitting here, is laughing. I am not referring to what he has done during his tenure as the Railway Minister. But he will also admit that there has not been any impact. I once suggested that a Committee should be constituted to examine this aspect.

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North): Has there been no impact even after including Purulia?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, including Purulia, there has been no impact because there are only two trains.

A private line was taken over and nationalised in my constituency Bankura-Damodar river railway and a new rail bus has also arrived but the line has not yet been repaired and revaluated for the reason that the funds are not available. I was told that the funds would be available only after the regular Budget. That means, we will have to wait for another six months. Already, a new rail bus has arrived from the Mysore workshop. But when it will be introduced, we do not know. If that line is converted to broad gauge and connected with either Burdwan or with Tarakeshwar, an additional capacity would be available.

15.00 hrs.

The problem of saturated capacity on Burdwan section can be resolved if that line is converted to broad gauge.

I am happy that the Ministry of Railways at long last have decided to complete the Calcutta Circular Railway. The land is now available from Calcutta Port Trust, five kilometres from Majherhat to Princepghat. There is a decision to electrify that section and to make it a double line section. So, sufficient funds should be made available for them in the next Budget. I am talking of the next Budget. Similarly, for the extension work of Calcutta

Metro from Tolliganj to New Goria also sufficient funds should be made available in the next regular Budget.

I am making one or two suggestions because there is a provision for increased allocation for the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report. There is a problem posed by Assistant Drivers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am now calling upon the next Member to speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I am now concluding. This is the last point. Their scale of pay was revised first to Rs. 3050 — Rs. 4590. Later on by adding 20 per cent, it has been revised to Rs. 4000 — Rs. 6000. But they are demanding the scale of pay of Rs. 4500 — Rs. 8000. The All India Loco Running Staff Association — Mr. Minister, you are not listening — has submitted a memorandum saying that two recognised federations have been heard, but this Association has not been heard. Because of that the anomaly has not been removed. The Finance Minister is here and the Railway Minister is also here. Railway workers are agitating. These anomalies should be removed.

There are a number of pending projects in West Bengal like Calcutta Metro, Arambagh-Tarakeshwar new line, doubling of Bandel-Katwa, electrification of Barasat-Hasnabad, Eklakhi-Balurghat and Bina-Tamluk. For all these pending projects sufficient funds should be allocated in the next regular Budget.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The new Members are correct. Always senior Members speak more, but new Members do not get an opportunity to speak. In order to support them and to give them an opportunity to speak I do not want to elaborate my points. I would concentrate only on a few projects because this is only a Vote on Account. This is not a full Budget. When the full Budget comes, we can give our proposals to include all these projects, whatever we want. But as of now it is only a Vote on Account for four months. The process will be starting now for the preparation of the regular Budget.

Mr. Minister, I must convey our congratulations to all the railway employees, officers and the workers. We are proud of our Indian Railways. Indian Railways is an institution which communicates people from south to north and east to west. This is the only communication line which can give a new thrust especially to the people all over the country.

The Railway Budget allocations were increased last time by the friendly U.F. Government. Of course, we were there also. We have had our Chairman on the Standing Committee on Railways and we, the MPs from West Bengal, supported the Government

from outside. But it is most unfortunate for us. We are unfortunate enough that we have not received a single paisa from the U.F. Government. That is why, we have extended our support to this Government. So, this Government should be stable and should deliver the goods.

Of course, everyone will ask for particular projects in one's State. I will do that if my State is deprived...*(Interruptions)* You will also do it if your State is deprived...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (W.B.) : No, this should be deleted. What right does she have to say that?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : There should be some sense.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have not said even one word when their partymen spoke because it is the fundamental right of hon. Members that they will state their views when their opportunity comes...*(Interruptions)* The way they are behaving is not proper...*(Interruptions)* They cannot stop my voice here. This is the Parliament of India.

I am pleading especially for the rural areas, the backward areas and the hilly areas where opportunities are poor. The railway lines in the north-eastern region are especially very poor. My friends there will not raise this issue. There are many projects pending for twenty to thirty years. The Eklakhi-Balurghat project is pending for long and there is no communication in North Bengal...*(Interruptions)* Do not shout. I am speaking for my State. Are you jealous?...*(Interruptions)* This is most unfortunate. I am speaking for my State. Why do you shout?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have a very limited time.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They are disturbing me. Please tell them to be quiet.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear her.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am speaking about the projects; I am not talking about corruption. Please allow me to speak about the projects.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is very limited. There are only two more minutes.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : How is it that they disturb me and you punish me? Is it because nobody will speak on behalf of West Bengal? They will speak on their party lines and I will speak for the people.

I have talked about the Eklakhi-Balurghat project. It is pending since long. Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief, as Minister of Railways, gave only one thousand crores to West Bengal and we returned one thousand and

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

one. This is not proper. All over the country, wherever projects are pending since long, they should conduct a survey and complete them as early as possible.

There are other projects like the Digha-Tamlukh project and the Howrah-Amra project lying pending for long. We have handed over our package proposal to the hon. Prime Minister also.

My next point is about the Tollygunj-Guria project. It is not New Guria as was mentioned, but it is only Guria. It comes within my constituency and only six kilometres away. Unfortunately, the maintenance of the Calcutta Metro is not good now. So many unfortunate incidents are taking place day after day. Still we are proud of our Metro Railway. The Department has been shifted from the Ministry of Railways to the Ministry of Urban Development. I appeal to the Government that this should come within the jurisdiction of the Railway Ministry so that the extension work of the Tollygunj-Guria line could be completed soon. Though the RITES have made surveys and submitted the reports, nothing has been done because it has been pending with the Ministry of Urban Development.

Now, I would like to speak about the Barrackpore-Dum Dum Circular Railway. You know that the condition of the Circular Railway is very bad.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am only mentioning the projects. I am not going into the details. I will take only one or two minutes. We do not have any Shatabdi Express. We have been asking for the introduction of Shatabdi Express for a long time from North Bengal — from Cooch Behar to Sealdah. Likewise, we asked for a golden jubilee express from Sealdah to Delhi. Though the hon. Minister of Railways gave an assurance, nothing was done in that regard. I request that the doubling of the Sealdah-Bangaon line and electrification of the Sealdah-Basirhat line and the Tarakeswar-Arambag line should be completed.

Sir, there are some wagon industries in Bengal, like Burn Standard and Jessops. Please do not reduce the number of orders that are given to these companies. Otherwise, these companies will become sick and the workers will die of hunger.

I would request you not to hike the fare not only this time but also next time. Please do something for the students. The reason why I am pleading for the students is that so many students travel from one part to the other parts to appear in the examinations. Due to the increase in Postal Order fees and rail fare they are unable to sit in the examinations. Considering the plight of the unemployed,

considering the increase in the Postal Order fees and other things, the hon. Minister may please give some concession to those students who want to travel from one part of the country to the other so that they can appear in the examinations.

My next point is about the security and safety aspect. There should be adequate safety measures, especially the women and children. Regarding the construction of the flyovers, though the Central Government has sanctioned them, they have been pending for a very long time, like the Sonarpur flyover and the Bondal Gate flyover. We have already given funds from our MP's quota.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I will take only half a minute. I am speaking very fast like a Super Express.

Nothing has been done with respect to projects like Bondal Gate, Sonarpur, Maurigram Lake Gardens which have already been sanctioned. New projects like Dankuni flyover, Barasat flyover, Siliguri flyover and Sonarpur flyover should be completed.

With these few words, I would like to conclude. But this is horrible. We have to speak like a super express.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to know the method by which you call the members to speak because as per the established norms, when the members of one party have spoken, then only the next one is called to speak. We are the representatives of third largest party and you are by-passing us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I am not by-passing you. Your name came very late.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : You are definitely by-passing us. My name did not come late. This is the time and turn of my party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call you after him.

[English]

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District-Assam) : Sir, smaller parties should also be given time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, a new member like us has got to participate in this special discussion on the Budget presented for four months by the Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumarji. I take this opportunity to remind

the Minister of Railways that a railway line from Gaya to Kiul which passes through my constituency was laid way back by the Britishers which he seems to have forgotten.

Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that no work has been done on this railway line nor any steps have been taken by the Ministry of Railways to develop this railway station. Today it takes atleast 12 to 17-18 hours to reach Kiul from Gaya. I belong to Shekhpura. If I happen to go there by train from Patna, I leave in evening and reach Shekhpura the next day in evening. Such is the condition of that railway line. It hardly matters whether Shri Jaffer Sharief is the Railways Minister or my friend Shri Nitish Kumarji, for me, both are equal. In democracy, Government changes as well as Minister changes but officers remain well entrenched. The officer provides different kind of guidance to different Ministers. It is quite interesting to note that the position of officers remains the same whereas our position keeps on changing. This is the demerit of democracy. We the 49 members do nothing other than speaking. I will explain in detail when the Minister of Railways presents Rail Budget. This is my humble submission to the Minister of Railways that please introduce an Express train from Gaya to Kiul for people of the area. They have waited in vain for such a train. Whether this line exists in India or not? This area also comes under the constituency of Shri George Fernandes.

The condition of Islampur to Fatuha railway line is the same. Kindly pay attention to this railway line also. Kindly sanction some funds and get this line repaired. This line comes under my Constituency. The funds allocated in the budget to meet the expenditure for these four months is meagre. Meanwhile the number of passengers and volume of traffic has increased but the number of trains has remained the same. You have started extending the train routes. What have you done for the people of Bihar? You have stated that Rajdhani Express is there but which route it covers? You run this train via Lucknow. What was the need to take this train via Lucknow? Couldn't you provide a direct train? There should be a direct train from Patna to Delhi. A lot of trains are there for Lucknow. Shramjeevi Express also goes via Lucknow which originates from Patna. If you wish to visit Lucknow, go there yourself. Please do not misguide the people of Bihar by taking them to Lucknow.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, what facilities do they provide in the trains? Do you know how they serve meals? Earlier when Railway canteen was there, they used to serve meals in thali. These days they don't serve food even in Pattal (plate made of leaves), instead they use paper plates which is

unhygienic. Railways runs its catering service under contract system. Shri Nitish Babu, when you happen to travel by train, you usually travel in first class AC Compartment where you get all facilities and therefore you do not get the first hand knowledge. But please see what common passengers are being served as meals. They are served rice purchased from Fair Price Shops and wherefrom they get pulses? You have provided utensils in the trains, but they hardly cook meals in those utensils, they lift entire items from other stations and put them in the utensils provided to them. Your contractors are engaged in carrying passengers and earn money from them.

I request you to provide safety and light in trains. Kindly find out whether there are adequate lights and bulbs? You bring outdated compartments from Mumbai and Madras and put them in use between Patna to Kiul and Jhajha and Jamalpur in which passengers cannot even go to bathroom if need arises. Darbhanga-Jayanagar line comes under broad guage project which is adjoining Nepal border. This project is included in the other supplementary Budget which has been supplied to us. If you wish to finish it, finish it as fast as you can.

My submission is that there is no need of any budgetary provision for introducing an Express train from Kiul. I request you to kindly consider my points while replying.

One of our new member from the other side was asking for providing opportunities to new members to speak. Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly show your benevolence here also. You remember the name of important persons who come here frequently but provide few a opportunities to common member like us who came elected from Begusarai. Though you have given me an opportunity to speak but I support the contention of our friends as to how new members like us can become erudite persons? They can be successful only when you give them opportunity. Therefore new members should be given opportunity to speak. I want to know from Nitish Babu something about the Railway passes provided to members. There is only one First Class AC pass for a member and his wife and attendant travel in second AC compartment. How can one's wife travel alone in other compartment...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak. I have done work in Bihar. My submission is that kindly provide two first class A.C. passes to all the members.

I further request to provide free railway pass to all the M.L.As as per the wishes of the Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies and also ensure that they are not misused. Legislative Assembly is willing to provide money for that. Please consider this issue

[Shri Rajo Singh]

also and hold talks with the Speakers of Legislative Assemblies so that the Members of Legislative Assemblies do not feel inconvenience and they could also avail the same facilities. Kindly abolish the contract system for providing meals and provide good quality meals prepared in Railway Canteen.

With these words, I conclude my speech by congratulating Hon'ble Minister in the hope that he will announce for introduction of an Express train from Gaya to Kiul today itself.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Interim Rail Budget 1998-99. I would like to express my views on the Interim Rail Budget which our hon'ble Minister of Railways has presented here. I am from Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. The main link connecting Mughalsarai to Delhi is via Allahabad and as you are aware that Allahabad has its own religious and historical importance. This year we are celebrating golden jubilee of Independence.

15.26 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

Sir, I would like to submit that though we are celebrating the golden jubilee of Independence, yet no efforts have been made to start a Shatabdi Express between Allahabad and Delhi. Whereas Shatabdi Express had been started to connect the capitals of various States. To connect Kanpur and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh with Delhi, a Shatabdi Express has been started. Therefore, I would like to urge on this occasion of Golden Jubilee of Independence to start a Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Allahabad. I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister has provided us Prayagraj Express but we will be obliged if he gives his approval for starting a Shatabdi Express from Delhi to Allahabad and inaugurates it with his own hands.

Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir my Parliamentary Constituency consists of three districts — Kaushambi, Allahabad and Fatehpur and through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister that as the district Kaushambi was the capital of king Udayana and historically it is a holy place for Budhists where Budhist and Jain pilgrims from many parts of the world like China, Japan and other countries visit this place. Therefore, my demand is that Bhakhari Railway Station may be converted into a Junction at the earliest so that tourists from Japan, China and other countries could conveniently visit this sacred place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that in view of the difficulties being faced by the pilgrims in crossing the G.T. Road to reach district Kaushambi an over-bridge may be constructed over this rail track linking the Bhakhari on one side and Bhagvatpur on the other so that the pilgrims and other people could easily move to and fro.

Sir, I would like to make one more request to the Hon'ble Minister that his predecessor Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan had laid the foundation stone for a Railway zonal office to be opened in Distt. Allahabad and the then Prime Minister Shri H.D. Devegowda too visited the place, I would like that the Zonal Office of Railway may soon be established there for development and extension of the Railways there and the public may also get the facilities.

Sir, Allahabad is a very important place. Since Independence, people of this district have been fighting for their rights. In spite of the fact that the travellers in quite a big number visit this place, no "Rail Yatri Nivas" has been built there. Therefore, I request that one "Rail Yatri Niwas" may soon be built in Allahabad so that the Indian and foreign travellers visiting Allahabad on the occasion of fairs held at the historic Sangam Ghat such as 'Magha Mela', Maha Kumbha and many other festivals and fairs may avail of the facility there.

Sir, just now one of our senior members raised a very important point. He said that the Members of Legislative Assembly are not given Railway passes which are given to the Members of Parliament. They have to use coupons while travelling in the Rail which is inconvenient for them. My humble submission is that the Members of Legislative Assembly should also be given identity card to enable them to avail of the facility. Besides, I want to say that the ex-members of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly are not given any facility for travelling by train. Therefore, I request that the facility of travelling by train may be given to the ex-legislators also.

Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the Delhi-Howrah Railway line, there is a Burhan Railway station, which is a Junction also but no Express train stops there. The Janta Express that earlier used to stop here, has also been discontinued. Therefore, I request that the Sangam Express, Janta Express, Moori and Katihar Express be provided a stoppage at Burhan Railway station.

With these words, I express my deep gratitude and I thank the hon'ble Chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Interim Railway Budget, 1998-99.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : May, I make a submission about the Railway Budget? Though it is a discussion on the interim Budget, region-wise small parties from the southern, northern and eastern parts of the country should also be given some time to speak. I appreciate the constraint of time but we would also appreciate whatever little time you could give to us.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : If you give time only to big parties, some of the areas of the country will remain totally untouched.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is possible provided Members shorten their speeches. Everybody can get an opportunity to speak.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : You should take care of the smaller parties also.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : I also come from an area which is the most neglected one. So, I would also like to say something. Please give some time to me also. People are always talking about South, North and East but what about the North-east?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are very reasonable.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : I wish to start my intervention with a positive note of appreciation for the Minister of Railways. Shri Nitish Kumar's effort not to increase the passenger fares and freight is definitely a welcoming sign and I hope he will continue the same when he will be presenting the full-fledged Budget. I think he will give an assurance to that effect.

I do not know whether it is a coincidence or otherwise, for the last two terms the Railway Minister has been from Bihar. I am forgetting the name, perhaps it was Gazipur or Hazipur about which a number of articles appeared in the newspapers. This has affected the elections also. I would like to submit that while Nitish'ji should take care of the State of Bihar or of a particular constituency he should also look after the entire country especially the backward and tribal areas of the country where communication is needed the most.

I would like to draw his attention to the two Autonomous Councils, Karbi Anglong and North Cachar. These two Autonomous-Councils have headquarters at Diphu and Haflong which come under the NF Railway. Last time the hon. Minister of Railways promised me that when the computer reservation system will be started for the State Headquarters of the north-eastern regions he will also ensure that the headquarters of the Autonomous Hill Councils are also provided with this facility. But

that was not done. I was later on told that it was not commercially viable. In this regard I want to submit to the Minister that the Railways should not only be a commercial venture but should also serve the nation, especially the backward areas. Therefore, I would like to make a special request for having computer reservation facility at Diphu and Haflong stations which come under NF Railways.

The people of Assam and North-east appreciate the metre gauge conversion from Guwahati to Dibrugarh. The work is also in progressing from Lumding to Silcher. It will go a long way in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Assam. The problem is, though metre gauge has been converted into broad gauge, the other related works has been done. Because of the conversion the railway track has become very high and the platform is low. It is hazardous for the passengers to even get into the train because the platform remains at a lower level whereas the track is at a higher level because of gauge conversion. On my enquiring, the officials of the NF Railways have told me that this was not included in the Plan. I, therefore, wish to draw the attention at the highest level and say that when you take up the gauge conversion the work on platforms should also be taken up so that it does not become hazardous for the passengers.

I just want to mention about the Bokajan-Diphu line. Bokajan is the Sub-Divisional Headquarters. It is an important station where one of the biggest public sector cement factories in India is located. However, after the conversion of the track from metre gauge to broad gauge, most of the important mail and passenger trains ceased to stop at that station which has put the people of that area to a hardship. While the gauge conversion is appreciated by the people, the consequential effects of the conversion have proved to be counter-productive to them. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to these anomalies and request him that the Autonomous District Council Headquarters should be properly connected by rail and all major trains should be stopped at Bokajan station.

I do not want to speak much on the financial and such other aspects of this Interim Budget. However, it is a matter of concern that the working expenditure of the Railways has increased. It has been increasing continuously. I think that the whole of this working expenditure may not be very necessary. With proper planning and management, efforts should be made to reduce the working expenditure. Increase on the receipts side also has not been encouraging. It has only been a marginal increase I request the hon. Minister of Railways to take proper measures to increase the receipts and decrease the working expenditure.

[Dr. Jayanta Rongpi]

In the North-East Frontier Railway, there are many places where level crossing are required. In certain places there are level crossings but they are unmanned. I do not make this demand with regard to my constituency alone. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that a Committee should be constituted to carry out a thorough investigation into this matter and determine the places where level crossings, manned and unmanned, are required to be provided. Such a study should be conducted throughout the country. Every effort should be made by the Government to act accordingly. This problem is faced in my constituency. My suggestion is that an experts committee, with fair representation to the Members of Parliament should be set up to thoroughly investigate into it. Proper planning should be done.

With the hope that passenger fares and freight rates will not be increased when the actual Budget is presented, I conclude my speech.

DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY (Adilabad) : Sir, the Interim Rail Budget 1998-99 showed an excess of Rs.755 crore and contained no proposal for a hike in the passenger fares and freight rates. There are two-three important indications in the Budget about the state of Indian Railways. It shows that the Railways are not in a position to step up investment to take care of the growing transportation needs of our country. An indication to the worsening state of Railways is its worsening operation ratio which is projected to be 94 per cent in 1998-99.

This means that the Railways have to spend a minimum of 94 paise per every rupee earned. I think, the main burden is due to the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report. On pension alone, the outgo is estimated to be Rs.1,167 crore. It is, I think, higher than the Budget estimate of Rs.2000 crore.

Earlier, to increase the infrastructural facilities in the areas of power, communications, surface transportation, in Railways also, to attract more private investment under Built Operation Lease Transfer (BOLT) and Own Your Wagon Scheme was invited but they have miserably failed to materialise.

As estimated in the Report, the passenger traffic in 1997-98 has to grow by five per cent and it is projected to grow at the same rate in 1998-99.

Thankfully the figures presented by the hon. Minister for 1997-98 do not present a bleak picture. He also hails from Bihar like his immediate predecessor. However, in the Railway Budget for 1998-99 there are clear signs to the effect that in the next year our position might not be as quite comfortable as has been proposed in the four months.

Given the fact, like in other infrastructural areas, the Railways too need to invest more rather than less in the next year. This is obviously not a very healthy development. The indication is not healthy if you see the facts and figures. Therefore, the Government might be forced to hike the tariff, which is inevitable.

As far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, earlier our hon. Chief Minister had written four or five DO letters to the then hon. Railway Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan especially in regard to the formation of the South East Coast Railway Zone at Waltair. On this issue, the Andhra Pradesh Legislature has unanimously passed a resolution on 13.9.96 for the formation of the new South East Coast Railways Zone at Waltair. It is pending in the Ministry of Railways. The hon. Railway Minister has said that a final decision will be taken only after wide consultations with all the concerned parties, including the Government.

Recently Shri Nitish Kumar has taken charge. In this regard, I hope that before taking any decision, he will consult all the MPs of Andhra Pradesh.

Regarding the sanction of new railway projects for Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has recommended a new Railway project between Gadwal and Raichur (Karnataka) on a priority basis. For introduction of new trains, I request that the following new trains may be introduced. Tirupati-Madras, Visakhapatnam-Mumbai, via Vijayawada and Guntur, Hyderabad-Bokaro Steel City via Nagpur, extension of Hyderabad-Cochi Express up to Kanyakumari, one more Express train between Hyderabad and Madras via Nadikudi and Guntur.

Similarly, earlier we have submitted a number of representations to the Ministry of Railways, but no decision has been taken so far.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has contributed 50 per cent for taking up the construction of Railway Overbridges. Three or four proposals are pending with the Central Government. I would request the Minister of Railways, through you, Sir, to take up this issue immediately.

I would also request the Ministry of Railways to take up construction of a road overbridge at Palani Theatre, Tirupati Town of Chittoor District. I would also request for the formation of a new Sub-Divisional Office at Bitragunta.

I would especially like to thank and congratulate the Government for giving emphasis on the backward area. As you know, in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana is the most backward area. Our new hon. Member, Shri Rosaiah has also mentioned about the Peddapally-Nizambad line. Earlier, the United Front Government has allotted a sum of nearly Rs.10 crore for this

project. I think, land acquisition is also completed temporarily. But I came to know that the Land Acquisition Office has been shifted. I do not know the reason for the same.

Telangana is the most backward area in Andhra Pradesh. I would request the hon. Minister to give emphasis on this issue. Similarly, Nanded to Muthked broad gauge line has to be completed.

As per the Ninth Plan National Guidelines, all meter gauge lines should be converted into broad gauge ones. But in Andhra Pradesh, the gauge conversion is not taking place. For example, the work on the conversion of Nizamabad to Bollaram broad gauge line has not started. Muthked to Nizamabad (80 km.) line is also pending due to problems in the acquisition of agricultural land.

As you know, the Nizam Sugar Factory is a key factory for the farmers. Due to the non-completion of the conversion of this line, farmers are suffering due to lack of transportation facilities.

This Government is emphasising on agriculture and farming sector. I would request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to take up this issue immediately.

Earlier, the hon. former Prime Minister, Shri Gujral referred the question of halting some Express trains of some stations in the Adilabad District which falls in the Northern Telengana region to the Rail Nilayam but so far nothing has been done. I am referring to the halting of the G.T. Express at Bellampally, the Navjeevan Express at Kagaznagar and Janata Express at Tandur in Adilabad district of A.P.

The proposal for gauge conversion of Pakala-Dharmavaram line is pending before the Central Government. I would request the Government to expedite this matter.

I would further request the hon. Railway Minister to extend the Cochin Express which is running from Hyderabad to Kollam.

I would also request for modernisation and development of Moulali railway station. Earlier also the Government of Andhra Pradesh had referred this matter to the hon. Railway Minister. It should be done on a priority basis.

A proposal to introduce a Palace on Wheels train originating from Bangalore touching Mysore, Chennai, Kodaikanal, Kanayakumari, Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Udagamandalam, and finally terminating at Bangalore was there. I would request this new Government to see that this train originates and terminates at Hyderabad for giving a further boost to tourism.

Before he finalises the Railway Budget, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to invite all the concerned Members of Parliament and consult them.

With these few words, I thank you for giving me opportunity.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : There is no need for you to ask, you were in the Government.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaisali) : This is because you have moved to the other side and become a Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Department of Railways in India is very important. Every day more than one crore people travel in our trains and one crore tonnes of goods are carried. In India we have one crore forty lakh Bullock Carts and each cart carries one tonne goods daily, which when put together makes more than the goods carried by the trains.

Nitishji is the new Minister, we have seen the figures given on first page of the Interim Budget presented by him. It says that the length of Rail track in 1995-96 was 62915 km., which came down to 62725 kms. in 1996-97. It was heard that in 1995-96, a railway line was planned to be stretched in Kashmir, and in Konkan and North-east also the lines are being extended. But according to your figures, the length of the rail line proposed to be laid in 1995-96, has come down to 185 kms. We don't know how could this be possible. These days, much hue and cry is made for laying new rail lines. Not only this, it is also said that Rail facilities and the number of new coaches is also being increased. In 1995-96 the number of goods coaches was 280791 which has come down to 272127 in 1996-97. It also has a difference of 8000. We don't know what trick is involved in it. People are demanding to extend the rail line but it is decreasing, Nitishji is a calculative man... (Interruptions) He will look into it. Day-by-day the length of rail lines is decreasing, the number of train compartments is decreasing and the number of engines is also decreasing. We have seen from the figures that in 1996-97, the number of these three items have been reduced as compared to that of 1995-96. We do not know why this difference is there. But in Patna, last year in 1996, the then Prime Minister had inaugurated Digdha-Sonpur bridge which was supposed to connect North-Southern Bihar. Just because there is no other rail bridge in Bihar between Buxar and Farakka except Rajendra bridge, responding to the demands of the people and in view of the difficulties faced by the people, the then Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the bridge in Patna. But now nearly two years have elapsed, we do not know what is there on papers? Nitish ji may please see to it without bothering about

[Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

the date of laying of foundation stone. Otherwise people of Bihar will seek and ask him for the same because he belongs to their adjoining region. Therefore, I want to know about the Digdha-Sonpur bridge which was proposed to be built in Patna. What happened to the bridge? How much time will it take to be completed? Is it on papers or not? Or all this was an eye wash. If a case is to be filed under section 420 against whom will it be filed? He will have to tell us clearly. Therefore, we wish that the construction of the bridge for which the foundation stone was laid, be started soon. I hope you would do this. As you know an I.C.S. Officer during British rule wrote :

[English]

"Bihar is the heart of India".

[Translation]

Nitishji might have read it in the book that

[English]

Bihar is the heart of India.

[Translation]

Bihar is the one-tenth part of India and in the history of India, Bihar constitutes 2/3 of it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I am concluding. Bihar can not be neglected. He is the Seventh Minister of Railways from Bihar. Before him, late Shri Babu Jagjeevan Ram, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, Kedar Pandeyji, Shri George, Late Shri Lalit Narain Mishra ji and Ram Vilas Paswanji were the Ministers of Railways. Only Foundation stones were laid. We don't know when would this work be completed? They have yet to prove their strength in the House, and hence we cannot say how long their Government will last. Mr. Paswan says this Government will last for one year only. They are the cricket players whether they are the players for rehearsal match or the training match? We don't know how would Mr. Nitish work?

Foundation stone was also laid to connect Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur through rail line. But we don't know when would this work be completed. Work to connect Patna-Gaya was also started. You are well aware about the historical importance of Bodhgaya, where Bhagwan Buddha was enlightened. Work to connect this also was started.

I would like to say that the task of the Department of Railways is not only restricted to transportation but it has also to play an important role in

strengthening the national unity. Its task is also to connect North-South, East-West, Konkan Railway, Jammu-Kashmir, Srinagar, North east, Kerala etc. with each other. It is alleged that the lion's share of Railways has been directed to Bihar. But it is not true. Therefore, we would like to know the facts. It is their duty to inform the House and the people of the country about the fact that Bihar has got a very little share, not even the justified share. It is being alleged as to how this has happened. At the same time I would like to say that the foundation of Darbhanga-Nirmali line and Jhapti-Nirmali line and Sakri to Hasanpur line has been laid down. In addition to that there is a demand to convert the Narkatia to Sitamarhi-Darbhanga rail line into broad gauge line.

Sir, when there was no democracy in any part of the world, in Vaishali, democracy was there. India is the biggest democratic country in the world and we are proud to adopt the democracy in the world first of all. Vaishali is the Karam Bhoomi of Lord Budha and Birth place of Bhagwan Mahavir, Indian historians wrote about Lichhvi republic but western historians did not know about this. Therefore, I would like to say that the demand for this railway line in Vaishali has been raised since 1904 and the foundation stone of this line was laid on the day of birth anniversary of Late Shri Karpuri Thakur...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the next Speaker. Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Sir, I am concluding my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude, saying your last sentence.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Lastly, I would like to make one demand. Unfair means are being adopted in the reinstatement of the Chairman of Railway Recruitment Board. I would like to expect Mr. Nitish to get this matter investigated by the CBI. The appointment of Chairman of the Railway Recruitment Board is being done by taking Rs. one or two lakh. We don't know as to whether you will be able to take the action against this practice or not, or whether you will get a chance or not, because this Government is not going to last longer.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are many speakers to speak. I appeal to all of you. Anybody can take part

provided they briefly state their demands. Not like this.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I express my gratitude and thanks to my leader and DMK President, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, for having given me an opportunity to contest from the Chennai North Constituency and get elected as a Member of this House.

When the DMK did not have any member in this House, the hon. Railway Minister had echoed the views of DMK and I am so happy that he stood for social justice. Therefore, we consider him as one amongst us although presently he is in different company.

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : It is a temporary one. Sir, there is a point of order. The hon. Minister is not listening to the speech. What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is here.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The Minister should listen to the speech. What is this?...*(Interruptions)* He has paid encomiums to you. You are not listening to him. He has paid a lot of encomiums.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is here. Why are you telling this? The Minister is there to defend himself.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Everything is recorded here. Please do not worry. I am also taking notes. My colleague, Shri Ram Naik is also taking notes. Please do not worry.

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : What is the purpose of saying all these things here.

SHRI MAHENDRA BAITHA (Bagaha) : Let him come to the point.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : He wants the hon. Minister to listen to us.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I am listening to you.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : I am happy as a person who served the Railways for 24 years and started the trade union career, to get an opportunity to speak on the Interim Railway Budget.

16.00 hrs.

Railways cater to the needs of crores of passengers and handle foodgrains and essential commodities like oil, coal, etc. It needs to be developed to fulfil the aspirations of the public.

The undue delay in executing the gauge conversion by Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu

making it virtually made Chennai the Capital of Tamil Nadu cut off from the Southern Districts. The travelling public is facing much difficulty using road transport during the summer. Apart from that from 20th June, 1998, the metre gauge line between Trichy and Dindigul is going to be closed for conversion. It will add more difficulty for the travelling public. I feel that this work would have been completed and the Ministry of Railways released the sufficient funds in time.

After the gauge conversion from Chennai to Madurai the people hailing from the grannery areas of South India namely Thanjavur District Mayiladudural, Kumbhakonam, Cuddalore and Chidambaram will have no facility to travel direct from these places by broad gauge train to Chennai. The tourists who wish to go to Rameswaram and Pondicherry will also be denied direct travel by train from Chennai.

There is substantial increase in transporting of goods from 23 million tonnes in 1996-97 to 27 million tonnes in 1997-98. It may increase to 30 million tonnes. At present, because of gauge conversion, coal is transported by road. The conversion of broad gauge will provide more efficient option for moving coal.

The hon. Minister of Railways, while presenting the interim Railway Budget, said that taking a bulk of road transport by Railway will reduce pollution. Hence, I would like to request the hon. Minister to allot sufficient funds and take up simultaneously the doubling of the track with electrical traction which will reduce the road traffic and save P.O.L.

Upto 1991 Rajasthan which was having 19 per cent of broad gauge and Karnataka which was having 20 per cent of broad gauge have also been provided Rs. 6,000 crore by the Central Government for gauge conversion. Today Rajasthan is having 78 per cent of the broad gauge and Karnataka is having 98 per cent. The work running into 300 kms. in Karnataka was completed within two years. Tamil Nadu which had 23 per cent during 1991 even now has only 33 per cent. Tamil Nadu has the lowest percentage of broad gauge in the whole of India. This type of raw deal to Tamil Nadu is a regular feature and our State has been totally neglected. To cite another example, the Ministry of Railways took 12 years' time to complete nine kms of MRTS from Madras Beach to Chepauk.

The ongoing MRTS from Luz to Vellacherry is to be executed early. The amount of Rs. 10 crore allotted for the execution is not sufficient. While commencing the execution of MRTS from Luz to Vellacherry, may I request the Government to proceed with the project without removing 3000 huts at Periyar

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

Nagar near Taramani. To compensate the State, the Central Government should come forward immediately to provide broad gauge double track from Chennai to Madurai which is a life line of our State.

In my constituency at Parambur, it is proposed to construct a flyover bridge and for that the Chennai Corporation has agreed to share the responsibility and conveyed the same to the Southern Railway authorities also. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to expedite the execution of the flyover bridge at Parambur. So also at Saidapet, there is a bazaar road bridge sub-way which is also pending sanction of the Railway Board. I request the hon. Minister to expedite this. Some years back, there was a proposal to have another railway terminal at Villivakkam to ease the congestion at Chennai Central railway station. I would request the hon. Minister to pursue the same and start a new terminal at Villivakkam.

Lastly to execute all works in Southern Railway in Tamil Nadu, I demand and request the hon. Minister to provide sufficient funds.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to make any speech but I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister one aspect which is the concern of two districts in Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the four districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur are called the rice bowls of India. These are highly agricultural and prosperous areas and with a lot of population in Krishna and Guntur districts. I understand from my friend who is sitting with me here and who belongs to that place that the then Deputy Prime Minister Shri Devi Lal laid a foundation for a railway line between Repalle and Machilipatnam via Avanigadda.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Sir, the Minister of Railways is not here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of State for Railways is here.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, Repalle is in Guntur district and Machilipatnam is the capital of Krishna district. If the people of these two places want to move from one place to another, they have to now traverse more than 100 kilometres and they have to go via Vijayawada which means a journey of more than 100 kilometres. There is a lot of commercial activity between these two districts. They are highly populous areas and there are a lot of commercial and agricultural activities between these

two places. Now the people traverse by boat to move along river Krishna. Normally when river Krishna is in spate at that time boats capsize. It is also a highly cyclonic area. That is why Shri Devi Lal had gone there and laid the foundation for the rail track.

In the interest of better communication and transport and for the improvement of commerce and also movement of people from place to place it is necessary that this railway track is completed. It also saves tremendous money in terms of petrol and other communication expenses. The rail-cum-road bridge is to be constructed. The track is hardly of 20 kilometres. If this is completed, it will alleviate the miseries of the people of these two districts which are highly populated. It would go a long way in developing that particular area. So, I would request you to kindly consider this aspect.

That is all I wanted to say.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Railways has placed the demands for grants for four months. I feel that the Demands for Railways need not to be discussed and more allocation should be made as the allocations made are inadequate. On the day, when oath ceremony of Hon'ble Prime Minister, took place, I was in Chhapra and I saw people were happy there and on the day when portfolios were allocated and Mr. Nitish Kumar got the portfolio of Ministry of Railways, the people of Bihar felt happy that the portfolio of Railways has been given to an active and energetic person. During the recent past advertisements were published in the Newspapers wherein those false promises were made and as such the people of Bihar have been cheated. But after the appointment of the new Railway Minister the people of Bihar feel that the new Railway Minister will fulfill the promises. Sir, people should feel proud Railways is doing the work to unite India. I would like to suggest and also warn the Minister of Railways. In the recent past when there were some differences between the then Minister of Railways and the Chief Minister of Bihar, the number of incidents of dacoity increased in trains in Bihar. I apprehend that the Government of Bihar will repeat such things because Government of Bihar is not happy even now with the present Minister of Railway. The Government of Bihar can indulge in politicking with a view to defame the Railway Minister. Therefore, I suggest that special security measures should be taken by the Railway Protection Force for the security of the Railway Minister and to protect the trains as soon as they enter Bihar. Otherwise the Government of Bihar will create such a situation wherein the incidents of dacoity would take place.

Now I would like to draw your attention towards certain problems of Chhapra-Siwan. I am speaking here but I don't know where the Minister of Railways has gone?...(Interruptions) The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways is sitting here. He may please note my points properly.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I am taking note properly.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Sir, Chhapra is a historical place. There is no direct train from Chhapra to Delhi. They have to go via Gorakhpur. For visiting Delhi, they have to go via Patna, though there is a broad gauge line from Chhapra to Varanasi. It is, therefore, requested that a direct train should be introduced from Chhapra to Delhi via Varanasi. A train Vaishali has been running since long. It was considered a very comfortable train. But when I went Chhapra by this train on 16th and returned on 22nd by this train I experienced that the condition of that train has worsened as the engine of the said train failed both the time. Neither food nor tea was served in the train. The prevailing mismanagement, whether it is in respect of serving meal and tea or failure of engine, should be rectified. Only 10 seats of AC-I have been provided in this train. Whereas 15 to 20 Members of Parliament come to Delhi by that train. So I would like to request you that an AC-I compartment should be added to this train in addition to another AC-II compartment. The number of compartments has not been provided in this train in proportion to population. That is why the people have to face difficulty in performing to and fro journey.

I would like to raise some minor issues. On 19.3.98 I went to my constituency. I found that on Chinwan station people staged dharna and stopped the train. Those people were demanding that stoppage should be provided to the long distance trains at this station. They stopped the trains for six hours. The Collector of Chhapra and Siwan came there. I was present there by chance. Both the Collector and the officials of the Department of Railways assured to write to the Central Government in this regard. I would like to request the Minister of Railways that arrangement should be made to provide halt for the long distance trains at Chinwan station...(Interruptions) Sir, I am a new member of Parliament. Let me narrate the matter relating to my constituency. The former Minister of Railways had assured this House and the same was published in Newspapers that old line between Duraundha to Maharajganj which was closed down earlier, will be made operative. Besides, it was declared that a survey would be conducted for Maharajganj to

Mishrikh rail line. I went there but I found that only soil-filling work is going on between Duraundha and Maharajganj but the survey work between Maharajganj to Mishrikh is not going on. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Railways that the rail-lines from Duraundha to Maharajganj and Maharajganj to Mishrikh, about which the former Minister of Railways has already given assurance in and outside the House should be started immediately.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government that local trains should be provided stoppage at Aamlahi railway station which is located between Ekma and Chinwan railway stations, as Aamlahi is an important place with huge population. Raghuvansh Babu was talking about Patna-Digha-Sonpur bridge. He was rightly telling that the former Prime Minister Shri Devegowda had laid the foundation stone of this bridge but the construction of this bridge has not been started so far. A statement of the former Minister of Railways has appeared in the newspapers that the bridge will not be constructed there and the same will be constructed at some other place. It is a betrayal of the people. Therefore, I would like to request the Minister of Railways, through you, that construction of Digha-Sonpur bridge should be started without any further delay at the same place where the foundation stone of the same was laid by the former Prime Minister.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rajveer Singh.

SHRI P. SANKARAN (Calicut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the new Members are not given time to speak in this debate. I want to raise only two points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

SHRI P. SANKARAN : Sir, I would make those two points without wasting much time.

The first point is, the fund allocated for doubling the second railway line between Shoranur and Mangalore according to the original estimate is Rs. 450 crore out of which Rs. 50 crore had already been spent last year. I request the Government that additional amount of Rs. 150 crore may be allocated for this project.

The second point is, the Rajdhani Express is now being directed through Calicut and so, I request that the Rajdhani Express may be given a stoppage at Calicut.

These are the two genuine demands which we all, the Keralites, have.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please send your name. I will consider it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, many many thanks for you have just averted an accident. One train was coming from this side and other train had started from that side.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Railways is an important Ministry. ABB engines were a hot topic during the Tenth Lok Sabha and the Eleventh Lok Sabha took a lead in the matter of inaugurations and laying of foundation stones. For the salvation of one stone Lord Rama had to come on this earth. How that the Railway Department has laid so many foundation stones that several Ramas will have to come for their salvation. Since Shri Ram Naik has now become the Minister of State for Railways some of the foundation stones may attain salvation. Shri Nitish Kumar is not here otherwise I would have appreciated him too.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that whatever has been said about the Ministry of Railways by the other side, I think it is not proper to criticise the new Government in this regard. This is only five days old Government. They are not responsible for it. The persons sitting on the other side are responsible for what the railways have done during the last fifty years, the work left unfinished or the trains not introduced or the mismanagement in the railways because there were more Ministers of Railways from that side. The entire system has been disturbed and now the work of improving it has come on the shoulders of Nitishji and Ram Naikji. I request both of them to tone up the railway administration and bring about improvement in this disorderly department. It is very important department. The Rail is the lifeline of India. The railway lines connect the whole country. The railways are symbolic of the unity of the country...(Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, sometimes it happens. I would like to remind hon'ble Minister of Railways that when he was on that side he used to speak a lot about railways. Our Minister of State is an expert and he also used to speak a lot about railways. Now the Railway Minister has got an opportunity to do something for the railways. He will improve the situation and the suburban railways was his favourite subject. Through you I request the Railway Minister that he should not concentrate only on suburban railways of Mumbai, but there are some other larger sections also, where suburban railway is required. For example take Lucknow. There are smaller districts around Lucknow. Such trains should also be introduced in these districts which will connect the people of one district to another. I would

like to draw your attention that although a number of long distance trains are being run, but the people of smaller distance are facing problems. I hope that you will definitely pay attention towards it.

The line between Bareilly and Delhi has not been doubled. Whereas from Bareilly to Lucknow and further upto Calcutta it has been doubled. Now the line from Moradabad to Ghaziabad has to be converted into double line. Due to absence of double line trains get late and there is mismanagement. I would like that the Minister of State should pay attention to it. Approval has been given but the work is continuing with a very slow speed and it is not speeding up. Please get it expedited.

During Congress rule, Shri Suresh Kalmadi was the Railway Minister. He came to Bareilly and had announced that a Shatabdi Express train between Delhi-Lucknow via Bareilly-Moradabad will be introduced shortly. But that train has not yet been introduced. Neither that Government nor the successive Government fulfilled the assurance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please express yourself in brief.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take even five minutes. This Shatabdi Express train should be introduced immediately. Mr. Minister, Sir, this is the promise of your Ministry, you should fulfill it. Agra-Kathgodam is a very important line. Announcements to convert this line into broad gauge line has also been made. Surprisingly, the foundation stone of this line was laid in Badaun. The Minister of Railways had also visited the place. There was a Health Minister from there. He also made a number of announcements, full page advertisements were given in newspapers, but the entire issue remained upto the laying of foundation stone. Now the time has come to into convert the line into broad gauge line.

The second point is small but very important. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will not cost you anything. Bomb explosions are taking place at different places. Bombs are also being exploded in trains, but no train is stopped. There is a small station called Nisoi, situated between Bareilly and Chandausi. At that station, two railway employees were killed due to differences and rivalry among railway employees. Due to this the DRM of that division and other railway officials closed down that station. What is the logic behind it? Why the poor people of that area are being harassed in this way? Why that railway station has been closed down, though the trains pass through that station on main line. Disputes are continuing there. People are out to launch an agitation. If there is chaos please set it right. If there is law and order

problem, please solve it. Why this railway station has been made non-functional. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has not been done by the present Government. This was done during the regime of the previous Government.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Which station is this?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : This is Nisoi railway station. The wrong so far done here should be set right. This station should again be made functional. Please restore order in this station. If there is any law and order problem, please solve it. Trains should not be stopped and the station should be made functional.

My next demand is that the demand for a over bridge on the railway line between Bareilly and Badaun is being made for the last ten years. In the absence of it, there are traffic jams for hours. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has given its consent and has made the arrangements for mobilizing the resources. I would like to request the Railway Minister that this over bridge should be sanctioned immediately and work should be started at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : There are two small points. First, the Railway Ministry is a very important ministry. Hon'ble Finance Minister is sitting here. I would like to request him that more financial assistance should be provided to the Ministry of Railways. The matters relating to the dividend etc. should be reconsidered. The report of the Railways Convention Committee should be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This point is finished. What is your next point.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : There is one more important point on which all the fellow Members will agree. Some years ago, we had a very progressive Railway Minister. He introduced the system of serving food in plastic packs and tea in plastic tumblers, with the result, that small scale industry came to an end. In this plastic era, hot food was served in plastic bags, which started causing a number of diseases. People throw away the plastic bags and tumblers after having taken their food and tea. You go to Mumbai or any other route, you will find the plastic material thrown in farms on the entire stretch of route. The environment is getting polluted causing an adverse affect on the health of people. This ill has spread all over India. Plastic packets and tumblers can neither be burnt nor thrown or melt. Rather it is doing harm to cultivation. I would like to request you to resort to the earlier practice and free the railways of the use of the plastic.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Do you want an earthen pot (*kulhar*)?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Yes, we want *kulhar*. If tea will be served in *kulhar*, potter's will get their livelihood. Lakhs of potters will get employment. We want *kulhar*. We want to drink tea in *kulhar*. We don't want plastic tumblers. For packing please use *pattal*, which will help to develop cottage industry. Small scale industry will grow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Minister, please do not provoke him. If you provoke him, he will continue with his speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Rajveerji, please conclude now.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am telling such an interesting thing. You did not sound the buzzer. The train moves when the buzzer sounds. This is the first buzzer. I am speaking for the first time in this session. Of the three points which I have made, the point regarding plastic is related to the country's economy also. If you will allow production of the *Pattals* and *Kulhars*, this will reduce the unemployment problem. All the potters and gardeners of our villages are rendered unemployed. They have no work at present. If the Ministry of Railways desires, it can help to flourish these small scale industries. It can purchase *Kulhars* and *pattals* from them. Packing of food with these materials will keep it fresh and hygienic. With these words, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways, to accept the demands relating to Bareilly. In the end, I would like to say one more thing that the waiting room at Bareilly station is in a very chaotic state. If the hon'ble minister comes unnoticed to rest there, he will become aware of it. If he will come with much fanfare, they will improve its condition. Please do something to make it satisfactory. With these words, I conclude...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow each respected Members to speak for a minute.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members, on this Vote-on-Account, the time limit was fixed up to 4.30 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please have patience to hear me. Why do you not hear me? I am going to find out some solution. Please be seated. The time limit was fixed up to 4.30 p.m. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend it further by half-an-hour? The Members who are going to participate should briefly state their case and then only we will be in a position to complete it. Therefore, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time limit by another 30 minutes?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Kindly fix the time for both because we have to take up the other one also. Let us not go in for *ad hoc* extensions. Kindly fix up the time. If we go on extending like this, then it will not be over.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Half-an-hour only !

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will also have to pass the Interim Budget today. Tomorrow, the Confidence Motion is to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time has been extended by another half-an-hour, that is, upto 5 O'clock.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You have already given the decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time do you need?

SHRI RAM NAIK : The point is, the General Budget is to be passed subsequently. It has to be passed by 6 o'clock. So, for General Budget, there would not be time for discussion. That is what I just want to bring to your notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the cooperation of the hon. Members, we should pass it.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Yesterday it was decided in the meeting to have two hours for Railway Budget and two hours for Interim Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these matters were decided in the leaders meeting. Therefore, let us proceed further.

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakonam) : Respected Chairman, I am very happy in delivering my address for the first time in the House in the presence of experienced leaders and respected Members of this House.

I am also very thankful to my eminent leader, the General Secretary of my All India Anna DMK, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi for having sent me as a Member of Parliament for delivering my address today in this august House.

Hon. Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumar has placed before this august House, the Railway Budget which has been praised and welcomed by all poor

men in this country. I am making this submission on behalf of my Party, All India Anna DMK.

The Railways have performed well and expect to earn a surplus of over Rs. 1,400 crore during the present financial year which is higher by about Rs. 100 crore than what was expected when the Budget for 1997-98 was presented in February last.

From this Budget, it is seen that passenger traffic recorded a growth of about five per cent. It is also welcomed by all and it is also an appreciable one.

Now it has set up a target of 430 million tonnes of revenue earning freight traffic for the next financial year also. As this House is aware, the Government's decision on the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendations has been implemented in the year, 1997-98. Railways had kept a provision of Rs. 3,300 crore in the ordinary working expenses for this purpose also.

It is also appreciable that the total working expenses stand revised from Rs. 25,135 crore to Rs. 25,922 crore, an increase of Rs. 787 crore.

I want to submit before this House that from the Budget it is seen that the net revenue is higher by Rs. 3,016 crore as compared to Budget estimate of Rs. 3,004 crore.

It is also appreciable that this Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has got the good intention to take all necessary steps to strengthen the Indian Railways and to enhance their role in providing efficient transport of both freight and passengers also.

I also request the hon. Minister to take necessary, firm action to reduce the railway accidents and action against the anti-social elements who are always out to destroy the properties of the Railways.

With regard to the problems of my constituency, I want to make a few points in order to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. There is an Engineering Workshop at Arakonam which was started in the year 1894. It is 104 year-old now. It is one of the major Workshops in the Civil Engineering discipline all over the Indian Railways. During 1958, the strength of this Workshop was 3500. It is very unfortunate to note that its strength has now been reduced and only 1500 workers are working there at present. So, a Committee was constituted in the year 1968 which had recommended the supply of points and crossings to meet the entire requirements of the Southern Railway, the South Central Railway and the Central Railway. But now it is learnt that the supply points, crossings and thick web switches are procured from the trade at higher rates.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to give orders to the EWS and save the workers there. I also request him to give financial assistance for the

development of that factory. My humble submission would be that the trains should be operated from Arakonam to Katpadi and Arakonam to Tirupati immediately. The sanction for those units was also there.

The hon. Minister knows very well the importance of Tirupati. Lakhs of pilgrims are going from Chennai to Tirupati and from Vellore to Tirupati and coming back. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to operate trains from Arakonam to Tirupati and from Arakonam to Katpadi.

My another humble submission would be with regard to the Trivandum-Chennai and Chennai-Bangalore Brindavan Express trains. These trains should be stopped at Arakonam as well as at Sholinghur station keeping in mind the convenience of the poor students, poor passengers as well as poor business people. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to look into this aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI C. GOPAL : I will take one minute. This is for the first time I am speaking.

About Coimbatore-Madurai line, there is a scheme for converting the metre gauge line into broad gauge one. That may be converted via Pollachi very quickly and financial assistance may also be given.

Chennai is the heart of Tamil Nadu. So also Madurai which is also the heart of Tamil Nadu. But there is no frequent train. There is a scheme which is pending right from 1993. That scheme has not yet been implemented. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to solve the problems of the people by operating the trains *via* Arakonam, Erode up to Madurai.

I now conclude my speech. I would like to say that the Budget presented by this Government is welcomed by all.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that the Railways is a miniature form of India and it is a symbol of national integration. The Railways connects entire India from the South to the North and from the East to the West. A train carries different bogies where passengers belonging to different communities, different castes, creed and religion are travelling.

Secondly, the Railways is not only a commercial organisation but it is a welfare organisation also. The then United Front Government followed up the welfare policy to develop the backward regions so that they can come into the mainstream of the country. As I said, the then United Front Government installed many projects in the backward regions of

the country and constructed many railway lines throughout the country. But the maximum number of projects, which are not yet completed, are pending for implementation and execution.

I humbly request the hon. Railway Minister and the hon. Minister of State for Railways to follow the welfare policy of the previous Government and execute the projects as early as possible that are pending implementation. There are so many projects that are pending throughout the country. I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister and the hon. Minister of State for Railways to seriously look into the matter so that these pending projects may be implemented at the earliest.

So far as West Bengal is concerned, there are many projects that are pending including the metro railway of Calcutta. The names of those projects have been mentioned by two of our hon. Members, hence I need not repeat the same.

So far as my constituency is concerned, our senior hon. Member Shri Acharia has already mentioned about it. I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State for Railways to his meeting when he visited the Eastern Railway Headquarters about the electrification of Barasat-Hosnabad section of the Sealdah division and doubling of the Sonarpur-Canning line and Sonarpur-New Moynaguri line upto Bilaspur line *via* Cooch Behar. Hosnabad is one of the areas of Sunderbans which is famous for big forest. The down-trodden people are living there and feeding the people of Calcutta but they are very much neglected as far as railway map is concerned.

The survey work has been conducted and the survey report has already been submitted which is lying pending before the Railway Board about electrification of Barasat-Hosnabad section in the Sealdah division of Eastern Railways. I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister as also the hon. Minister of State for Railways to take this up so that this may be implemented as soon as possible.

There are so many projects which are pending in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Andhra, Assam, North-East, Kashmir and other different States of our country. The Government should take up the matter seriously.

I also draw the attention of the hon. Railway Ministers to one fact that not only passengers but even the railway employees are feeling about the inadequate protection. The Government should deal with the matter seriously.

About punctuality also, I wish to state that trains are not running on time. Even trains like Rajdhani and Shatabdi are running late by two, three or four hours and the ordinary trains are sometimes running

[Shri Ajay Chakraborty]

late by 24 hours or so. I urge upon both the Ministers to look into this matter seriously so that trains can run punctually.

There are so many problems of the backward areas of North-East as also the North Bengal area of West Bengal. I urge upon the Railway Minister to look into the matter. We have no scope for an elaborate discussion on the present Supplementary Budget at this time. We shall try to discuss in detail at the time of regular Budget and try to draw the attention of the Railway Ministers.

[Translation]

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA (Rajanandgaon) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I need not to speak in detail about vote on account. I am happy that Bhai Nitish Kumar ji who has socialistic background, will definitely care about Madhya Pradesh in respect of its area because Madhya Pradesh is the biggest State in view of its area.

But Madhya Pradesh is far behind in respect of rail transport. Since you belong to Bihar and Finance Minister also belongs to Bihar, I want to say only one thing and that is mainly regarding opening of a railway crossing in Rajanandgaon, from where I have been elected for the first time, which is pending for about two and half years. For this purpose, the State Government has agreed to bear all the expenses. Hon'ble Nitish Kumar ji, kindly listen to me. Continuous efforts have been made to open that railway crossing. My predecessors, Members of Parliament, have written many a times to Railway Ministry in this regard and I have also written a letter in this month. I want to inform you that if the State Government has made its provision in the budget and made an agreement with Railway Ministry. An amount of Rs. 57 lakhs are to be deposited out of which 4 lakhs are to be deposited in this month. Little children of about 5 years of age and rickshaws and tongas cannot cross over the bridge. There is a population of about 70 thousand where this railway bridge is situated and in this population, most of the persons belong to poor classes, backward classes and weaker classes. I request you to issue orders till 31st. The former Ministers did issue the orders but I am sorry to say that their orders were not followed.

I will take one minute more. Second thing is that there is a long pending demand for establishing a Railway Zone in Bilaspur which is pending for years.

The third demand is regarding district Bastar which is the biggest district of the country. It is totally a tribal district. There is a demand for years to connect the Bastar with a railway line. I do not want

to blame anybody. I will request you only that the railway line which goes upto Rajahara, will be connected upto Jagdalpur in your forthcoming full budget and you will surely make effort in this regard. Also the Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Bhopal should be extended upto Bilaspur because projects will be undertaken in which Madhya Pradesh might be benefitted. Chhatisgarh has a population of about one and a half crore.

Finally, I do not want to go in detail. Rajanandgaon is a backward district. It is one of the most backward district of Madhya Pradesh. There is also a demand for years to establish a Railway Wagon Workshop. I said five things within two minutes. I do not want to take much time. When there will be full budget then I will go into details. I will say one thing again regarding the railway crossing. Take a policy decision and direct Rail Ministry in this regard because many persons are suffering for a long time. They are poor and little school going children cannot go over the railway bridge, rickshaws also cannot go. Since you have socialistic background, you will understand the problems of the poor and weaker classes and try to remove their difficulties.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you as you have allowed a new member like me to speak.

So far as the vote on account is concerned, I will not discuss more. That is before everybody. But so far as the backwardness is concerned whether it is the backwardness of man's mind or society or state or province or country, how painful is it? Our Railway Minister knows it better and he can understand it. The State to which he belongs, is also a backward State and thus he can very well understand the pain of backwardness. I would like to place this point before you that so far as railway is concerned, it has capability to unite the country and for this purpose he has done a good job. This is a matter of pride for this country but there are so many places in our country and many such States where the people have not even seen rail engine and rail bogies.

We want that Rail Line Network should be expanded to strengthen the unity of the country. So far as the rail line between Bondia and Nadgir is concerned, its first phase has been completed. In Chimur which is my constituency, Bhandara, Jalkiroli and Chandrapur are the three backward districts. These districts are very backward in view of the industrial development. Tatanagar was inhabited 50 years ago. Due to non-availability of rail lines in Surjagarh and Jalkiroli, where iron ore contents are found in abundance, the factory was taken to Tatanagar. For this reason, our area remained

undeveloped because without rail infrastructure there cannot be industrial development. So there is need to lay the rail lines in whole of the country.

The length of rail line between Nadgir and Chandrapur is of 242 km. The work on this line was started in 1993 but it is still not completed. I hope that Railway Minister will try to complete this project early. If the 100 km. narrow gauge rail line between Nadgir and Nagpur is converted into broad gauge, the traffic will increase and it will also open the path of progress.

If railway line from Faraura to Umrer via Chimur-Shankarpur to Kanpa is laid, it would accelerate the pace of development and promote industrialisation in the area. The Coal reserves are there in abundance from where coal can be supplied not only to Maharashtra but to whole of the country also. Coal mines can be excavated there and the area can be developed.

Survey from Varsa to Garhchirauli has also been conducted and inspection has been carried out, but it has not been implemented so far. Garhchirauli is a most backward district. Therefore, we demand from the Minister of Railways that the work of laying railway line from Varsa to Garhchirauli as also from Varsa to Umrer via Chimur-Shankarpur must be completed.

I feel much disturbed to say that owing to unmanned level crossing in Bhandara district a train collided with a bus on twenty-second of last month, when the Lok Sabha election were held there. In this accident, 14 persons were killed and a number of persons were injured. Some persons are still struggling for their lives. Therefore, I demand that all the existing unmanned level crossings should be provided with crossing-post and efforts should be made to avoid accidents.

The railway line from Narkeda to Pandera has not been completed. Achalpur to Mushirdabad railway line should be converted into broad-gauge, but it has not been converted so far. Amaravati railway station should also be renovated. It has not been done so far. Rajapet level crossing falling in Amaravati City itself between Pandera and Amaravati always remains closed. It causes great inconvenience to the public. It would be more convenient, if manned level crossing is provided there. I do not want to take much time.

Railway is the only means of transport for the poor. Some people purchase their tickets while some others travel as ticketless passengers assuming that railway is their property and they can use it with great proud. Trains remain over crowded too.

I would like to make another submission before you. The former Minister of Railways had proposed to rename the Dadar Railway station as Chaitly Bhoomi. I would also like to draw attention of the House towards it. For industrial development of our Chimur area, it is very essential to lay railway network. I would especially urge upon the Minister of Railways in this regard and expect that he would realise the difficulties of our backward area and also provide more bogies, as he himself belongs to that area. I hope that you would also pay your attention towards the railway lines proposed by us to the former Minister of Railways.

The unemployment among the farmers and labourers in our area is on increase. Owing to non-existence of industry, as railway facility is not available there, youths of the area are facing problems of unemployment. Under these circumstances, if you want to develop that area, it would be necessary to set up industry there and for the purpose of industrialisation laying of railway lines is imperative. I would not like to take much time. I would request you to pay your attention towards us and try to ensure maximum development of our area through railway by making necessary provisions in Railway Budget. With these words, I conclude my submission.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent a State which contributes a substantial amount of foreign exchange to the exchequer of the country, which has been most neglected as far as the railways are concerned. We have not been given due consideration by any of our Railway Ministers. This time, I hope, my friend Shri Nitish Kumar and the Minister of State—who will be ably assisting Shri Nitish Kumar—will give a sympathetic consideration to our State, which has been most neglected in the southern part of the country

I do not want to take much of the valuable time of the House. Due to paucity of time, I will mention only certain points. One point that has been mentioned here every time since 1991 is with respect to the doubling of the Mangalore-Shoranur line. That line is a part of the oldest railway line in the country. The Mangalore-Madras Mail No. 1 is the first mail train in the country. From Madras to Mangalore, the line has been doubled upto Shoranur but between Mangalore and Shoranur the line is yet to be doubled. We have been requesting the Government. We have been agitating for that. Only Rs. 350 crore are required for this whereas the Government has spent only Rs. 40 crore. If it continues like this, it will take at least another ten years to complete the doubling. Then, what is the use of the Konkan Railway?

[Shri E. Ahamed]

The Konkan Railway is going to be operated soon. A Rajdhani Express train is coming up on the Konkan Railway. Between Mangalore and Shoranur, it will be found to be extremely difficult to pull on. So, I suggest the hon. Minister that doubling work of Mangalore-Shoranur should be entrusted to the Konkan Railway Company. They have completed their work within the shortest span of time and thus created history. About 1500 kilometres of railway line has been completed within a short period of time. They do not have any work. At the same time, if there is any paucity of funds, the Konkan Railway can very well mobilise funds by issuing bonds.

17.00 hrs.

I would like to inform the hon. Minister that this is a very important request of the people of Kerala, people of southern India and those people who would utilise the Konkan Railway. Therefore, the Mangalore-Shoranur railway line is lifeline of the entire State of Kerala. The Members of Parliament of Kerala have jointly pleaded with the Government on this point. But the Government has not taken care of it and provided only Rs. 40 lakh whereas the money needed is Rs. 350 crore. Therefore, please entrust this task to the Konkan Railway which will be able to complete it within one year.

Another point which I would like to mention is with regard to Quilon-Thiruvananthapuram railway line. This has also been pending for a fairly long time. My next point is regarding the Rajdhani Express which is going to be introduced from the first of April. Calicut is one of the most important cities in Kerala, traditionally and commercially. Thousands of people from Calicut are working in the gulf countries. They have to travel by this train from Delhi to Kerala and also from Mumbai to Kerala. One stop at Calicut is very much essential. If that is not done, I do not think that any purpose of introducing the Rajdhani Express will be served.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI K. PRADHANI *in the Chair*]

Therefore, I would request both the Ministers to give due consideration, sympathetic and active consideration over the very-very reasonable and legitimate demand of the people of Kerala. Hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik, knows the importance of Kerala in general and Calicut and Konkan in particular. I hope, the hon. Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, will visit the State of Kerala to see all these things for himself.

Another important point is about the Kuttipuram-Guruvayur line. The survey has been completed, but the work has not yet started. So, I wish to request the hon. Minister to show some interest in the State of Kerala with respect to railway lines, including the Kuttipuram-Guruvayur line. Nilambur-Shoranur line has to be strengthened. Nilambur-Shoranur railway line is one of the most important lines connecting the backward areas of Nilambur. But that has not been given sufficient consideration by the Ministry of Railways for strengthening and introducing new trains. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to examine this matter.

Coastal Railway is one proposal which has been pending with the Government. This is mainly with regard to Edapalli-Thirur-Tanur railway line. This railway line and Kuttipuram-Guruvayur line are very important railway lines. Angamali-Sabarimala railway line has been sanctioned but the work is progressing at a very slow pace. It has not even picked up the momentum.

Another point I would like to mention is that the survey of Feroke-Nilambur line has been completed, but nothing has been done thereafter. That work should also be attended to. Tellichery-Mysore railway line was promised during the time of Shri Jagjivanram. But the Government has not cared to look into it. When Shri Jagjivanram came to my place, Cannanore, he assured that the Tellichery-Mysore railway line would be implemented....*(Interruptions)* The assurance given by one of the great luminaries of the Indian politics has not been fulfilled in this country. Mr. Chairman, how can this happen? That is why I am mentioning it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I will conclude within a minute.

Sir, I am coming from a very backward area of Kerala Manjeri. We have a railway station which is known as Feroke railway station. Ever since I became a Member of this House, I have been demanding the reconstruction of the Feroke railway station as also other amenities there. This has not been done by the Railways.

We have been given only hopes and surveys but not the railways. At least this time, I hope that Nitishji and Ram Naikji will take some interest on the State of Kerala, particularly on the northern side of Kerala, namely, Shoranur to Mangalore.

With these words, I thank you very much ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is up. Now I call the Minister of Railway to reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is up. I will call the Minister to reply now. You can speak when the full Railway Budget will be presented.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time fixed for this item is upto five O'clock. Now it is 5.05 P.M.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : When the full Railway Budget comes, you can take part in it. We do not have any more time now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, so many persons want to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House has fixed the time upto 5 P.M. Now, it is 5.10 P.M.

...(Interruptions)

DR. PRASAMNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar) : I appeal to the Chairman and the hon. Railway Minister to immediately start the work of Khurda and Bolangir railway lines. I honestly pray to the hon. Railway Minister as we are facing difficulties...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You sit down please, first listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Hon. Members and respected Ministers concerned, I come from Bodoland which is neglected...(Interruptions) ... I would like to draw your attention to some vital points and the on-going projects relating my area...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hear me please. The General Budget has to be passed by 6 P.M. There is no time today. We have to take up the Confidence Motion tomorrow. So, please take your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the Minister of Railways.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is an announcement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear me for a minute. Those hon. Members who could not take part in this debate could meet the Minister of Railways later. He will help them in whatever they want.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Please listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, there is no time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Railway Minister, please start speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you wasting the time?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : These people will go on like this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, none of the members has spoken from Rajasthan, please call at least one member to speak...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House decided to conclude it by 5 P.M.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Sir, I would like to make a submission...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this? You are going on without my permission.

...(Interruptions)

* Not Recorded.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Regarding the Railways, two minutes may be allowed to each hon. Member because that is the sentiment of the House.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I have no objection.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : The Minister of Finance has no objection. Many hon. Members from both the sides want to take one or two minutes to speak about their constituencies...(Interruptions)

Hon. Minister, Shri Ram Naik, am on my legs. Please allow me to speak...(Interruptions) Let me complete...(Interruptions) I am only helping you.

You may please allow one or two minutes to each of the hon. Members who want to speak regarding the Railways. We can pass the Vote on Account without discussion...(Interruptions) We have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is that the sense of the House?

SHRI RAM NAIK : They want some more hon. Members to speak on the Railway Budget and they want to pass the General Budget without any discussion...(Interruptions) Is that the proposal?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Yes...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : If that is the proposal, I have no objection...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, we will speak on the Budget...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, many people have given their names.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why I am saying that if the proposal is that the Vote on Account for the General Budget could be passed without discussion then we are ready to accept...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the time of the House could be extended...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : First you please take your seat...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, the time of the House should be extended...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Minister you may now commence your speech.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I would get up only when you sit...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir due to paucity of time, the honourable members who wanted to participate in this discussion...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I seek your protection.

Sir, no Member from my Party has taken part in this discussion. Mr. Minister, we should be allowed to participate in the discussion...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You should take the permission from the Chair. I have no authority to allow or disallow anybody...(Interruptions) Sir, nobody from the RSP has taken part in this discussion...(Interruptions) Sir, you can allow him...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I would only take two minutes...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, you could allow them two minutes each...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Shri Mukherjee you can speak for two minutes.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I rise to speak on the Interim Budget on Railways.

Sir, Railways is the vehicle of progress in a civilization. On behalf of my Party, RSP, I rise to oppose the Interim Budget of the Railways...(Interruptions) Sir, I seek your protection. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to the Balurghat-Ekalakhi project. This project was accepted by the Government of India in the year 1982 and the survey for this project was done in the year 1984. Accordingly, budgetary provisions were also made for this. I would like to appeal to the Railway Minister to immediately implement the budgetary provisions for the construction and expansion of the Balurghat-Eklakhi project. This is very important. This line would help in integrating the north and the south Bengal. This would be the link between the two parts of Bengal.

While appreciating the Interim Railway Budget, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Railways to the fact that Lalgola-Sealdah section has been neglected for a long time. We made a survey in the previous year. The electrification from Krishnanagar-Behrapur on Lalgola-Sealdah Section was surveyed and as per the preliminary Report of the Survey, immediate Budgetary provisions should be utilised for this purpose. I would like to say that the railway is a vehicle of progress for a civilization. The railway is a major determining factor of the prices of the essential commodities. So, I would like to appeal that proper attention and emphasis should be laid on the railways. This has been neglected by the Railway Ministry.

I know the limitations of the Interim Budget but this is a 'morning' Budget of this Government. As the child shows the man, the morning shows the day. I am sorry to say that this 'morning' Budget of the Railway Ministry does not give a good picture of the coming Budget. That is why I would appeal to the Minister to reconsider this Interim Budget and give a new look to it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There are only two or three more Members who want to speak. You may allow them also.

[Translation]

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that the way it is being plotted to ruin Sonpur is beyond tolerance. You are aware that the platform of Sonpur railway station is very vast. Sonpur has been a Divisional office of Railway since long, but now it is being shifted to Samastipur from there. You may also be aware that survey is being carried out to construct a bridge over the river Ganga in Sonpur, but I am sorry to say that plotting is going on to change the site of this bridge even after inauguration by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Railways. I would like to urge upon you that a boy named Avinash Kumar died as a martyr at this very station and the Union Government or Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji did not speak even a single word in his honour and inaugurated the bridge by visiting there. Today, only a foundation stone is fixed there and the situation is belonging explosive my submission is that your goodself and Minister of Railways belong to Bihar. Hon'ble Minister of Railways knows everything in this regard.

I would like to request the honourable Minister of Railways to personally look into it as it causes great difficulty to the people of Sonpur. If the bridge is constructed it would become convenient for the public...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please hear me.

[Translation]

I have two lists. Now I have no name to call among the names given in these lists by the parties.

...(Interruptions)

17.24 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Two hours' time was allotted for this item.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'Palace on Wheel' train is very important from tourism point of view. This train is very important for Bundi from tourism viewpoint. The tourists cannot avail this facility as there is no stoppage of this train between Kota and Chittorgarh. In such a situation, a stoppage of this train should be provided at Bundi station to meet years old demand of the public.

Survey of the railway line from Bundi to Niwai should be conducted immediately, so as to link this area directly with Jaipur headquarter and a over bridge near Gudla station should be constructed to solve the local problem of public...(Interruptions)

[English]

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHARY (Hoshiarpur) : Sir, our Members also wanted to speak. If you allow others, you have to allow us also.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : If others are allowed, we should also be allowed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the position of the House is that we have told our Members not to speak in order that we work according to the schedule. We have reached nearly 5.25 p.m. now. If Members from that side are allowed, it is natural that Members from our side also should be allowed. If it happens, we cannot work according to the schedule. Earlier, the Chairman had asked the hon. Minister of Railways to start with his reply. I pray that the reply should be started so that the Interim Budget and vote on account can be completed. Otherwise, there will be no end to it...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : I would like to humbly submit through you to the hon. Members that yesterday we had decided on this issue before you after a two hour long discussion. We have two issues here. If we pass the General Budget without discussion; we will go for a discussion. Otherwise...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Yerrannaidu.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : I am on my legs. The Speaker has given me the chance.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Shri Yerrannaidu, you are a neutral partner
...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Josji, even neutral partners have a right to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, please take your seat. You should not disturb the other Members.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if it is not possible, the remaining Members can participate in the General Discussion. That is why my request to you is that the Railway Minister be allowed to give his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM RAGHUNATH CHAUDHARY (Nagaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir please make such arrangement that the honourable members who have participated in today's debate would not be allowed to participate in the forthcoming debate on Railway Budget and we would be given chance to participate therein...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I request the hon. members to submit their difficulties with regard to the Railways in their constituencies in writing to the Minister of Railways. That would be better because twenty Members have already spoken on it.

The hon. Minister may give his reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an Interim Budget and we want to pass motion on vote-on-account for four months. We want to seek the approval of this House. I want to thank all the honourable members who have participated in today's debate. Some other honourable members also wanted to express their views but due to paucity of time they could not get the opportunity. If they have some suggestions, they can directly write to me. We will give due consideration to their suggestions and thereafter...(Interruptions)

You please give suggestions. Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give a suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister through you...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : I want to give a suggestion to the Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Budaniaji, please sit down, Today is only second day. You will get a number of occasions to speak. Then you can express your views...(Interruptions)

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA : Mr. Minister, Sir, In your own interest I want to suggest that before presenting the Annual Railway Budget, you at least take into account the position of railways in Rajasthan and discuss the matter with the members of Parliament from Rajasthan so that you may be aware of the ground realities there...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : At least allow me to complete the sentence...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When the hon. Minister is on his legs, please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. This is not the correct procedure.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : How can they talk like this?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Hon'ble Speaker has also said and I would also urge that if you have any suggestions, any views, you give those suggestions in writing and those will be given due consideration. If you do not want to give in writing, please state orally. If you are unwilling to choose any of these two, put your views when the complete budget i.e. the regular budget is presented.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those Members who have participated in this debate on budget.

MR. SPEAKER : Nitish Kumar Ji, just a minute please.

[English]

Shri Nitish Kumar, please take your seat.

By 1730 hours, we have to take up Matters Under Rule 377. It is already late. It would be taken up immediately after the Minister's reply and after passing the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir Vote-on-Account has since been presented in this House to meet the railway expenditure for the first four months of the year 1998-99. New services will not be introduced during this period. Supplementary Demands for the year 1997-98 are mainly proposed to be utilised for meeting the expenditure on pension charges arising as a result of implementation of the

recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission and hike in prices of diesel and electricity charges subsequent to the Budget. Besides, the grants would be utilized to meet the expenses of increase in the plan outlay and the necessary expenditure owing to court decrees.

Sir, on assuming the charge of the Minister of Railways, I have conversed with senior officers of the Railway Board on the various subjects pertaining to functioning of railways. The Ministry of Railways has recently prepared an action plan to improve the functioning of railways in various sectors. Besides, I myself and the Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Ram Naik Ji has directed the senior officers to prepare a status paper on the important issues and problems concerning the railways. This status paper would highlight up-to-date position of the railways. It would also include the problems and challenges before the railways. The aspirations of the people from this organisation would also be depicted in the paper. The entire picture would be brought before this House and the entire country would be made aware of the whole thing through this House. Instructions have been issued to take immediate action on the status paper and the action has started. The paper would be prepared as early as possible and would be laid on the table of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You should present the paper in the next session before the presentation of the full Budget.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We will try to prepare it before the regular budget so that the same could guide us in making necessary provisions in the ensuing budget. That is why we have decided to prepare the status paper. We will go ahead according to this paper so that the railways could perform its effective role in the field of transportation.

Sir, there are more than fifty Lakh commuters on Mumbai sub-urban Railway system. So the sub-urban railway is over burdened. There is a need for much more investment in this system to provide comfortable journey and better services to the commuters and to increase the frequency of the trains. I am glad to know that the Government of Maharashtra is cooperating with the Indian Railways to achieve this objective. I hope that it would provide relief to the people of Mumbai.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai-South) : Mr. Minister, an autonomous board may be constituted for Mumbai Sub-urban Railway...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we propose to set up Mumbai Sub-urban Railway Construction Corporation to provide relief to the people of Mumbai. Our Government are taking steps

in this direction and we want to do it. We are going to set up Mumbai Sub-urban Railway Construction Corporation.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta-South) : What about other States?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There is a scheme for Delhi; there is a scheme for Calcutta. There is a scheme for every State...(Interruptions). There is a special scheme for Mumbai...(Interruptions) There is a separate scheme for Calcutta...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nitish Ji, please address the Chair.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, safety plays a vital role in train movement. Though the figures reveal that there has been improvement in the safety performance, yet we should not be complacent about it. I would make all out efforts to give priority to the safety aspect.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, another important factor that affects all the passengers is the observance of punctuality in the movement of trains. We will make all efforts to ensure timely running of trains so as to avoid inconvenience to the passengers. We will make full efforts to provide better services such as increasing the computerised reservation centres, cleanliness at the stations, arrangements of drinking water and courteous behaviour by railway employees etc. to the rail users. Hon'ble members would agree that the railways has to perform its social responsibility while maintaining its commercial status, they cannot ignore this responsibility. To ensure the effective performance of responsibilities by the railways in future, it is necessary that the railways should remain financially strong. Thus, it becomes all the more necessary that there should be a proper coordination between the social and commercial role of the railway. As I mentioned in my budget speech, we will try our best to increase the plan expenditure. In this respect, I hope that we would get more assistance from the exchequer. Hon'ble Minister of Finance is sitting here. We would make a special request to him and the House would also be of the opinion...(Interruptions)

Besides, we would make full efforts to increase the railway's internal resources more and more. In this connection it would be my main objective that there should be more increase in the productivity and check on the expenditure as far as possible. We will try to minimise the expenditure on advertisements and check the wasteful expenditure.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : There should be no expenditure on laying the foundation stones...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Economy and simplicity would be observed in all these things...*(Interruptions)* Expenditure on all these things should be minimised and when this happens it will revolutionise the Railway administration. Everywhere there will be a feeling that expenditure should be minimised. We all want to effect all round economy.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Expenditure on inaugurations should be stopped...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Though it is not an easy task yet I will try it...*(Interruptions)*. However this is not an easy task because there is considerable pressure for inaugurations etc. We know when Shri Gujral was the Prime Minister, he was also under tremendous pressure...*(Interruptions)*. I will try to complete the ongoing projects. These projects should be completed soon so that the Railways may be benefitted from the expenditure incurred on them. People should not think that we want to stop the ongoing projects. These projects will be completed...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country is ready for higher growth rate and, therefore, we have to improve our transport system. In my budget speech I have talked about lack of participation of Railways in surface transport. Our participation is only 40 percent in freight and 20 percent in passenger traffic while it was 89 percent and 74 percent respectively in 1991. This is a well known fact that Railways are six times more fuel efficient than road transport. Huge amount of foreign exchange can be saved by increasing the participation of railways, investment in railways as it will result in reduction in import of crude oil. There is also one more benefit and that is the railways cause less pollution and it is not harmful for environment. This is the reason that Governments of various countries have taken steps for the extension of Railway network and improvement in rail services. So, I would like to request this august House again that full co-operation should be provided to increase investment in Railways so that they are able to play an effective and vital role in Rail transport...*(Interruptions)*

That is why a request has been made to the Finance Minister. Several members have raised various issues during their speeches. Members have drawn attention towards some projects. Some projects are not included in it. Various projects are announced during the General Budget. Attention is paid to the feelings of honourable members. Attention is also given to the position of Railways which I have already discussed...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

Please let me complete first. I intend to meet all the Members of Parliament from Kerala separately...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SANKARAN (Calicut) : Nothing is said about Kerala. Sufficient funds should be given to Kerala also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We can meet and discuss all these things.

MR. SPEAKER : Nitish Ji, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir when Members stand up then I have to respond.

Several hon. members have raised questions. Discussion on projects will be done later...*(Interruptions)* I will hold discussions with the hon. members of different States separately and I will try to consider their feelings, demands...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is not good. Please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Two points have been raised by honourable member Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

SHRI P. SANKARAN : He has announced certain selective schemes. Kerala may also be considered. The doubling work of Shoranur-Mangalapuram line came to a standstill due to shortage of funds. A minimum of Rs. 150 crore may be sanctioned.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me respond. What is this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I told that I am prepared to meet you separately. Then what is left there? No new projects are being announced at this point of time. All these things are done at the time of the regular Budget. Why are you repeatedly telling the same thing?...*(Interruptions)* What is this?

[Translation]

The honourable Minister has hardly completed eight days and you are saying all these things. Please give him some time. You should discuss all these things after the confidence motion. We appeal to you to give us your confidence vote and after that you discuss these things.

You have mentioned some topics for which status paper will be issued on the whole situation ...*(Interruptions)* Let Kalpnath Rai Ji, speak as he is giving directions from under his table...*(Interruptions)*

As honourable members have said in some cases it is necessary to know...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : You have not announced anything about Chennai...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : At this point of time, I cannot announce anything about new projects. This is just Vote on Account. Please bear with me. You had been in the Government. You know all these things. Anyway, all those things can be incorporated in the regular Budget. Please bear with me.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This is not fair. If you have mentioned one State, then you must also mention about other States including the Railway Budget of West Bengal. You have announced for a particular State.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : This is not for any particular State.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You have announced for a particular State...*(Interruptions)* You should not do like this...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Work is already going on it...*(Interruptions)* You have just met him you kindly speak after him...*(Interruptions)* Will you please give me two more minutes? It is necessary to mention some things. Honourable members Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has raised two questions which are more important. Discussion is necessary about this. Since the day I have assumed charge of the Ministry of Railways, as a matter of chance, former Railway Minister belonged to Bihar and I also belong to Bihar, some questions are repeatedly raised here. I want to allay all these apprehensions. This is Indian Railway...*(Interruptions)* Mamataji, please speak after this.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Nitishji, I am not talking about Bengal only, I want to talk about every State. You have announced only for one State.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What have I announced, have you heard it?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You should make announcements about all the States. You have done so and it will convey a wrong message making an announcement for Bihar only is not a good thing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, kindly address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North East): This is not fair. We disagree. If you mention about one State then you must also mention about all the other States including the railway projects of West Bengal. In the Status Paper, projects of West Bengal must be mentioned...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me complete first, I am prepared to respond to you. Shri Panja, you have been in the Government.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Nitish Kumar Ji, Kindly address the Chair.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I want to mention two things in the discussion. Two complaints have been received one for recruitment and second for some other things.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't look there, address the Chair.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Alongwith Shri Ram Naik, I have held discussion with senior officers of the Railway Board and it has been decided that no new recruitments will be made till April by various Railway Recruitment Boards. If any examination has been scheduled, postpone it till the month of April because we want to review the working of Railway Recruitment Boards.

We want to review the Recruitment Policy and for that reason the entire work has been suspended till the month of April and in the meantime, after review, appropriate steps would be taken.

One of the hon'ble members made a mention of Ganga-Bridge. Time and again the question was asked as to what is the fate of the projects whose survey has already been conducted. A specific mention about Ganga Bridge Project was made. I enquired about certain places while making a review immediately after taking over the charge of Railway Ministry. But today, when this question has come up again in the House I have got full details and I want to inform the House about the latest position. After taking a decision by the Government there is a need to make improvement in the railway linkage between—North and South Bihar. A survey to construct a bridge on Ganga was accorded sanction. Foundation stone for the survey was laid by the Hon'ble Prime Minister before the approval of the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs. For this purpose...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. It is not good. When the Minister is giving a reply, do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Let me complete my point first. The survey for the work is in progress. A comprehensive proposal could be prepared only after the completion of survey, sanction from the C.C.E.A. will be sought. The actual work on the bridge could be started only after the approval of the C.C.E.A. the bridge would be constructed on the very site where the foundation stone was laid. The bridge will be constructed at that very site, but as per the findings of the survey, the pillars of...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Whether the foundation stone was laid for the survey or the construction of the bridge?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What can I do, if you could not understand? I am saying for a long time. But the position and the orientation of the pillars is yet to be decided which would be possible only after the survey.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the points raised by the Hon'ble members was that whether the spouse of the M.P. is also entitled to avail the facility to travel by first class with him. Hon'ble Rajo Singh had raised this point. I would like to tell him that the matter does not come under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Railways. The matter regarding amenities to the M.P.s is a separate issue, and it is dealt by a separate committee. Ex-M.Ps get complementary passes of Railways. The matter regarding spouses, therefore, does not belong to the Railways.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, what about stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Calicut?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There should not be any misunderstanding about the suggestions which have been given in addition to this one. As far as backward area is concerned, it is our endeavour that it is not neglected, regional imbalances are removed as well as the financial viability of the Railways is taken care of. The better co-ordination between the two would be striven for.

With these words, I put the demands for grants and supplementary demands of the Ministry of Railways for the year 1998-99 and 1997-98 respectively for the consideration of the House.

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHE MUKHERJEE : Sir, what about West Bengal?...*(Interruptions)* There is no announcement for West Bengal....*(Interruptions)* There is nothing new in it.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Under what rule? You please show me the rule first.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : I am on a point of order. These are supplementary demands. No announcement could be made in these demands. The Hon'ble Minister might have announced about the Suburban Construction Corporation. This would invite controversy in the House. Such announcements cannot be made in the supplementary demands. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to say something about the problems of suburban trains and other metro trains.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in it.

[Translation]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, my dear friend Shri Nitish Kumar has taken over the charge of Railways...*(Interruptions)* Lakshadweep is nowhere in the Railway map of India, I want to make only one point. Our friends from Kerala have raised only one point to seek assurance from you. I would also like to repeat that in all my humility. It would be better if a stoppage of Rajdhani Express which goes from Konkan to Ernakulam, is given at Calicut which falls between Mangalore and Ernakulam.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I will discuss the matter with these people separately...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody.

Hon. Members, there are 21 Members who have been permitted for raising Matters Under Rule 377. As we have to pass today the Railway Budget and the General Budget, if you agree, these Matters may be treated as laid on the Table.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU NATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the resolutions to the vote of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please listen to me first. If you have any problem, go to the Minister of Railways, submit papers and he will look into the matter.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I would like to give them a reply. Rajdhani Express would halt at Calicut from 2nd of April...(Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Nitishji, you have assured the hon. Members. But you have not said anything about West Bengal...(Interruptions).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : A decision has already been taken...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Now, you have to give an assurance about West Bengal also. Our projects are pending since long. We have raised these issues many times...(Interruptions). Please assure us also.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You should have told beforehand...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I urge upon the Minister of Railways to give an assurance here that the budgetary provision for Balurghat-Eklakhi railway project would be properly utilised for the construction and expansion of this railway track...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : No, this is not correct.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I shall discuss with you and do whatever is possible. What is the problem? ...(Interruptions) We will discuss the matter with you and sort out the problem if any.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : The Prime Minister has agreed. The Prime Minister assured us...(Interruptions) Nitish Kumarji, the Prime Minister

has assured us...(Interruptions) Yes, he has assured us.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nitish Kumar, do you say anything in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are doing it time and again. If the Hon'ble Prime Minister has given any assurance, we shall discuss that also as to how the assurance could be fulfilled.

[English]

What is left in that?

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : You give an assurance to the House...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the resolution regarding approval of recommendations made in the Twelfth Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1991 moved by Shri Nitish Kumar to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47 and 48 contained in the Twelfth Report of Railway Convention Committee, 1991 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in Lok Sabha on 12.3.1996."

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the resolution regarding approval of recommendations made in the Third Report of the Railway Convention Committee, 1996 moved by Shri Nitish Kumar to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That this House approves the recommendations made in paragraphs 64, 65, 66, 67 and 70 contained in the Third Report of Railway Convention Committee, 1996 appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented in Lok Sabha on 2.12.1997."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways) for 1998-99 to the vote of the House.

[Mr. Speaker]

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, *on account*, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

The motion was adopted.

18.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1997-98 to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1998, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof — Demand Nos. 10, 13, 14 and 16".

The motion was adopted.

18.01 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) VOTE ON ACCOUNT BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated

Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce* the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Schedule, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26.3.1998.

* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is already 6 O'clock now. You have not extended the time of the House. You should take the sense of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is already extended. The leaders have agreed and given the consent.

18.03 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up Appropriation (Railways) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26.3.1998.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.06 hrs.

*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to provide Central Assistance to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the people affected by earthquake and heavy rains in Jabalpur**

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpur) : Jabalpur is an important district of Madhya Pradesh. The High Court of Madhya Pradesh, two universities (one out of it is an Agriculture University), the Head Office of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board and five factories producing defence equipments are located here. Recently the Zonal Office of Railways has also been set up there.

The district has faced several natural calamities during the last one year. More than 50 per cent

* Texts were treated as Laid on the Table.

houses were damaged by the earthquake which rocked the district 8 months ago and the condition of rest of the houses is very critical.

Last year the Rabi and Kharif crops were damaged completely due to heavy rains several places of the district were affected by hailstorms. More than 50 persons, died due to it and the State suffered a huge loss of livestock.

I, therefore, request the Government to send a group of experts to Jabalpur for taking stock of the situation and preparing a report regarding details of estimated loss suffered by the State. On the recommendations of this group, required assistance should be provided to rural as well as urban people of the district.

(II) Need to re-start work of Sardar Sarovar Dam Project over Narmada river in Gujarat

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : The Kutch Distt. and some parts of the Saurashtra and North Gujarat region of Gujarat State are facing acute shortage of drinking water and due to salinity ingress in these areas and paucity of underground water for agricultural purpose. Water from Narmada river is the only solution. Therefore, it is very much necessary to re-start the work of Sardar Sarover Dam Project over Narmada River in Gujarat State. For that Central Government should declare this project as National Project without loss of any time and disputes among MP and Gujarat States should be resolved immediately and Hon'ble Supreme Court be approached to expedite the case pending before it.

(III) Need to introduce a compound scheme for depositing all taxes

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : All the tax-payers of our country, whether they are traders or industrialists are being exploited. About 50 percent amount of the actual tax deposited by traders and industrialists in the exchequer, is paid to corrupt officers and middleman as bribe. The tax-payer in our country wants to pay tax as per his capacity but he also wishes to avoid exploitation.

I, therefore, request the Government to introduce a compound scheme for collecting more taxes in Exchequer of India, preventing exploitation of traders and industrialists and to root out corruption prevailing among officials. The Government may increase the

amount of tax being paid by traders and industrialists yearly by 15 percent.

(iv) Need to create a separate Uttaranchal State

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'Bachda' (Almora) : The demand for forming a separate Uttaranchal State comprising 12 hilly districts and holy area of Haridwar is being made for the last many years. The Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh had passed this resolution thrice and sent it to the Central Government for approval.

A mass movement was launched by the public in support of this demand which witnessed huge loss of life and property. The women of Uttaranchal were subjected to inhuman torture.

Former Prime Ministers had also made announcements from the ramparts of Red Fort on Independence days regarding creation of a separate Uttaranchal State. Despite several announcements made in this regard, no action has been taken by the Central Government so far resulting in resentment among public of Uttaranchal region. The present Government has promised to constitute a separate Uttaranchal State in its national agenda and hon. Prime Minister has given assurance for constituting Uttaranchal State within 90 days of attaining the power.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, I therefore, urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Government to take action for constituting a separate Uttaranchal State in this session itself.

(v) Need to provide representation to local public representatives in High Power Committee to look into recurring loss to Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : The management of Central Coalfields Limited and various units of Bharat Coking Coal Limited give exaggerated figures regarding production of coal but the actual figures of production are quite low. The losses in these companies are continuously increasing due to prevailing irregularities in the management. These companies are allocated funds every year for community development but it is not properly utilised for the purpose of developmental works.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to constitute a high power committee with the help of local representatives to check the losses being incurred by CCL and BCCL.

- (vi) **Need to take necessary steps to remove shortage of currency notes of small denomination in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : There is shortage of currency notes and coins of small denomination like one, two or five rupees in the whole country including Madhya Pradesh.

The poor people are facing great difficulties due to this shortage. Several people have started indulging in corrupt practices due to this problem.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take effective measures to remove the shortage and to stop corrupt practice of taking Commission in providing new currency notes of smaller denomination.

- (vii) **Need to ensure that residuary amount of MPs Local Area funds is spent by sitting M.Ps.**

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : M.Ps of the 11th Lok Sabha were granted rupees One Crore to be spent in their constituencies. Most of them have not yet spent those amount as per the rule. It now seems that most of the amount have remained unspent by now. In some cases also the previous M.Ps in connivance with the district administration are trying to spent the residuary amount now by putting a back date on the sanctioned proposal and thus trying to ingratiate their followers. Since the new Lok Sabha has been constituted, the present members of Lok Sabha have got every right to decide as to the manner in which the residuary amount should be spent. The M.Ps fund is being sanctioned not to any individual but to the member of the Lok Sabha, as the peoples representative. Hence, necessary arrangements should be made for the proper institution of the residuary amount.

- (viii) **Need to set up a new Railway Zone in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : The demand for setting up a new Railway Zone at Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh is being made for a long time. But despite the fact that all the initial formalities have been completed, the final permission has not yet been granted.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to grant the permission to set up a Railway Zone at Bilaspur.

- (ix) **Need to declare Orissa as a special category State and provide adequate funds for its all-round development**

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Berhampur) (Orissa) : Despite five decades of planned development, the State of Orissa has remained backward. Owing to persistence of high incidence of poverty and continued backwardness, the State Government of Orissa has been requesting the Centre to include Orissa as a special category State.

The Orissa Legislative Assembly has adopted a resolution in a special session to declare a special category State and to provide adequate financial assistance for the development of that State. The people of Orissa have been agitating on this issue since Central Government has not paid adequate heed to this issue. On the other hand the disparity between the State and the national per capita income has been widening over the years and Orissa has emerged as an island of poverty and backwardness.

In view of this, I demand that the State of Orissa should be declared a special category State without any further delay.

- (x) **Need to provide Central assistance to State Government of Maharashtra for providing relief to the people affected by heavy rains in Yawatmal district in Vidarbha region**

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL (Yawatmal) : Due to the recent hailstorm and thunderstorm, hundred percent Rabi and Kharif crop was destroyed in more than 970 villages of Yawatmal district of Vidarbha region. This year the farmers were already in the grip of drought and this hailstorm and torrential rains have added to their miseries. Therefore, there is a need to provide relief to the farmers.

I request the Central Government to provide Central assistance to the Deputy Commissioner of Yawatmal, for disbursing the same to the affected people.

- (xi) **Need to set up a separate Ministry for fisheries**

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Special attention is required for the welfare and upliftment of the very poor fisher folk and for the timely assistance and development of the fishing sector. Therefore, there is urgent need to set up a separate Ministry for Fisheries and connected matters.

Even though this has been a vehement demand, it remains only a distant dream. Considering all these, it is only in the fitness of things that a separate Ministry is constituted with a full-fledged Cabinet Minister.

Therefore, I request the Prime Minister to personally look into this genuine issue and take immediate action.

(xii) Need to check increasing incidence of AIDS particularly in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) There is an alarming rise in AIDS cases in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh with 7,686 cases found in the last five and a half years. The survey conducted by the Director of Tripura Medical Centre and Research Foundation revealed that the number of HIV carriers was increasing due to lack of awareness on safe sex. Blood transfusion without proper tests and sterile syringes were also resulting in spread of the virus. The study estimated that about one lakh people would be carrying the killer virus in the North Coastal Districts.

The incidence was more in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam East and Godavari Districts and parts of Orissa. This medical centre and the research foundation had screened 16,760 blood samples in all during the study period. In the Western blot test, except 54 cases, the presence of the virus was confirmed in all the patients. Women outnumbered men in the number of HIV positive cases identified using the Western Blot Tests. An alarming situation was the spread of the disease affecting even the newborns.

According to the study, one of the main reasons for the increasing number of AIDS cases in the region was the mobile prostitutes prevailing on the highways.

Sir, as the study as revealed an alarming situation in the rise of AIDS cases in the North Andhra, I urge the Union Government to formulate a policy whereby the Central Government should take up this on themselves and help the State in checking the AIDS disease which is spreading fast in Andhra Pradesh and other States also.

(xiii) Need to expedite construction of airport at Cannanore in Kerala

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : It has been the long cherished dream of the people of Northern Kerala to have an airport at Cannanore. Time and again I myself had taken up the matter with the successive Governments and I am happy to note that the authorities have ultimately recognised the need for such an airport.

Almost every family in the Malabar districts of Cannanore, Calicut, Wyanad and Kasaragode has atleast one member working in foreign countries, especially in the Middle East. An airport at Cannanore can cater to the needs of lakhs of Keralites living in gulf countries.

There is a great potential for tourism in this part of Kerala and the beaches of Cannanore and Kasaragode are considered to be the best in the State.

This airport is also essential to facilitate the export of perishable horticultural products like fruits, flowers, vegetables etc.; which are growing in large quantities in the hilly tracts of these districts.

Techno-economic feasibility survey has already been conducted by the Expert Committee and the Government of Kerala is awaiting clearance from the Centre to start the initial work of acquiring the land at Moorkkan - Paramba in Cannanore district.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation to expedite this project and ensure that this airport is set up under Public sector without any delay.

(xiv) Need to declare Calcutta and Chennai as Class A-1 cities.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : I want to draw the attention of the Government as well as of the House that Calcutta & Chennai cities should be declared as Class A-1 cities. The Union Govt. is giving due respect of Class A-1 to Calcutta in case of city compensatory allowances to Central Government employees but depriving from the House building allowance. It is a matter of great regret not only for the Central Government employees but also for the people of West Bengal as a whole. The total population of Calcutta as a whole are one crore eight lakhs whereas the fifty lakhs are the criteria for becoming A-1 city but Calcutta has not been declared A-1 city.

West Bengal Govt. has already protested in this regard and the Central Government employees along with the people of West Bengal as a whole are protesting till date to declare Calcutta A-1 city.

I urge upon the Central Govt. to declare both Calcutta and Chennai as Class-A1 cities immediately.

(xv) Need to give Central assistance to State Government of Uttar Pradesh for providing relief to the people in Eastern U.P. affected by hailstorms and rains

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Dozens of people have died untimely due to hailstorms and heavy rains

which have lashed the eastern parts three times in Uttar Pradesh the first week of March. Thousands of cattle were killed and crop worth crores of rupees was destroyed. But no compensation was given by the Central Government. Farmers are ruined and are frustrated.

I request the Central Government to send a high level team to assess the loss so that compensation could be provided to the dependents of the deceased and relief work could be started.

(xvi) Need to allocate funds and start work of gauge conversion between Trichy and Dindigul

[*English*]

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN (Dindigul) : The narrow gauge line from Tambaram to Trichy in Tamil Nadu is being converted into broad gauge. The original proposal is to convert the entire segment from Tambaram to Dindigul into broad gauge. The work of conversion from Trichy to Dindigul is yet to commence. A large number of railway passengers and goods from Tirunelveli and Kanya Kumari have to take circuitous route via Karur and Erode to reach Madras.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to immediately allocate funds and commence the work of conversion of broad gauge line from Trichy to Dindigul.

(xvii) Need to make Zonal Headquarters of Railways functional at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak) : I beg to raise the following matter of public importance that no concrete and appreciable steps have been taken by the Railway administration since last one and half years after its inauguration of the East Coast Railway Zone at Bhubaneshwar to make it fulfilled and functional for the interests of the State and the people at large. Only half-hearted attempts seem to have been made by the Railway Board to appoint a few employees on deputation and even today the post of the chief of this Zonal Railway is lying vacant and within this short-span of one and half year, three chiefs of this Zonal Railway have been appointed and transferred without getting done any thing concrete for the Zone. No specific steps have been taken by the Railway Board to acquire the land necessary for the construction of permanent buildings for the zonal Headquarter and for the employees being stationed here. As a result it is reported that a sum of Rs. three crores could not be spent/utilised, out of the total sum of rupees five crores budgeted for the financial year 1997-98 and now being refunded.

I, therefore, bring to the notice of the Railway Board and the Hon'ble Minister of Railways as well, through you sir, to take immediate and appropriate steps to make the Zonal Headquarter at Bhubaneshwar functional at the earliest.

(xviii) Need to reintroduce two coaches in train originating from Thirutaraipundi via Tiruvaroor to Chennai

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : In Nagapattinam constituency two coaches originating from Thirutaraipundi via Tiruvaroor were attached with Tanjore and Sengottai Passengers Bound for Chennai. At the time of recent election Southern Railway authorities stopped these services for unknown reasons. It was helpful for the commuters in many ways mainly :

1. These coaches started in the evening and was convenient for the Public especially business community and office goers to reach Chennai early in the morning.
2. Being originating from local towns getting reservations were easy.
3. Being a Passenger train the fare for these trains were economically viable for Poor people.

Right now there is only one Express Train that is over crowded and it operates late at night.

I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to direct the Southern Railway authorities to reintroduce these services.

(xix) Need to check steep decline in the prices of natural rubber particularly in Kanyakumari district, Tamilnadu

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagarcoil) : The rubber growers of our country are facing grave crisis due to the steep fall in the price of the rubber. The small and the marginal farmers are the worst affected. The cost of production of rubber has increased, but there is steep decline in the price of rubber. The most common grade RMA was fetching about Rs. 64 per kg. in 1995 and it has fallen to Rs. 48 per kg. in 1996 and today it has fallen to Rs. 25 per kg. wage of as average worker is Rs. 65. The cost of production is about Rs. 35 per kg. To get over the crisis the import of the natural rubber, synthetic polyurethane and used tyre and tubes has to be stopped.

Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu is a rubber growing area. It occupies the highest position in quality and in per acre production in the country. Kerala Govt. has arranged for the purchase of natural rubber through STCL at remunerative price. But the

rubber growers of Kanyakumari district are not getting such protection. So several rubber growers have stopped tapping, as the cost of production is higher than the price of the rubber. This problem has become the most sensitive concern of the people of this region who largely depend on natural rubber plantation.

I urge upon the Govt. to take urgent steps to redress the grievance of the rubber growers particularly of Kanyakumari district to get over the current crisis of steep decline of the rubber price.

(xx) Need to waive outstanding loan to the State of Jammu and Kashmir

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Jammu and Kashmir has suffered a great deal through a discriminate funding ratio i.e. 70% as loan and 30% as grant. It was in 1991 that it was rationalised to 90% as grant and 10% as loan. But, by that time huge debts had already accumulated against J & K State.

The State has to set apart about 300 crores annually for payment as interest to the Central Government. This leaves just a wage bill to the State and development programmes are hampered.

I request the Central Government to waive the accumulated debts to the tune of nearly 1400 crores, thereby extend gesture of support to the people of J & K State.

(xxi) Need to look into the problems being faced by engineering degree holders of Jamia Millia Islamia, Central University

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Jamia Millia Islamia is a Central university. Its degrees, including the engineering degree are recognised throughout the country and abroad. It is shocking that the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have now refused to absorb the engineering graduates on the flimsy ground that their marksheets do not reflect their actual calibre. Nearly 28 engineers who were given appointment letters by MCD have not been appointed by the MCD despite court orders that they be given joining orders within two weeks. It is suddenly being alleged that the grading system adopted by the Jamia University is defective. The MCD also reportedly sought a clarification from the All-India Council for Technical Education and the HRD Ministry and they upheld the validity of the grades.

I urge upon the Government and the Hon'ble Minister of HRD to view the matter seriously and to intervene to secure justice for the engineering graduates of the Jamia.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the time of the House has not been extended ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : It has already been extended up to 7 o'clock. It was extended around 4 o'clock... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please hear me first. All the leaders have agreed in the meeting to extend the time of the House.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you have to take the sense of the House... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If everybody stands and speaks like this, it is impossible to run the House.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please consult the Hon'ble Members of the House to extend the time of the House.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, if you kindly allow me, I will explain the position. When the discussion on the Railways was going on at 4 o'clock many Members wanted to speak. At that time it was decided that more time will have to be given. So, it was decided that we will work up to 7 o'clock. Unfortunately, you were not present in the House at that time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Are you saying that the hon. Speaker has taken the sense of the House?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Yes.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Then, it is all right ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I call Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

... (Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I am requesting the hon. Speaker to take the sense of the House to extend the time because that is what everybody wants. Why do you not just inform the hon. Members? What everybody wants from the hon. Speaker is to inform the hon. Members that the time of the House has been extended. Even though the leaders have agreed to the same, all the Members

feel that they should also give the consent. So, kindly take the sense of the House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is on record as having said that the hon. Speaker has extended the time up to 7.00 P.M., then it is all right. Okay. If it is not on record, then the hon. Minister will be answerable. That is all what I am saying.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : There is nothing wrong in extending the time of the House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am only saying this much that if the hon. Speaker has extended the time, then it should be on record. If it is not on record, then all this business will become infructuous. You should be careful about this. This is what I am saying. I am only trying to help the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I am only saying this much and I am only trying to help the Government. We want to pass this Bill. But if the time is not extended then that business will become null and void.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : It cannot be null and void.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Let me say that if it is on record that the time has been extended by the hon. Speaker, then I have no complaint. That is what I want. What I am saying is that it should be done in the usual procedure. If that is not done, then that has to be done and that is what I am saying. It will help you and, therefore, why do you bring the prestige question into this matter?

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : You can extend it again...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, please sit down and then ask for permission.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki) : How many times do we have to wait? It is a question of privileges of the Members. The sense of the House was not taken and without taking the sense of the House, we are extending time. We are not going to allow it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chacko, please sit down and then ask for permission.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : How many times do we have to agree on this? If the whole House agrees on this, then what is the dispute?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Earlier, we have objected at the time of extension. Now, this is not correct. You are allowing a wrong procedure in the House. You are setting a wrong precedent.

MR. SPEAKER : I am on my legs. Please sit down and then ask for permission.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : You are setting a bad precedent and we are not going to allow that. I tell you that this is not correct. How long do we have to tolerate this?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I am allowing Shri Chacko.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that this happened in the morning also. The Members' privileges are sacrosanct. I remember, when Shri Ram Naik was sitting on this side, at the stroke of six o'clock, he used to ask for extension of the time. While extending the time, taking the sense of the House is necessary. You should know that. When Shri Sayeed was sitting in the Chair, I objected over the extension of time. At that time, he said that the sense of the House would be taken at six o'clock. Without extending the time, whatever business has been done after six o'clock will become infructuous. You should know that. Without knowing that and without knowing the implication, you are simply going ahead. It is most unfortunate that such experienced Members are sitting as mute spectators. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the time has not been extended. So, please take the sense of the House. You can take the sense of the House and you can extend the time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, when Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey was presiding, the House had agreed to extend the time.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Let me clarify...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jos, you are a former Speaker of the Kerala Assembly. Please take your seat.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : Sir, you take the sense of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I am taking the sense of the House.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : At 4 p.m., when Dr. Laxmi Narayan Pandey was presiding, it was agreed that the matter would be clarified.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first. I am taking the sense of the House.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : The whole House is now agreed to extend the time up to 4 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please listen to me. Yesterday you have decided to complete two important Bills.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am taking the sense of the House. These are the two important Bills.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to complete it and send it to the Rajya Sabha also. That is why, I am asking that two hours' time is required to complete this Bill also. I am taking the sense of the House. It may be extended up to 8 o'clock. Now Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy will speak.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL (Yavatmal) : What about 377?

MR. SPEAKER : It is laid on the Table.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I request the hon. Members to give kind cooperation to start the debate on the interim Budget.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy to address the Chair, not any hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : This is the most important debate. Unless everybody listens, it is not desirable for me to speak. So, let us wait and see what is wrong. Otherwise, what is the use of speaking?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

18.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla came and sat on the floor near the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you want?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I am asking only a clarification. But you do not allow that also...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, in the morning also, I have seen your behaviour. I understand your anxiety. To some extent, it is good. After that, it is not good. Please take your seat. I have observed you in the morning. It is not good. Please take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I want a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : It is already announced. It is not good. In the morning also, I observed you. Please go and take your seat. This is not good. You are a senior and respected Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good. Please go and take your seat.

18.20 hrs.

At this stage, Shri G.M. Banatwalla went back to his seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : ...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is it you are talking? You withdraw that word. It is already announced. What do you want?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Listen to my question, answer it and finish it.

MR. SPEAKER : You please withdraw that word first. What is this?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I also gave a notice under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, you withdraw that word. It is not good on your part. Please withdraw that word.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Is whatever I said in the well of the House on record? So, how can it be? I am asking a question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already announced that due to lack of time, all the Matter under Rule 377 have been laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is what I am asking. I was told about the 377s that only the subjects will be taken up and the text will not be taken up. Now, I am asking you this question as to what is laid on the Table of the House. Have you laid only the subject or have you laid our entire text of the 377s on the Table of the House? That is the question I am asking you. But I have not been allowed to ask such a question...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri G.M. Banatwalla, it has already been announced. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : The entire text is to be laid on the Table of the House. You are such a senior Member. I hope you know that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The entire text of the 377s has been laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : That is what I am asking from you. But you have not allowed me to ask that question.

MR. SPEAKER : Every time you are doing it. It is not good on your part.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : The last sentence of yours is not good...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Subbarami Reddy, please speak.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Unless there is some control, how can I speak?...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, is he from the Opposition party?

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am representing the prime opposition party to speak on the most valuable, memorable and historical debate. You have to listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Subbarami Reddy, you are wasting your time. Please continue.

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I do not want to speak unless I am allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue and complete it. Within the time, you must complete it.

18.25 hrs.

INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL) — GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 1998-99

*SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1997-98

MR. SPEAKER : Item Numbers 11 to 13 will be taken up together.

Motions moved :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending of the 31st day of March, 1999 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demands No. 1 to 28, 30, 31, 33 to 61, 63 to 93, 95, 96, 98 to 103."

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Accounts and Capital Accounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1998 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof".

1 to 7, 9 to 16, 18 to 23, 26, 28, 32 to 38, 40 to 52, 54 to 60, 62, 63, 65 to 72, 74, 75, 77 to 86, 88 to 90, 92, 94, 95, 97 to 101.

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1998-99 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant on Account submitted to the vote of the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture			
1	Agriculture	1201,26,00,000	6,38,00,000
2	Other Services of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	39,43,00,000	80,56,00,000
3	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	297,06,00,000	
4	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	125,33,00,000	20,30,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers			
5	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	78,11,00,000	9,18,00,000
6	Department of Fertilizers	3884,36,00,000	191,83,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism			
7	Department of Civil Aviation	60,97,00,000	15,22,00,000
8	Department of Tourism	38,00,00,000	7,25,00,000

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

1	2	3
Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs		
9	Department of Consumer Affairs	6,01,00,000 16,00,000
10	Department of Food and Civil Supplies	3635,39,00,000 6,67,00,000
11	Department of Sugar and Edible Oils	268,02,00,000 65,21,00,000
Ministry of Coal		
12	Ministry of Coal	111,78,00,000 121.66,00,000
Ministry of Commerce		
13	Department of Commerce	308,95,00,000 31,20,00,000
14	Department of Supply	27,44,00,000 -
Ministry of Communications		
15	Department of Posts	1869,99,00,000 25,66,00,000
16	Department of Telecommunications	5948,45,00,000 3695,66,00,000
Ministry of Defence		
17	Ministry of Defence	1014,47,00,000 9,87,00,000
18	Defence Pensions	2807,73,00,000 -
19	Defence Services—Army	7674,81,00,000 -
20	Defence Services—Navy	1005,91,00,000 -
21	Defence Services—Air Force	2563,03,00,000 -
22	Defence Ordnance Factories	970,89,00,000 -
23	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	4259,88,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests		
24	Ministry of Environment and Forests	257,25,00,000 2,48,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs		
25	Ministry of External Affairs	624,21,00,000 81,34,00,000
Ministry of Finance		
26	Department of Economic Affairs	1478,09,00,000 34,87,00,000
27	Currency, Coinage and Stamps	314,55,00,000 682,90,00,000
28	Payments to Financial Institutions	107,57,00,000 6273,76,00,000
30	Transfers to State and Union Territory Govts.	4347,73,00,000 458,67,00,000
31	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	110,83,00,000
33	Department of Expenditure	7,90,00,000
34	Pensions	1071,36,00,000
35	Audit	295,70,00,000 36,00,000
36	Department of Revenue	143,33,00,000 1,24,00,000
37	Direct Taxes	296,86,00,000 41,77,00,000
38	Indirect Taxes	383,18,00,000 87,56,00,000
39	Department of Company Affairs	11,48,00,000 7,00,000
Ministry of Food Processing Industries		
40	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	13,24,00,000 3,27,00,000

1	2	3	
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
41	Department of Health	584,39,00,000	146,69,00,000
42	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	26,77,00,000	17,00,000
43	Department of Family Welfare	743,32,00,000	20,00,000
Ministry of Home Affairs			
44	Ministry of Home Affairs	142,80,00,000	8,20,00,000
45	Cabinet	36,95,00,000	10,00,00,000
46	Police	1849,93,00,000	148,62,00,000
47	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	157,81,00,000	75,64,00,000
48	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	114,49,00,000	95,04,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
49	Department of Education	2341,54,00,000	1,00,000
50	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	60,35,00,000	62,00,000
51	Department of Culture	117,29,00,000	-
52	Department of Women and Child Development	348,30,00,000	-
Ministry of Industry			
53	Department of Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	155,01,00,000	8,00,000
54	Department of Public Enterprises	1,49,00,000	-
55	Department of Heavy Industry	24,61,00,000	88,15,00,000
56	Department of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries	244,23,00,000	96,98,00,000
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
57	Information, Films and Publicity	70,41,00,000	4,69,00,000
58	Broadcasting Services	673,58,00,000	155,01,00,000
Ministry of Labour			
59	Ministry of Labour	273,83,00,000	54,00,000
Ministry of Law and Justice			
60	Law and Justice	209,29,00,000	-
61	Election Commission	2,50,00,000	-
Ministry of Mines			
63	Ministry of Mines	94,75,00,000	12,00,00,000
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources			
64	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	71,35,00,000	63,21,00,000
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs			
65	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1,39,00,000	-
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
66	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	60,36,00,000	1,20,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
67	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	2,00,00,000	-

1	2	3	
Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation			
68	Planning	50,40,00,000	8,31,00,000
69	Department of Statistics	47,52,00,000	1,28,00,000
70	Department of Programme Implementation	264,23,00,000	
Ministry of Power			
71	Ministry of Power	323,03,00,000	1041,83,00,000
Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment			
72	Department of Rural Development	964,08,00,000	-
73	Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation	2841,69,00,000	-
74	Department of Wastelands Development	30,32,00,000	-
Ministry of Science and Technology			
75	Department of Science and Technology	234,58,00,000	16,26,00,000
76	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	227,83,00,000	1,83,00,000
77	Department of Bio-technology	39,24,00,000	2,00,000
Ministry of Steel			
78	Ministry of Steel	13,45,00,000	7,69,00,000
Ministry of Surface Transport			
79	Surface Transport	31,48,00,000	9,01,00,000
80	Roads	337,11,00,000	731,17,00,000
81	Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	108,19,00,000	109,09,00,000
Ministry of Textiles			
82	Ministry of Textiles	147,81,00,000	155,83,00,000
Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment			
83	Urban Development	155,43,00,000	135,09,00,000
84	Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	74,14,00,000	13,33,00,000
85	Public Works	255,75,00,000	73,34,00,000
86	Stationery and Printing	63,10,00,000	2,00,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
87	Ministry of Water Resources	163,14,00,000	12,18,00,000
Ministry of Welfare			
88	Ministry of Welfare	368,36,00,000	95,14,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
89	Atomic Energy	354,83,00,000	252,54,00,000
90	Nuclear Power Schemes	406,09,00,000	310,33,00,000
Department of Electronics			
91	Department of Electronics	52,45,00,000	6,40,00,000
Department of Ocean Development			
92	Department of Ocean Development	35,83,00,000	33,00,000
Department of Space			
93	Department of Space	535,38,00,000	67,18,00,000

1	2	3	
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
95	Rajya Sabha	12,69,00,000	-
96	Lok Sabha	22,19,00,000	-
98	Secretariat of the Vice-President	23,00,000	-
Union Territories without Legislature			
99	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	153,35,00,000	62,31,00,000
100	Chandigarh	172,47,00,000	21,55,00,000
101	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	47,02,00,000	8,51,00,000
102	Daman and Diu	40,51,00,000	6,18,00,000
103	Lakshadweep	44,28,00,000	6,84,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		60316,78,00,000	20388,43,00,000

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

No. and Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture			
1	Agriculture	5156500000	-
2	Other Services of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	200000	-
3	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	862200000	-
4	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	24700000	-
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers			
5	Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals	100000	329700000
6	Department of Fertilizers	1992500000	-
Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism			
7	Department of Civil Aviation	378400000	-
Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution			
9	Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution	103800000	-
Ministry of Coal			
10	Ministry of Coal	701700000	-
Ministry of Commerce			
11	Department of Commerce	219800000	13900000
12	Department of Supply	112900000	-
Ministry of Communications			
13	Department of Posts	5390000000	-
14	Department of Telecommunications	1425200000	100000

1	2	3
Ministry of Defence		
15	Ministry of Defence	3292300000
16	Defence Pensions	12324200000
18	Defence Services—Navy	1726100000
19	Defence Services—Air Force	3670000000
20	Defence Ordnance Factories	3477600000
21	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	-
		3810000000
Ministry of Environment and Forests		
22	Ministry of Environment and Forests	100000
		5500000
Ministry of External Affairs		
23	Ministry of External Affairs	398200000
		-
Ministry of Finance		
26	Payments to Financial Institutions	100000
		27000000000
28	Transfer to State and Union Territory Governments	90628600000
		-
32	Pensions	3979000000
		-
33	Audit	1570100000
		16300000
34	Department of Revenue	442100000
		-
35	Direct Taxes	1289000000
		-
36	Indirect Taxes	1573900000
		-
37	Department of Company Affairs	78200000
		2000000
Ministry of Food		
38	Ministry of Food	3974900000
		525600000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		
40	Department of Health	499700000
		-
41	Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy	96600000
		-
42	Department of Family Welfare	100000
		-
Ministry of Home Affairs		
43	Ministry of Home Affairs	665500000
		-
44	Cabinet	37800000
		-
45	Police	12399300000
		-
46	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	265800000
		449100000
47	Transfers to Union Territory Governments	759400000
		30600000
Ministry of Human Resource Development		
48	Department of Education	400000
		-
49	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	200000
		-
50	Department of Culture	276600000
		-
51	Department of Women and Child Development	1239700000
		-
Ministry of Industry		
52	Industrial Development and Industrial Policy and Promotion	200000
		-
54	Department of Heavy Industry	230900000
		739500000
55	Department of Small Scale Industries & Agro. and Rural Industries	165100000
		-

1	2	3
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		
56	Information, Films and Publicity	135800000 -
57	Broadcasting Services	515400000 -
Ministry of Labour		
58	Ministry of Labour	100000 -
Ministry of Law and Justice		
59	Law and Justice	3350600000 -
60	Election Commission	34200000 -
Ministry of Mines		
62	Ministry of Mines	488100000 -
Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources		
63	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	100000 -
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions		
65	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	222000000 6000000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas		
66	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	129851400000 -
Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation		
67	Planning	317400000 -
68	Department of Statistics	102100000 -
69	Department of Programme Implementation	2000000 -
Ministry of Power		
70	Ministry of Power	2017000000
Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment		
71	Department of Rural Development	100000 -
72	Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation	100000 -
Ministry of Science and Technology		
74	Department of Science and Technology	178500000 -
75	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	935400000 -
Ministry of Steel		
77	Ministry of Steel	29300000 -
Ministry of Surface Transport		
78	Surface Transport	100000 74000000
79	Roads	1726400000 -
80	Ports, Lighthouses and Shipping	468700000 100000
Ministry of Textiles		
81	Ministry of Textiles	100000 1247700000
Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment		
82	Urban Development	- 78700000
83	Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	- 100000

1	2	3	
84	Public Works	587600000	-
85	Stationery and Printing	174200000	-
Ministry of Water Resources			
86	Ministry of Water Resources	300000	68000000
Department of Atomic Energy			
88	Atomic Energy	1647300000	-
89	Nuclear Power Schemes	2140900000	-
Department of Electronics			
90	Department of Electronics	116800000	5000000
Department of Space			
92	Department of Space	100000	-
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
94	Rajya Sabha	122700000	-
95	Lok Sabha	97700000	-
97	Secretariat of the Vice-President	1200000	-
Union Territories Without Legislature			
98	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	436500000	-
99	Chandigarh	1409300000	-
100	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	18000000	-
101	Daman & Diu	177300000	-
Grand Total		308734300000	34401900000

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I would like to know how much time has been allotted.

MR. SPEAKER, Sir, the Interim Budget presented by our hon. Finance Minister indicates that our country's economic position is very gloomy and phenomenally very bad...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Subbarami Reddy, please take your seat first. I will take one minute. This is for the clarification of the hon. Members. The time allotted to this subject is two hours. The BJP and its allies like Samata Party, BJD, AIADMK get 50 minutes; Congress gets 29 minutes; CPI(M) gets seven minutes; Samajwadi Party gets four minutes; RJD gets three minutes; TDP gets two minutes; CPI gets two minutes; TC, JD, DMK, BSP and RSP get one minute each.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. BAPIRAJU (Narasapur) : Do not give one or two minutes to speak on the Budget ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, coming to the subject, I would like to say that the growth of GDP is only five percent, perhaps the lowest figure for the last five years. Also, the fiscal deficit is found to be six per cent which is also very disastrous. Moreover, there was a fall of Rs. 14,300 crore in the revenue collection.

There is a negative exposure about agriculture and exports. This presents a very-very sad picture about the situation prevailing in the country. At the same time, I am very happy that the Government has announced in their agenda that they want to eradicate poverty, they want to give a new life to this country, they want to remove frustration of the youth by creating more employment opportunities, they want to provide drinking water to every village and they want to provide free education to women. Yes, it looks like a *Ram Rajya*. We are all happy about it and we welcome it. The opposition parties can support the constructive cause provided they are able to achieve the goal by way of the Budget which they are going to present.

It was the Congress Party which had started the historical economic reforms. We are happy that the Finance Minister has said that he would give full acceleration to the economic reforms and would also give top priority to it. We all welcome it because he has agreed to follow the policy started by the Congress Party. At the same time, the question is of eradicating poverty and raising money. In fact, the income-tax structure governed by the existing rules is very good. The entire nation has approved the tax policy. But there are some people who are trying to create confusion. That is a very dangerous thing. We must have a sound structure. How can we raise money? Money can be raised only by more acceleration of trade, industry, commerce and also by giving top priority to small scale and cottage industries.

One more thing is, there is no industrial growth in the entire country. Existing industries are facing phenomenal and disastrous problems. The Government must solve these two things while dealing with the full Budget. The question is: Why is there no industrial growth? I give a small example because there is no time. Today in India, banking institutions are having sufficient funds. But bank officers are not prepared to lend money to any industry, not even to a small scale industry because some people have played some mischief. If officers are not given any protection, no officer will have any mood to come forward and give encouragement to this country. If this thing continues, even God cannot save this country. I want the new Finance Minister to take this as a challenge and see that he gives new instructions to the technocrats and officials of the banking institutions and injects new blood in their body by giving inspiration, zeal and enthusiasm. I know Shri Yashwant Sinha and Shri R.K. Kumar are there.

One more thing is, I do not understand why the Food Ministry is importing sugar. On the one hand we are having a difficult requirement of foreign exchange; on the other, in India, there are millions of workers working in sugar factories. Our country is an agriculture-based country and sugarcane is a most important thing. But I am shocked to know that sugar industry in India is in doldrums as indigenous industries are not in a position to cope up with the present requirement and sugar is being imported. I request the hon. Minister to stop the import of sugar and see that indigenous industries are encouraged.

One more thing is that the existing industries should not become sick. For example, take the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. It is a Government of India project. They have invested Rs. 8,000 crore. Today factories are working very efficiently, officers

are very efficient but they are incurring losses because of lack of restructuring. The Finance Ministry should treat this as a Government project and see that Government projects do not become sick.

Another most important thing is the coming up of new industries and the disaster of the capital market. This new Ministry must make every effort to instil confidence in the minds of the people of the country by encouraging small investors and promoting new industries.

Another burning problem in this country is the red-tapism that is prevailing particularly in Delhi city. No paper moves whether it be of any power project or a transport project or of anything. Nothing moves in this country because nobody has got the coordination. There is lack of communication, there is lack of knowledge and lack of cooperation within various departments. If a paper goes to the Finance Ministry, it seeks a clarification on it and then it goes to another Ministry.

There, that man sends it to another Ministry. Where is the end for it?

Therefore, I am giving you a suggestion that the Government must appoint a Coordination Committee which must meet frequently, say, once a week and see that all these problems are sorted out. Otherwise it will be very difficult to solve them. For the last several years, we have been dreaming to make this country an economically strong nation. It is very much painful to say that nothing is happening. We want to make this country a proud nation in the entire world. In fact, so many people from all over the world want to participate in many projects to building up this great nation's industries and give employment to help the poor people.

Today, when a young man becomes a graduate, he has no job. To give him a job, what is the answer? You must have trade, commerce and industry to build up this nation. For this, you must eradicate first, nepotism and red tapism and see that a new zeal, enthusiasm is created. You must inculcate in the blood of the bureaucrats and the people of Delhi and all capitals of this country to see that they all have the national spirit. Let us work together. Let us build this nation. That is very important.

Sir, I do not want to speak after you ring the bell. I will finish before that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What about the film industry?

[Translation]

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : We will see the film nagri in the evening, not here... (Interruptions)

[Shri T. Subbarami Reddy]

[English]

About the Budget, I want to say one more thing. There is a wrong notion that 'aeroplane means luxury'. No. Those days are gone. Today the communication system is most important to build this great nation. You see anywhere, for example, Airports Authority of India. You see our air flights. All are outdated in the world. No Budget is providing any money to have the new flights or to replace the old flights. Nobody is bothered how to build up the transport communication system in India in such a way that when the people from all over the world travel in this nation, they would feel proud and happy that here is a nation with all the infrastructural facilities. We have been thinking and dreaming but nothing is moving.

Now, the challenge is before Shri Yashwant Sinha who must now prove it that he can do wonders, miracles and also do something phenomenally new. His full Budget should be miraculous, phenomenal, unparalleled and magnificent and should be something record breaking. I am giving him the inspiration.

I want to say one more thing about Shri R.K. Kumar-Yashwant Sinha combination. It should be :

Lokotrayana Sangathnaya nirupamaya sanghnasa na dwitiya.

What I mean to say is that the Budget should be bubbling with enthusiasm. Everybody should love it. Everybody must admire it.

Though it is an Interim Budget, this is the foundation of the full Budget as to what you are going to give it. We all are inspiring you and giving you the idea as to how to build up the future full Budget.

Sir, in the full Budget, let us not hurt the feelings of a poor man. Let us give top priority to rural development, agriculture, small scale industries and cottage industries. And, let us not unnecessarily import the foreign products and try to kill our domestic industries, which has been a great suicidal and unforgivable crime in the history of India. I feel very sad that on the one side we are suffering for want of foreign exchange and on the other, I cannot imagine, how the Government is importing so many things by paying foreign exchange and competing with their own industries. What is the philosophy behind that? What is the logic behind that? I want to know this from the Government and the people of the concerned department.

Lastly, what I say is that everything is interlinked. The Finance Minister should not think why he should bother about the power projects, why he should bother about small scale industries and why he

should bother about rural development. No. Everything is interlinked.

In other words, let us make 1998 a glorious and prosperous year. Let us make the world feel that India is going to be a magnificent country in building its economy in such a way that they should feel jealous of us. For that, what he must do is to have coordination. The lack of communication and coordination should be removed. Red tapism should be burnt. You must give a new philosophy. You must discuss with all the concerned officers and Members. If hon. Members come to the new Ministers, they must spare them some time. Their PAs should not say

[Translation]

"Hon'ble Minister is in the bathroom or that he has gone out or would take call later on."

[English]

No. Every hon. Member is equal.

This is also a challenge before this Government and they must have a new style like what other people had done in this field.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (Gulbarga) : There is no budget for bathroom!

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Therefore, I want the Finance Ministry to review as to where we went wrong in these years and why we have not been able to have new projects. Please do not mistake my saying this. The industry is not for rich men only. It is for poor men also because if there is no industry, we cannot give employment opportunities to our people.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Are you a poor man?

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I am a rich man, no doubt. I have been so for 36 years. There is nothing wrong in that. What I am saying is that we must help the poor men.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Are you prepared to distribute your wealth among the poor people?

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Yes, I will give everything to you, please come.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : For God's sake do not give it to me. Please give it to the poor people.

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Yes, you can come and see this. I am already giving it to the poor people in my constituency.

Therefore, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Members. They have a wrong notion and a wrong impression that if somebody encourages industry, he will be termed as a rich man. It is not like that. If we want to remove frustration of the youth

of this country, if we want to eradicate poverty in this country, if we want to give a new life to the people in rural areas, if we want to remove sorrow among poor people, there is only one way, that is, the country should be built up; trade, commerce and industry should be built up. For that there is no difference in the policies. We are all one. We must inspire people all over the world to participate in this. Otherwise what for are the economic reforms? We have no money, but we want to start new projects, we want power, we want electricity, we want water, we want irrigation. How is it possible? If you have no money, you allow other people to come. Otherwise what is the meaning of economic reforms? There should be no licences. Do not make a man run after the Government for licences. That is the wrong that the Congress has done. I am not praising the Congress or finding fault with you. I want this nation to grow. I am only telling what is good for the country. Everybody has done his bit. Shri Chidambaram has done wonders, Dr. Manmohan Singh has done wonders and I know that Shri Yashwant Sinha is going to beat everybody. He must do much more things. Shri Kumar is there with him.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : But do not include him in the Revenue Board !

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : In conclusion, to have a social, political and spiritual acceleration in this country, the Finance Ministry must play a more crucial, eminent, important and memorable role. I am dreaming to see Shri Yashwant Sinha's full Budget on these lines. With his administrative skills and style, there will be no red-tapism and things will move faster. There should be no lack of communication.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very happy that attitude of my friend Shri T. Subbarami Reddy is changing. For this I would like to congratulate country's new Prime Minister Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha and Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumarji. After seeing his spirit from his Budget speech, we have found that his attitude has changed. Now there is a Finance Minister who will present such a Budget and policies with which welfare of poor people, villages, farmers, unemployed, backwards, people living in slums and other people in the country is possible. The country will get a new direction.

I would like to congratulate Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and Shri Yashwant Sinha. Perhaps our former Finance Minister has left the House. I would have been more happy if I had said this in his

presence that the State Government should have been given 47% finance under VDI Scheme. Funds were refused on one pretext or the other. I agree with records of Economic Intelligence Service and their figures in which they have refused to give any money. They have not given finance because the figures of the Budget of Central Government will increase and the people will come to know about incapability of this Government. Abominable efforts were made to hide their incapability.

After that came the elections and in one Press conference the Finance Minister announced that they want to benefit the employees but he also recorded in the file that the next Finance Minister can take a decision in this regard. I am at loss to understand why he did so. Did he think that the new Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha was not competent enough to take decision without his advice. I am saying this because the people who were present here have run these governments for 50 years in one form or the other, then they have betrayed the employees. Just now I was also congratulating Shri Nitish Kumar for this. The matter regarding old age pension has also been deferred saying that no payment would be made on this account whereas a commitment was made in the budget speech in this regard. For a family old age pension is very valuable.

In the same way, they have decided to make payment of pension dues this year. The previous Government has shown reluctance in providing funds to the States in order to keep a check on budgetary deficit. We are not only giving that money but new government has also decided that it will not violate the rights of the States or hinder the development of States and as far as possible they would extend maximum support to States. Therefore, they have taken a historic decision to make payment to the States out of that money collected under VDIS scheme upto 31st March. The documents which they have placed before the electorate have been honoured by this Government on the first day itself. I would like to congratulate them for this. My friends were jokingly asking as to what was in that document. I would like to tell them that the document was a sort of holy book and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has announced to abide by whatever has been mentioned in it. The Finance Minister in his first budget speech has given a message to the people of country and States that they do not consider the States as a colony of Centre. We shall give every State and every employee an opportunity to prosper.

My friend was talking of poor people. Employees will get pension. He was saying that picture was very dismal. In fact, it is very dismal. They have said that Sinha Saheb has also painted a Rosy picture. Who is responsible for this dismal picture. Those people who are sitting there are responsible for this

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

state of affairs which resulted in decline in production. In the year 1996-97, this growth was 5.8%, this time ½% was expected but it has further declined. In the same way the previous Government has destroyed the economic structure which was based on agriculture. The national buffer stock has also declined. As on 1st November, 1996 stock of foodgrain was 21.3 million tonne, which has reduced to 18.25 million tonne on 1st November, 1997. We used to say that we would provide relief to the poor through PDS. Much publicity was given to this scheme. A 14.5% fall has been registered in the supply of foodgrains through PDS. They were misled in the name of the poor. A lot of propaganda was made, but not even cheap foodgrains were provided to satiate their hunger. They were cheated in this way.

My friend was saying about the industrial sector. I would like to submit that these people are responsible for it. They have to reply as to why there is continuous deterioration in the industrial sector.

It is being said just now that arrangements for electricity should be made. Yes, the new government will arrange for electricity. However, I would like to know from you what did you do in these fifty years in the country. At least, you should have provided employment to the people in power generation and mining sectors. The people would have engaged in mining or digging work, earned wages and as a result, the country would have become more prosperous. However, nothing was done. Cheaper electricity could have been supplied through generation of hydel power, that was also not generated. People were compelled to live in darkness. I would like to submit that the administration has also admitted that due to reduction in public expenditure, primary capital market and non-banking credit, industrial production has also decreased, but who is responsible for it? The earlier Government should own responsibility for not taking any effective steps to check the industrial slump. I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Sinha to take effective steps to check this industrial slump. Infrastructure consists of basic facilities like basic facilities for industries, power generation, coal production, cement, iron etc. The fall in production of these items could not be checked and so I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister that he should actively lead in removing these shortcomings.

The amount expected to be recovered through indirect taxes could not be realised and he had just now mentioned that as a result, recovered amount fell short by rupees fourteen thousand crores as compared to the total amount estimated in

the Budget. Who is responsible for this, one who has prepared the Budget or the people of this country? The people of this country are not at fault, this is all due to wrong planning. Our tax structure, tax planning and tax collection was at fault due to which the recovered amount was less by rupees fourteen thousand crores as compared to the targeted amount.

I would like to submit one more point. Just now my friend was mentioning about exports. There has been a huge difference between export and import and imports increased and exports decreased. Along with this difference, an attempt was also made to hide one more fact that today nobody talks about the target fixed that upto the end of year 2000 this much of exports will be made and from the export point of view, the country will earn a name in the forefront of the countries of the world. They do not mention it, because they did not have the will power to fulfil that target. They only had the intention to mislead the people of this country by painting such a rosy picture that they had such populist schemes and so the people could keep on dreaming. The present Government has inherited from the previous Government a non-progressive administration, wherein the situation of balance of payment and balance of foreign trade has got deteriorated. As compared to dollar, rupees has been heavily depreciated in the international market. The Government was preparing for more depreciation of rupee from the back door. I congratulate, the voters of this country for having become aware of this danger and having given the administration and leadership of the country in efficient hands, otherwise we would have faced the same situation as was faced by the people in Thailand, and other South East Asian countries.

I would like to mention about the credibility of the earlier Government. Last year, there was heavy reduction in non-resident Indian deposits. There was only one reason behind that. People had doubts about the credibility and efficiency of the then Government and so the deposits of money by the non-resident Indians which was 3.4 million dollars last year, decreased by 1.5 million dollars in the current financial year. This credibility regarding the strengthening of economy of our country ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. A total of five hon. Members will speak from your party.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I will just complete it.

MR. SPEAKER : Each hon. Member has been allotted ten minutes to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I would like to submit that the present Government have to pay immediate attention towards reviving the inherited staggering economy. Effective steps have to be taken in the field of infrastructure, financial and public sector. I am confident that this new Government will take effective steps to eradicate the basic problems like poverty, unemployment, health, education etc.

I will conclude after submitting two more points. Firstly, I would like to say that the previous Government has ruined the taste and flavour of tea also. Though an indigenous product, it has become very costly by getting entangled in the web of exporters. Even domestic prices of the tea were linked to the international prices. 80 percent of the total production of tea is consumed within India. However, the consumer is getting tea on higher prices. When a housewife prepares tea, she uses less amount of tea-leaves than the required amount, otherwise her house-hold budget gets imbalanced. When her husband drinks the tea, he says that tea is distasteful. I, therefore, request the Finance Minister to look into the matter as more than half of the Indian population enjoys drinking tea.

The Hon. President in his Address has made a commitment regarding formation of Uttaranchal, Vananchal and Chattisgarh states. I believe that this Government under the Leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee will fulfil its commitment. Though he has mentioned about the formation of these three states, but I think due to slip of vision or slip of sight, funds have not been allocated for this purpose. I, therefore, demand for provision of an adequate amount of funds, so that the process of formation of these three states may be started simultaneously.

In the last Budget, allocation made for rural development was heavily reduced. The Hon'ble Finance Minister may bring improvement in it so that upliftment of farmers and poor may take place.

With these words, I fully support this interim Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister.

[English]

SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM (Pondicherry) : Hon. Speaker Sir, I express my gratitude to my leader, DMK President, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi for having given me an opportunity to contest from Pondicherry parliamentary constituency and I thank the electorate of Pondicherry for having elected me. I have to represent as a lone parliamentary Member from Pondicherry and I wish to say a few words about some of the problems of Pondicherry.

The people of Pondicherry demand for special Statehood. For more than 25 years, they have been

wishing the Pondicherry Government to have more powers. Unanimous resolutions have been passed at different times in the State Assembly of Pondicherry. The Government of India should fulfil this aspiration. Income tax concession was granted for the new industrial undertakings set up in the industrially backward area of Pondicherry State. This concession is going to end this month. Income tax holiday should be extended to the State of Pondicherry for a further period of five years.

I would like to make one more point here. A new railway line is to be put up between Cuddalore and Tindivanam through Pondicherry. I was told that this proposal has been taken up. The Government should speed up this scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, detailed and policy related discussion cannot be taken up on Demands for Supplementary Grants. However, the Hon. Finance Minister has stated some points in the introduction while presenting these demands. We do not have complete report on Economic Survey yet, but it is unfortunate for our country that adverse results are received for those policies which are widely propagated by the media personnel and so called intellectuals. When the last Budget was presented, they named it the 'dream Budget' and had hoped that it would boost the pace of economic development and export-import of our country. However, Hon'ble Finance Minister has put forth his views in very right perspective. Today, the situation is very grim and serious attention should be paid in this regard.

In a large country like India, where progress in agriculture is specially needed, only two percent growth is taking place which is negligible. Our economic growth rate should be 9-10 per cent but it is stagnating at 5 per cent. Industrial Production is also taking place at the rate of four and half per cent which is totally inadequate in view of the needs of the increasing population of our country. Hon'ble Finance Minister should tell us whether we are ready to reconsider those policies which are responsible for this stagnation in the country. In short, he has stated that he will formulate policies in perspective of the National Agenda prepared at the time of preparation of Budget. However, I am of the firm opinion that like the defence and foreign policy which are permanent, we should have permanent economic policy too. I am sorry to state that the present Government has been constituted with the people of very different views. Even two days before its formation, one of the Ministers of this Government stated that if the multi-national and foreign companies, which have entered India, do not fulfill some conditions, they should be prepared to leave.

[Shri Mohan Singh]

the country. So a leader of their organisation tried to create an atmosphere of fear. Two days later, when the Hon'ble Finance Minister took the charge of the Finance Ministry, he stated that there is nothing to worry about. Multinationals may remain here comfortably and we are not going to disturb them. So, what type of atmosphere you want to create. We have several such questions before us.

Another point which I would like to submit is that when the new economic policy was formulated in 1991, it was strongly criticised by these very parties. At that time, the leader of the Bhartiya Janata Party, who is now the Home Minister was the Leader of Opposition. He toured the western countries on government expenditure. He stated openly to the foreign capitalists and investors that after Congress, Bhartiya Janata Party is the largest party in the country and after them, they will come to power. So the foreign investors need not be worried. Bhartiya Janata Party fully assures them that when it will come to power, it is not going to bring any change in the economic policy. Such assurance was given at that time to the foreign investors by the Leader of the Opposition, who is now the Home Minister. I am worried that by such dual policies, what type of atmosphere is going to be created by your Government. I would like to get a reply from the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Today, there is no financial discipline in the country. The Government should be pressurised to maintain financial discipline. Cost of production is increasing. Today, we can not expect any guidelines from you. This Government has not utilised a single paisa from the Demands for Supplementary Grants which have been presented here. That amount has been spent by the previous Government. Since the Government remains in continuity, Hon. Finance Minister have come here only to get the assent of the House. So, we do not hold you accountable in this regard. I seek your reply on the views expressed by Hon'ble Members. I would like to draw your attention towards another issue.

19.00 hrs.

The point is, that the tenth Finance Commission and Government of India had decided to write off Rs. 212 crores of the States, but contrary to this and against the suggestions of the Finance Commission the Government itself for political reasons, took a quiet decision and wrote off. Nor this was done through the budget neither the House was taken into confidence. This amount was not given during your regime, but you wrote off the amount till year 2000. I am not opposing the fact that you wrote off the loan. It was said that Punjab fought terrorism. I would like to say that other states have also fought

terrorism. Neither this House nor this country can give the right to any Government for this discriminatory attitude. If you have waived off the amount for one State under special circumstances, then the loans given to other States should also be waived off, as they have also spent this amount under such special circumstances. This is my submission to the Government.

Sir, police force is essential to maintain the internal security of any country and for this reason expenditure on S.P.G. is increasing. Till last year this amount was Rs. 45 crores and Rs. 54 crores which is going to be Rs. 85 crores this year. The Government of India should give serious considerations to this matter of internal security. I would like to thank the Defence Minister who has clearly said that he is not going to accept any security arrangements for himself. I would like to ask whether every Minister of the present Government will follow him and whether the Government will reconsider the matter about spending Rs. 85 crore on S.P.G. The Finance Minister should consider this.

So far as, matter of giving subsidy of Rs. 7500 crores to Food Corporation is concerned — subsidy of Rs. 7000 crores on food and subsidy of Rs. 500 crores on sugar is being given — I would like to say that with an amount of Rs. 500 crores, all the sick sugar mills in the country can be revived and modernised. The sugar requirement in the country can be met fully.

Another point which I would like to say is about the increasing internal debt of the Government. Not only internal debt, but external debt is also increasing. The Government should think over about reducing this loan. Our currency is also depreciating in terms of dollar. According to Indian economists if value of our currency becomes less in comparison to dollar, there will be increase in the inflow of foreign currency in our country. Its second aspect is that the external loan which our country receives and the date from which the value of our currency devaluates, from that date itself the ratio of external loan will also decrease. The Government of India should not imitate East Asian countries because their economic condition has worsen and they are facing problems about dollar. The Government should seriously consider this aspect also. The Government of India should take effective steps for increasing the value of currency and to save the country from economic crisis.

In the end, I support the demands for grants and it is our compulsion also to support these demands, as the funds were spent by those people who had our support. Therefore it is necessary to support these demands also. I hope that you will briefly consider my various points. With these words I conclude.

19.05 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Respected Speaker, Sir, yesterday our hon. Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha had placed the Interim Budget. On this Budget, I would like to mention two or three points only.

I feel that the entire economic policy and planning of our country will be affected if the policy of decentralisation becomes the main thrust area. In connection with this I would like to say that the Finance Minister must immediately give effect to the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission which are accepted by the Inter - State Council.

My second point is regarding tax restructuring. The Minister had mentioned about this in his speech also. I would like to say at this moment that a unique decision has been taken by the Tenth Finance Commission, that is, that 29 per cent of the total resources will go to the States. We demand that we must uphold the decision which was accepted by the previous Government in principle. I suppose that it will strengthen the States and ultimately it will strengthen the federal structure of our country to make a strong nation. In connection with this I would like to request the Finance Minister to immediately hold a meeting of the Ministers of different States to discuss about the consideration of the forthcoming Eleventh Finance Commission.

I have read out the speech of our respected hon. President which was delivered by him yesterday. I have also read out the National Agenda. Everybody has talked about the unemployment problem of our country. A great concern has been expressed by the nation. We have also heard a new slogan of 'berozgari hatao'. Perhaps this august House knows a number of 'hatao' slogans being raised earlier. I have gone through the Interim Budget of Shri Yashwant Sinha. How they would go about it, there is no mention in his Budget. I would like to mention the present perspective of the unemployment problem of our country. The annual rate of increase in employment is 2.3 per cent only. The last Yojana Commission targeted it to be 2.62 per cent during that Plan period. I suppose it is not enough. It is not enough to pass a general comment from a national level. It is high time to bring about a time-bound programme. I know that it is an Interim Budget. The youth community of the entire nation is demanding a time-bound programme for employment and other allied subjects.

According to the Budget speech of our Finance Minister, which was placed yesterday, in the Budget

estimates for the year 1998-99, the non-Plan expenditure increased nearly to Rs. 26,000 crore for pension, payment of interest and other heads. Under the head Major Subsidies, the amount shown is Rs. 1500 crore. I suppose, these subsidies will go directly to the common people for food and other things. The rate of increase of these subsidies is on the lower side.

The other point is with regard to the Budget Paper, *Budget at a Glance*. The Finance Minister has announced that the Government would try its best to expand the tax base.

I have seen the Budget papers that have been supplied to me. At a glance, in one rupee only eight paise are coming from the Corporation Tax. We demand that the Government must increase the Corporation Tax rates. There is ample scope, we must exploit it.

Another point I would like to mention is regarding West Bengal, particularly my constituency. Everybody knows that severe crossing is occurring on rivers Ganga and Padma. At present, it has become a national disaster. Lakhs of people are evicted. It is increasing day by day. The Expert Committee which was constituted by the Government of India has recommended more funds to save the common people in the local areas. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to immediately allot more funds to save the entire area from erosion and to protect the people from getting evicted.

This is my first speech before the august House and I would like to thank the Chair for giving me this chance.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for presenting the interim budget. The hints given in this budget reveal the prospective changes in economic scenario of the country. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for it. Under his leadership an able Government has been formed and a learned person has been given the charge of Ministry of Finance, and they have given a thought for introducing economic as well as political changes in the country. The persons and parties who have been in power for most of the time during the last fifty years are mainly responsible for the maladies of the country today. I hope that problems like price rise, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and corruption will be solved by the measures and guidelines issued by the hon. Minister of Finance. Hon'ble M.P. Shri Reddy has said just now that credit for introducing economic reforms goes to the Congress party. I would like to say that he is mistaken and is trying to take credit. These economic reforms have become

[Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra]

compulsion of global economy. I would like to ask the people who are making tall claims regarding economic reforms, that several projects were sanctioned and started under economic reforms during the last few years. Not even 23% of capital has been invested in these projects. Therefore, these reforms did not bear fruit. I feel that now economic reforms will be implemented in a proper way under the instructions issued by the hon. Minister of Finance. Economic survey has been conducted and I am very sorry to say that the target fixed for G.D.P. could not be achieved and overall growth has declined by 5 percent. It is really very sad that growth in agriculture sector which is the core sector of our economy and more than 70 percent people depend on it, has also declined by two percent. Weather is blamed for it. Sometimes heavy rainfall and sometimes scanty rainfall is blamed for it and not those who are responsible for formulating plans. None consider himself guilty or responsible for outcome of the Plans formulated for the country. In comparison to the projections of tax collection, the actual collection is low by Rs. 14236 crore. How did it happen? Because they were busy, in collecting M.Ps. and leg pulling and thus the tax collection declined. The target regarding disinvestment of shares of PSUs was fixed at Rs. 4800 crore but we could disinvest only Rs. 906 crore. The budget presented by the former Minister of Finance was considered dream budget and it became a dream and resulted in increase in price rise, unemployment, public lost faith in economy and rupee devaluated. Now people of this country have expressed their confidence in Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji and his alliance partners. I hope that guidelines issued by the Vajpayee Government will bring change in the country. The share of States under the Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme was Rs. 4389 crore, which has been increased to Rs. 7594 crore now. It was a long pending demand and I congratulate the Government for it. We have always been of the view that country could be strengthened only by strengthening the States. The Government has considered our feelings correctly and given indications for its implementation and I hope that the country will make progress under the able leadership of this Government.

Hon. Minister of Finance has reiterated whatever has been mentioned in the National Agenda and has stated here that more funds will be allocated for agriculture sector which has been ignored so far. In the National Agenda, it has been stated that a provision of 60 percent of the funds will be made for agriculture in the budget. It has also been mentioned that an additional assistance of Rs. 1000 crore will be given to States. I congratulate him for it. Several hydel projects and other projects are lying pending in Punjab. I could not understand as to why

Manmohan Singhji has made complaint about it now. He could have waived off as much amount of loan as he wished at the time when his party was in power...*(Interruptions)* I have not interrupted you when you were speaking.

Punjab is a border State and it has been plundered for the last 50 years. He felt very bad, when for the first time the loans of Punjab were waived off. Now a special assistance of Rs. 1000 crore has been provided for State. I would like to say that more assistance should be given to Punjab for the Thein Dam Project so that we could utilize the water for generating power. This water is at present wastefully flowing towards Pakistan ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No running commentaries, please. Let him complete.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Today, water of river Ravi is going to Pakistan. Required amount has not been given for construction of Thein Dam for the last 25-27 years. Additional funds may please be allocated to complete the work on this dam so that electricity can be generated.

It is needed to built R & D in regard to agro based industries, educational institutions, water supply, health services, etc. More funds should be provided for these areas so that the problem of unemployment may also be eliminated.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the nation, on watching the television yesterday following the presentation of the Vote on Account and seeing the newspapers today was stunned to learn the truth that the so-called dream Budget was actually a nightmare for the nation. In fact the nation was conned into thinking last year that something good had been done for the nation but actually we are today in a terrible economic mess. I will just quote the headlines from two newspapers. *The Statesman* of today said "Sinha tears apart Chidambaram's claims". *The Hindu* of today has titled it as "Nightmare of 1997-98". I will just read a few sentences of that.

"The so-called dream Budget of 1997-98 has turned into a nightmare...One wonders what BJP-led Government will do to set right the mistakes made during the tenure of Mr. P. Chidambaram. The few Cassandras who questioned the hype in much of the media about the "dream budget"..."

I was one among them.

...have been proven right. But it cannot give them much satisfaction that during the course of the past year the Centre's financial situation has been brought to such a poor state."

Mr. Chairman, if one were to go into the details, some of the statistics are extraordinarily alarming. I do not have to go into all of them. There is not enough time. But I would like to mention that we have to keep in mind how grim, how gloomy the economic prospect is and how urgently important it is for the confidence of the nation that something good is going to happen in the future. That confidence has to be restored. The fiscal deficit which was targeted at four and a half per cent of the GDP shot up to six and a half per cent of the GDP. The growth rate in the GDP has slowed down to five per cent compared to a consistent rate of seven per cent during Shri Narasimha Rao's period. The Congressmen may have forgotten Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao who has done a great service...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundapuram) : We have not forgotten him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am glad that you have not forgotten him. But he did a great service to the nation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swamy, do not invite trouble from him.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Mr. Chairman, there is no trouble. They are my friends. You do not have to worry. But I would like to put it on record that Shri Narasimha Rao who brought in economic reforms in a very systematic way, and in five years running, the growth rate was hovering around seven per cent per year. There should be appreciation for him. I find that appreciation missing. That is why I said that they may forget but the country will not forget. If they have not forgotten, then I am very happy. I hope it is manifested in some way.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh) : It was done by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Dr. Manmohan Singh was brought by Shri Narasimha Rao. The credit has to go to the Prime Minister. That is another proof that they have forgotten Shri Narasimha Rao. They want to now give all the credit to Dr. Manmohan Singh. All right, that is fine.

The growth rate of agriculture was minus two per cent.

The growth rate of industry which during Shri Narasimha Rao's period was 12 per cent per year - all right, it was 13 per cent, more glory to Shri Narasimha Rao. But only 4.6 per cent! Exports growth in dollar terms was negative. The rupee has slumped

to the lowest ever level of Rs. 40 per dollar. There were huge bottlenecks in key infrastructure. There was a lackluster capital market and yet we are in a debt trap. In other words, the payment of interest on capital and principal is more than what you are getting in terms of the loan. There is a sharp fall in revenue collection despite the claim by the then Finance Minister that he had discovered some American economist called Laffer whose cub had said that if you reduce taxes, the revenue will go up.

In fact, the revenue has collapsed from an estimated 1.53 lakh crore to 1.32 lakh crore. At the same time, with all this arithmetic completely out of gear, oil and diesel prices are raised in a supplementary budget by an administrative order. but the international oil prices fell from 23 dollars per barrel to 13 dollar per barrel. In fact, India is the only country where diesel prices have been raised. Indeed, was it a dream budget? Obviously not. Not only, was it a nightmare but perhaps a fraud also was committed on the nation. During the period of Shri Chidambaram, huge scandals took place in the Finance Ministry and I hope that the new Finance Minister would leave no stone unturned in discovering the full magnitude of these scandals.

I had filed a public interest litigation on the Indian Bank scandal. The Finance Ministry is yet to give a complete reply to the Supreme Court. They have been taking one adjournment after another. I would like the Finance Minister to give a commitment that the Rs. 3,200 crore scandal of the Indian Bank, which is the largest in the history of the banking industry of the world, would be probed into thoroughly and the leaders behind it belonging to the Tamil Maanila Congress would be thoroughly exposed.

There was an arbitrary change in our narcotics policy without Cabinet approval on the 6th of October, 1996 where narcotics and drug dealers were allowed to make a huge windfall of Rs. 2000 crore. This had come in the newspapers. If the Finance Ministry wants, I am prepared to give those Press cuttings. This is something that has to be looked into. It is a very serious matter. It was an administrative fiat of the then Finance Minister that the narcotics policy was changed.

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : How much time was allotted?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : He must be a TMC Member...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it. Do not get up like this.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : You will expunge unnecessary things...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever it is.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Allegations have been made. They are truthful.

Then the Finance Ministry had given tax exemption to certain trusts. Shri G.K. Moopnar had founded a trust.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)* Shri G.K. Moopnar is not a Member of this House. He should not talk about him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Sir, it should be expunged.

SHRI A.C. JOS : He is not a Member of this House.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : There must be a ruling.

SHRI A.C. JOS : There must be a ruling. It should not be allowed. He cannot go on like this.

SHRI P. SANKARAN (Calicut) : He is levelling specific charges against a person who is not a Member of this House. There must be a ruling.

SHRI A.C. JOS : We want a ruling.

SHRI P. SANKARAN : It should not be allowed here...*(Interruptions)* He is levelling specific charges against a leader...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If all of you get up, how can I hear? Shri Jos, what is your point of order?

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI P. SANKARAN : If you want to level a charge, that should be given in writing well in advance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : Sir, he is talking about trusts...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is on a point of order.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The Finance Ministry has given the exemption.

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am on a point of order...*(Interruptions)*. Is it in order that an allegation can be made against a person who is not a Member of this House and who cannot deny it?...*(Interruptions)*.

Secondly, if a Member raising an allegation, is he not supposed to give it in writing to you? These are the two points. I want a ruling from you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated. Why are you getting up? Let me hear Shri Subramanian Swamy. If it is in order, I will admit. Otherwise, I will disallow it. Why are you getting up? Let me hear Shri Subramanian Swamy.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, you quote the rule.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I did not make any allegation...*(Interruptions)*. I have been interrupted half way through...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me deal with Shri Swamy.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, do not jump at it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : No, these are the questions. Shri Swamy is interpreting it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jos, I am standing now. Shri Swamy has referred to Shri G.K. Moopnar's name. I do not think that he has alleged anything against him.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me deal with it. Shri Swamy is capable of defending himself. Shri Swamy has raised a valid point. I have not heard him alleging Shri Moopnar. The record can be verified. If there is no such allegation, I think, your point of order will not be valid.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a valid point.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir 'Moopnar' is not an unparliamentary word...*(Interruptions)*. The Ministry of Finance has given tax exemptions under Section 80-CC of the Income-tax Act to a Trust headed by Shri G.K. Moopnar. My friends rose in a fury almost as if they have got a guilty conscience. I did not make any allegation in this House. I have certainly gone public on this outside. But I am not mentioning that here. I am asking the hon. Minister of Finance to go into this Trust why this exemption was given when the deed of the trust says that free food and free lodging will only be given to the non-Scheduled Caste people who come to visit the Venkatachalapati Temple in G.K. Moopnar's hometown. That is there in the trust deed. I want the hon. Minister of Finance to inquire into it. I want him to look into it; such a Trust cannot get a tax exemption. Not only that; no accounts have been filed for the last 42 years of that Trust. So, I would like the Ministry of Finance to launch a full-fledged

investigation into this Trust headed by Shri Moopnar and also two more trusts headed by Shri Moopnar. I will give the details a little later.

Sir, I have only two more short points to make...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to conclude by eight o'clock.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am now speaking on a very pointed subject.

Sir, under the V.D.I.S. scheme a number of politicians and their close relatives have declared their incomes. The V.D.I.S. scheme does not afford protection for politicians. According to newspaper reports even Arun Gawli got rupees one crore written off and turned black money into white under the scheme. I would like the Minister of Finance to give the lists of all politicians and their close relatives who have declared under the V.D.I.S. scheme. This is very important because the honest taxpayers are paying 40 per cent and those who cheated the country have to pay only 30 per cent under the V.D.I.S. This is a shame on the country, typical of Shri Chidambaram, ex-Finance Minister. I would like the Minister of Finance — if the subject of Company Law is still with him — to investigate all the exemptions given to various companies and all the write-offs that took place including those of close relatives of the ex-Finance Minister. I will not have to mention names. Everybody knows who those close relatives are...*(Interruptions)*

Finally, I would like the Minister of Finance to examine the FERA violation by the SUN T.V. owned by the son of Shri Murasoli Maran, the advertising revenue and the profit that it has made...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, has he any record? Has he got any record or evidence? If he has, he should produce that...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : SUN T.V. is a scandal on the country. FERA violations have taken place...*(Interruptions)* This has not come on SUN T.V.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, has he any record? He should produce all the records. He cannot make such allegations. It is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me sort it out. Please be seated.

He is only asking the Finance Minister to enquire about these things. That is all. He has not divulged anything.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is only mudslinging. He has no record. There is no valid proof. It is a reputed TV company...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swamy, may I request you to conclude now?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I am on the last point. On SUN T.V., I only said that HYUNDAI has got a car factory in Sriperumbadur and next day HYUNDAI is advertising on SUN T.V. all the time. There must be a nexus which he has to investigate. I have many such things which have to be investigated. That is all.

I am concluding now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not shout like that.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : What about JJ T.V.? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : They are so incompetent that after being in office for 18 months they could not find anything against JJ T.V. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : A day will come when you will be thrown out...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will have to call the next speaker. Shri Swamy, you are inviting trouble. You say the last sentence.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, do not shout like that.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, the final Budget should reflect three points...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. SELVARASU : You are only talking about SUN T.V.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : It is only mudslinging. Sir, such things should not be entertained...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Swamy, you say the last sentence now. You have taken fifteen minutes whereas others took five or seven minutes.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, I also got the time of A.I.A.D.M.K.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The whole time is being wasted.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, my last sentence is : the final Budget should reflect three points. Firstly, about the determination of this Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, he belongs to a one Member party. How much time is allotted to a Member?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, do not ask such questions. I have verified. The time of A.I.A.D.M.K. is also given to him. Please do not talk like that.

Shri Swamy, please help me in conducting the House.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I am concluding. I am part of the AIADMK front. Why should I not speak on behalf of the AIADMK? Why should they interrupt? Why should they be jealous?

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I request you Shri Subramanian Swamy to conclude?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : The final Budget should reflect three points. This is my suggestion. First, the Government's determination to make India a globally competitive economy. In the name of *swadeshi* we should not shy away from competing globally.

Secondly, we should fight for a level playing field. If the America and the developed countries want a free flow of capital into our country, they should also allow a free flow of labour from our country into their countries. If they have a surplus in capital, we have a surplus in labour. If they can get capital easily, we can give skilled labour easily. So, if they are going to put immigration blocks on our labour flow, we have a right to put blocks on the coming of their capital into this country.

The third point is that I would like this Government to realise that the Indian industry must compete with multinationals in this country. The multinationals are coming with capital at two per cent and three per cent interest rates whereas our industry has to get capital at 18 per cent interest rate. So, a level playing field means either we should put a tax on their capital to equalise the interest rate or the interest rate on the capital that Indian industry is getting should be reduced from 18 per cent to five per cent. Then only, there can be a fair competition. We want competition. We do not want free competition; we want fair competition. Internationally, we can defeat everybody if there is a level playing field. These three points, the new Budget should reflect.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Sir, I support the Interim Budget proposals of Shri Yashwant Sinha, Hon. Minister. This made me surprise....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not disturb him because this is his maiden speech.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Mr. Finance Minister, when I was reading your Budget Speech of only four pages, I was a little bit surprised to see only a four page statement asking for a grant for four month's expenditure. On going through today's newspapers, I also found—as Dr. Subramanian Swamy was telling—different headlines in different newspapers. As it says, somewhere, it was 'kickstart economy', somewhere 'reform process will be accelerated and broadened', somewhere 'States to get more funds from Centre', somewhere 'Sinha tears

apart from Chidambaram's claim', somewhere 'economy ravaged—Finance Minister' and somewhere 'new credo in North Block : pragmatic *swadeshi*'. So, I thought that you have your own style. Only by placing expenditure proposals for four months in a four page statement, you have succeeded to draw the attention of the news media of the whole country.

Sir, what I would rather say is that your Budget proposals and *Budget at a Glance* say that the total revenue receipts are Rs. 1,53,273 crore, capital receipts are Rs. 1,11,715 crore and total receipts are Rs. 2,64,988 crore. But the unfortunate part of our country, Sir, is that the Non-Plan expenditure is Rs. 2,05,027 crore and the Plan outlay is only Rs. 64,641 crore. So, the Non-Plan expenditure is going high gradually. When I was going through the explanatory memorandum on Interim Budget, I was surprised on my own regarding few Demands about which I want to draw your attention to. The Budget Estimates for the year 1998-99 for Council of Ministers are Rs. 55,77,00,000. Can we afford it?

Sir, can a poor country like ours afford such an expenditure only for the Council of Ministers in the Non-Plan Budget? Similarly, though the police administration is a State subject, under Demand Nos. 45,46 and 66, Rs. 5,464 crore is allocated for Non-Plan expenditure. I would like to know whether it is for the B.S.F. or the S.P.G. or the Central security forces for the protection of VIPs and VVIPs. I want a clarification on this point from the hon. Minister of Finance.

In the case of Defence, under Demand Nos. 19, 20, 21 and 22 the total amount in the Non-Plan Budget is estimated at Rs. 31,000 crore. Can we really afford it? So, we all have to think very seriously about these problems.

Sir, I do not have much time. I was very keen to hear the speech of Shri P. Chidambaram. But, I think, probably five or seven minutes time was allotted to his party which, possibly, could not satisfy him and he left the House.

But I am rather very keen to know from the present Government about their policy regarding foreign investment and their approach towards the liberalised economic and industrial policies in detail. Regional imbalances are growing for the last 50 years since independence. The Eastern Region, the North Eastern Region and West Bengal in particular are not receiving any attention from any Central Government for long long years and West Bengal has got only its agony due to this negligence. The unemployment problem is growing everyday and has reached its peak.

Sir, the Minister of Finance has not succeeded in his efforts regarding mobilisation of resources. He

has admitted that in his Budget speech. Of course, it was the task of the previous Government. There is a definite shortfall of Rs. 14,236 crore. Without mobilising resources, economy of a country cannot be developed.

Sir, I would like to say that the terms like work culture, productivity, profitability should have been categorically included in the Budget speech and without work culture, productivity and profitability, the economy of any country cannot ever be developed.

Sir, I differ with Dr. Swamy in one respect. The Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme had given the Government some money which it has shared with different States. Why the Govt. can not extend the time for three more months and share the total amount to the States for their economic development?

Then, we demand that the Government should look into the accounts in respect of the Chief Ministers' foreign trips. You will be surprised to know that the Chief Minister of a State made 30 foreign trips in a span of 20 years! Who will bear the expenditure incurred in all these foreign trips? Who will bear the expenditure on foreign exchange? It is a violation of FERA, even if the Chief Ministers are in the periphery of the normal system. I accuse that if such a kind of enquiry is conducted, certainly at least one Chief Minister will be detected for violation of FERA and he has to go behind the bars for that. I can name the State and that is West Bengal.

Similarly, thousands of crores of rupees are involved in the Public Ledger scandal and thousands of crores of rupees are also involved in the WAKF scandal in West Bengal. Why can the Central Government not take an initiative in this regard? Our leader Kumari Mamata Banerjee has filed Public Interest Litigations in the High Court in respect of these scandals.

These cases are going on. I would request that the hon. Finance Minister to make all-out efforts to find out what sort of corruption is going on in the State of West Bengal for the last 20 years. We should not keep mum.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I am on point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bandopadhyay, he is on point of order.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a case which is *sub judice* cannot be referred to here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, Shri Bandopadhyay has only said that the 20 years of corruption be enquired into. He has not made any particular reference to a particular case.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has referred to a particular case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think reference to a particular case, if it is *sub judice*, could be avoided.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North-East): Excuse me, Sir. What was referred to is the Public Ledger Account — PL Account — for which a case has been filed. He is not challenging the decision. Can we not refer to the High Court cases? We can. We are not asking for any decision.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We can discuss the findings of the Court. But a case which is *sub judice* cannot be referred to here...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly give me one minute. I was handling this case. I was the counsel for our leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee. It is a public interest litigation which says that Rs. 2,500 crore in Public Ledger Account has been siphoned off in the State of West Bengal. Can we not ask the Finance Minister to look into it? It is the Central Government money. The case is pending in the High Court. We can refer to the High Court cases. But we are not asking you to give a decision. We are not asking for discussion. We are mentioning it so that the people of India and abroad could know what the state of affairs is. It is because the Finance Minister has shown that there is a loss of revenue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panja, for my own benefit, let me understand whether this public interest litigation is still pending in the court or not.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Yes, it is pending. Therefore, we cannot have a discussion on this. But we can certainly mention it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You cannot mention it. A case which is *sub judice* cannot be referred to here.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Under what rule can it not be referred? Sir, it can be referred to but it cannot be discussed here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Panja, you are a Bar-at-Law. Will you enlighten me what amounts to *sub judice*?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you interfering? I want his assistance.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, the interpretation of *sub judice* is that a case which is pending in the High Court or in any other court cannot be discussed. But it can be referred to here. You can refer to May's *Parliamentary Practice*. It can be mentioned. But it cannot be discussed. We cannot ask for a discussion. But we can certainly refer that a case containing

[Shri Ajit Kumar Panja]

Rs. 2,500 crore has been filed by one of the Members and another Member is bringing it to the notice of the House.

Sir, the courts cannot interfere with our Parliament nor can Parliament interfere with the working of the courts. That is our long standing common understanding. But certainly the court can say : "This is what is happening in Parliament" and Parliament can say : "This is what has happened in the court". Certainly people must know. This is the House of the People. That is my submission. There is no harm in it. You kindly look into it and if I am wrong, you strike off my entire speech tomorrow. But kindly look into it. It is a point of very great importance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, it is a very delicate issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : This is the distinction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has only referred to the case.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. He has just mentioned the case and said that the Finance Minister may conduct an inquiry into it. That is all.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This matter was discussed in the Eleventh Lok Sabha and also in the other House.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : After the decision of the Chair, again he is raising it. What is this? Under what rule is he raising this? We are objecting to this. After your decision, how can he question it? This cannot go on like this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He can tell us as to what has happened to that case.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : He has asked for what has happened to the case. I can tell him that the Court has directed an inquiry into it.

[Translation]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (Gulbarga) : You have given decision on this. But it is being raised again...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given my ruling.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It would be better if the hon. Member avoids such matters.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Why should he raise such questions?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I am concerned about the timing. What I would like to further add is that so far as the assistance of the Central Government to different projects of rural development is concerned, there is a diversion of funds which is taking place. When the Central Government is sending its matching grants or any assistance meant for the centrally-sponsored schemes, those funds are being diverted. So, the Central Government should keep a vigilant eye over the money being sent from the Centre to the States through a particular machinery. It should be done on a priority basis. It is not only with reference to any one particular State, but it can be applied to every State of India. However, we will certainly give top priority to the matters relating to West Bengal.

I want to know about the foreign investment policy of the present Government. What they have declared is that they would accept foreign investment up to Rs. 1,500 crore in the power sector. I want to be clarified by the hon. Finance Minister whether it is an already declared policy or whether there are other sectors also where the Government will allow foreign investment. We would also like to say that just like the Enron and Cogentrix projects, the Eastern region, North-Eastern region and West Bengal should be provided with such type of big industrial projects because for the last 20 years, West Bengal has not succeeded in establishing big industries over there. So, we are waiting for the foreign investment also.

Sir, I have gone through the Minister's statement thoroughly. He has expressed his agony by mentioning that "the overall economic growth has slowed to five per cent in 1997-98, agriculture has registered negative growth of two per cent, industry continues to be in the doldrums averaging only 4.6 per cent growth over the 12 months up to January 1998". He has also further expressed his agony by saying that "the net result is a deterioration of the fiscal deficit from the budget target of 4.5 per cent of GDP to 6.1 per cent. However, if the increase in expenditure attributable to small savings loans is excluded, the fiscal deficit, adjusted for the increase over budget in small saving loans to States and Union Territories, would be 5.8 per cent of GDP in 1997-98".

The people of the country are not only asking for a stable Government today, but they are also asking for an economically stable Government which will give a lead to the nation. After 50 years of Independence, it is unfortunate that still the scavengers are carrying the night-soil on their heads in the rural areas of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : So, Sir, I request you to consider all the points that I have made. I appreciate and fully support the Interim Budget which you have placed here. We will all try to see that your purpose is served.

20.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as decided in the leaders meeting held on 25th March, 1998 in order to provide sufficient time for the completion of essential Government business, the House may sit on Saturday, the 28th March, 1998. I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me come to the next point. The time of the House is extended up to eight o'clock. I have about ten hon. Members to speak and the hon. Minister will take at least 15 minutes. Five minutes to each hon. Member means 50 minutes plus ten minutes for the hon. Minister. That means at least one hour. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House up to nine o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : As we are sitting late tomorrow, I request that two minutes may be given to each hon. Member...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Only the Opposition is to be called. Let the Finance Minister request the hon. Members from the Treasury not to speak and the Opposition alone will speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me tell you who are the unrepresented Parties so far. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of the House up to nine o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I take it as the pleasure of the House. The hon. Minister will now speak...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I just want to draw your attention to an important aspect that after the Bill is discussed here, it goes to the President. Then it goes tomorrow morning to the Rajya Sabha. All these formalities are to be completed. If there is a delay, there is inconvenience even to the President; the Rajya Sabha has to prepare their List of Business and this is the first item to be taken up tomorrow for discussion. These are all practical difficulties. When we have agreed that we will do it within the time limit, two hours are more than sufficient. We can

extend at the most for 15 or 20 minutes. But all these cannot be completed. It will cause a lot of inconvenience to subsequent business.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those hon. Members are not many.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : This suggestion is not acceptable. If hon. Members from that side will speak, then hon. Members from this side also will take part. It will take time. I do not mind. But I cannot prevent hon. Members from this side to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can you not convince them to take half an hour more, up to nine o'clock?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : Mr. Finance Minister, why do you not take the spirit of what the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said? It is the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who said that we have to pass it urgently and you are putting spokes into that...(Interruptions). All right, you extend the time by one hour.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : This concept of justice being one-sided cannot be accepted. We have a constraint of time. Let us all agree that we finish it by 8.30 p.m. or so...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : You can give your final reply to all points...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : By this time, we have already lost five minutes in arguing. Now only 25 minutes are left with us. I think we will sit up to 9 of the clock. Please accept it. Otherwise, I may have to adjourn the House and go. What can I do? Unless you cooperate, it will not be possible. After all, every one of us will have to cooperate to do the business of the House.

Is it the pleasure of the House to sit up to 9 of the clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, we sit up to 9 of the clock. Now, Shri V.V. Raghavan to speak.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are entering the new financial year with this Interim Budget. As my time is very short, I will confine myself to the policy matter as our hon. Finance Minister has promised the regular budget within a few weeks' time.

Before I go into that, I must say a few words about Dr. Subramanian Swamy's remark. Dr. Swamy is very famous for public litigation suits. Today, he is after Shri Chidambaram and Shri M. Jayalalitha. Yesterday, he was after Kumari Jayalalitha...(Interruptions) I am telling the facts. Do not be

[Shri V.V. Raghavan]

enthusiastic in approaching Dr. Swamy because nobody knows what he will do tomorrow ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI R. MUTHIAH) : Sir, he is mentioning the name of the former Chief Minister. He is unnecessarily talking about our leader...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Let me say a few words about the Budget...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not come to the point?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Muthiah, what I am telling is that if there is any unparliamentary word, I will expunge it. For heaven's sake, please ask your Members to sit down. Otherwise, we will not be in a position to complete the business.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Those people are creating havoc...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. MUTHIAH : Please do not use that word...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Let me know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he agrees with the explanation given by the Revenue Secretary for the revenue shortfall of Rs. 14,236 crore. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister the explanation given to the Press by the Revenue Secretary for this shortfall. Several times, the Public Accounts Committee had pointed out that there were lapses amongst the tax collecting Departments — the Enforcement Department, the Excise Department, the Customs Department, the Revenue Department. There were so many incidents of lapse in collecting taxes especially from the corporate sector. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to go into it and kindly revamp the tax collecting Departments.

Our bureaucrats are very clever in giving explanations. But do not leave it at that.

That is my humble request.

As far as the National Agenda on Governance is concerned, it is very bad. I want to put some pointed questions to the hon. Finance Minister. Are you going to amend our Patents Act under the pressure of the WTO to provide the multinationals for claiming trade related intellectual property rights? There is a very great pressure. Are we going to yield or not? It is a main policy matter. Here again, the National Agenda on Governance is very vague.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : My time was taken away by them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You had invited the trouble.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : I have a clear cut programme on economic development by the RSS Meet at Bangalore a few weeks ago. They are very categorical. What is the reaction of the Finance Minister to those proposals? As the National Agenda on Governance is very vague, you must be categorical on such points while replying to the Budget.

As far as Kerala is concerned, I am very sorry to go on record that there are very disappointed features in this interim Budget. Our development is thirsty for infrastructure. There was a proposal about the Cochi Harbour and the Tuticorin Harbour for development of container terminals. I see that there is a provision for this and the amount is provided for Tuticorin but not for Cochi. There is cut in respect of Cochi. Even for Cochi Ports and Cochi Shipyards, there is a cut. Even in the case of Hindustan Paper Corporation, the aid sought for is cut. We are in a very bad shape economically. Our economy is in a very bad shape because of liberalisation of imports and slicing down of excise duties. Rubber producers are deep in crisis. Titanium Dioxide is imported with less excise duty. Two of our industrial units are in a very bad shape. So, the Minister may see to it that our own economy is not affected adversely when we cut down the excise duty. The Finance Minister has to see to it. Liberalisation is all right; globalisation is all right. But in my opinion, safeguarding our national interests, safeguarding our national economy and safeguarding our growing national industry is the first preference.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN : Yes, Sir.

One of the Minister's senior colleagues in the Cabinet publicly pronounced that an unhealthy competition was going on in India between the soft drink giants which should be stopped. Does the Minister share that opinion? Such policy-makers are agitating the minds of the people. Therefore, a categorical stand on his part is quite essential.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. Because of the constraint of time, I will only mention one or two points and resume my seat. It is with respect to some immediate action that is necessary.

Firstly, I would like to emphasise that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has reportedly stopped the current year's grant to the Indira Gandhi National Open University. Perhaps the reason, we understand from the paper, is that the University has failed to submit details of the specific items of expenditure. Now, Sir, the Ministry had allocated a sum of Rs. 28 crore under Plan grants. But hardly Rs. 10.69 crore has been released. Now the non-release of huge budgeted Plan grants, will seriously

jeopardise the functioning of the Indira Gandhi National Open University. It will seriously jeopardise the various projects that that University wants to take up. I will, therefore, appeal to the Government that because the time is coming to an end on 31st March and before that, those grants must be released. Otherwise, the University will be in a difficult financial condition with respect to its various projects.

Now, there can be difficulties of the procedure. But they can be sorted out by evolving a proper funding policy in consultation with the University. I must, therefore, appeal to the Government to release immediately all the budgeted grants to the University so that the development of the University does not suffer. Very little time is left for the 31st March. Otherwise, these grants will lapse. Therefore, it is a matter to be taken up seriously and seen in the interest of education and its upliftment in our country.

Mr. Chairman, I will now conclude by referring to only one more point. The Ninth Five Year Plan is in its drafting stage. The Government has said that it is going to review the Ninth Five Year Plan. Let them have the review. What I say is that while finalising this Ninth Five Year Plan, there must be specific measures and specific financial allocations for the economic and educational developments of the minorities, particularly the Muslims.

The hon. Minister has referred to the question of minorities in the National Agenda. I am only reminding him that this is the time the Ninth Five Year Plan is going to be finalised. They are going to finalise it, in case they go through the Vote of Confidence. I do not know. But in that case, while finalising the Ninth Five Year Plan, he may please see that specific measures are mentioned and that specific financial allocations are made for the educational and the economic development of the minorities, particularly the Muslims. Otherwise, we will have all sorts of talks about measures and nothing would come out of it.

I hope that the Government will take care of these two very important matters which I have placed. Other matters, of course, we can take up, whenever a regular Budget comes up.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present discussion is going on on the interim Budget. I would like to say that poverty and inequality are prevailing on large scale in our country. Farmers and workers are being subjected to exploitation. They are facing various problems. From the provisions of the budget proposals presented by the Government, it seems that it would rather add to the number of poor people. Inequalities and unemployment would also increase. Though the Government have promised to dispel

fear, root out hunger and corruption but this proves to be slogan only and problems cannot be solved through slogans. For this, Government should have strong will and should adopt policies which are aimed at welfare of the poor, farmers and villages but this is not possible by this Government because this Government is not only under the control of R.S.S. but even the Finance Minister has been appointed on the recommendation of R.S.S. I, therefore, cannot expect anything from this Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are well aware of the policies of R.S.S. Their policy is to create dispute in the name of secularism. What else we can expect from this Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhandhuka) : What the hon'ble Member is saying is not correct. It should not go on record...*(Interruptions)* What happened to fodder scam?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will go through the records and if there is anything objectionable, I will expunge it.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I would like to give a suggestion. In the year 1991-92, One crore rupees were sanctioned on the recommendations of Hon'ble Members of Parliament for development work in their constituencies. As compared to 1991, prices have increased in 1998 and the price of iron, cement and grit etc. has increased substantially. Therefore, I would like to request that the amount which was being given for development work on the recommendation of MPs should be increased to Rs. 2 crore...*(Interruptions)* Is there any objection in this also?...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards my State, Bihar. Hon'ble Finance Minister also belongs to Bihar. If he cannot solve all the problems pertaining to Bihar, then even if he gets one dam constructed there, it will be a great favour to the people of North Bihar. If a dam is constructed at the origin of Kamla, Baghmati and Kosi rivers and power could be generated therefrom, it would serve the interest of the people of North Bihar and thus the fury of floods in that area could be mitigated and with that, we can convert North Bihar into a very prosperous place. We could generate enough power from this project and supply it to other States also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, North Bihar is a central place. If the Government constructs a National Highway from Darbhanga to Farbiaganj, it would be beneficial for the poor people.

But Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that this Government is under the control of R.S.S. and I can challenge in this regard. As the Finance Minister belongs to Bihar, he could convert North Bihar into a very prosperous area. However he has no sympathy

[Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav]

for the poor. He does not want to work for their welfare. He does not want the prosperity of North Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is on a point of order.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You should work for the development of Bihar. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav is our leader. What are the allegations against him and whether any allegation is proved? Even then he is elected to the Lok Sabha. On whose support you will win? The fund of Rs. 2 crores provided from the centre will be incurred on development work...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Sir, I am on a point of order under rule 353. The proviso of this rule says :

"...the Speaker may at any time prohibit any member from making any such allegation if he is of opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served by making such allegation."
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any derogatory remark against any person would be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding my speech. The matter of rural electrification...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I conclude my speech. What can we expect from this Government which is under the control of R.S.S. It could only get interim Budget passed. What it will do with that fund we will not be able to find out the details. It should not get any fund. I, therefore, oppose this.

[English]

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I extend my thanks to you that you allowed me to speak at this late hour. I mention this because the Republican Party of India has four hon. Members in this House and I am very sorry that it does not appear on the list of the political parties from which the Speaker is supposed to call hon. Members to

speak. It was a matter of sorrow for me. I just draw your attention to kindly take cognizance of my statement.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : I support this statement. I belong to a five member party and I am not getting an early chance whereas hon. Members from one member parties and two member parties have already got their chance. Please explain this situation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pramothesh Mukherjee, you will always get a just treatment.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I cannot follow you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is there. You will be getting a chance. It is not deliberate on anybody's part. Let him speak. Otherwise, you are going to spoil your chance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, if hon. Members indulge in this kind of cross-talking they will not be getting their chances. I will have to take that decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am warning you that you will not be getting your chance.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Sir, I have brought this to your notice not as a matter of grievance but as a matter of fact. Please take cognizance of it.

Ever since the era of Independence the nation is facing a very grave financial situation. On the other hand we are celebrating the Fiftieth Year of Independence. I am rather afraid that our journey towards the goal has become anti-clockwise. The results and figures and statistics show that we are going backwards. The overall economic growth has come down to five per cent; industry has registered five to six per cent growth and agriculture, which is my favourite subject being an agriculturist, has registered a negative growth of two per cent. I do claim that only agriculture is the key industry.

The Indian economy is being described by the economists in different ways. One group of economists say that ours is a monsoon economy because the agriculturists depend on the monsoon; the second group of economists say that it is an agricultural economy; the third notion is that it is a village economy, while the fourth notion is that it is the rural economy. I am very sorry that such a key industry which is the base of the economy is being neglected and unfortunately we have registered a negative growth in that sector. Yesterday, the hon. Prime Minister made a statement. While concluding he assured that the situation with regard to the

natural calamities will be reviewed in the various parts of the country and that a fresh statement will be submitted and laid on the Table of the House. What does it indicate? It shows that everybody is fighting for the agriculturists.

Many people say that industrial sector has become sick. What about the agricultural sector? Is it healthy? Does it not suffer from fever, malaria and typhoid? We should treat agriculture as an industry, taking into consideration the infrastructure and the loss and profit. Is there any liberty to the farmers and agriculturists to dictate their terms as far as a product is concerned? Why do I say this? It is because the population in the urban areas is increasing and decreasing in the rural areas. Ultimately, agriculture will be the worst sufferer.

I would like to stress that the industry should be dispersed to several areas and should not be concentrated in any particular area. For example, Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan and Pune are designated as industrial zones. What about the rest of Maharashtra? What about Chimur which is Prof. Kawade's constituency? When I say 'dispersal of agricultural industry', I mean to say the industries based on agriculture. Without having any research either from the State or from the Centre *suo motu* agriculturists have started their own industries. There is no encouragement either from the Central Government or from the State Government.

So, my stress is on the disbursement of the industry, that too, agriculture-based industry. Sir, probably the hon. Railway Minister was a Member in that House when I was the Presiding Officer there like you. I introduced the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra. Probably, he knows about it. Myself, Shri Paghe who happened to be the Chairman of the Upper House and late Shri V.P. Naik who was a true agriculturist started that scheme. What was that scheme? You know that we are facing the problem of unemployment. Forget unemployment. What is the problem of agricultural labour? If a calamity is there on agriculture, it is a calamity on agricultural labour. What is the guarantee for agricultural labour? We three together started the Employment Guarantee Scheme. I am happy to say in this House that the Employment Guarantee Bill was drafted by myself. It is being accepted partially in India by a few States. Why should not a uniform policy be adopted on the pattern of Maharashtra for giving full-fledged guarantee to agricultural labour which is suffering for some causes? This is my suggestion.

I do not understand the position as far as revenue collection is concerned. What does the figure indicate? I do not want to go into the details because there are only three minutes left for me to complete. If you see the trend in tax collection, you may find that it is on a much lower side as far as customs is

concerned. It indicates corruptions. So many reasons were assigned for less revenue collection, whether it is collection of tax or inability to recover more revenue.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude. I am expressing only my helplessness.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : You know the tendency of Plan expenditure and non-Plan expenditure. If the ratio of the non plan expenditure is on the higher side, we will be disturbing our economy. We have to see the proportion of the plan expenditure and non-Plan expenditure. I hope that plan expenditure ought to be on the positive side.

Lastly, I welcome Shri Swamy's suggestion regarding VDIS. May the credit go to Shri Chidambaram. I request the present Government to extend the period further by three months but at the same time, I am demanding the names of those who have disclosed the money which is designated as black money. Let us come forward to show those political characters. I demand extending the period of the Scheme but at the same time, it is the right of a Member to elicit information from the Minister. So, it is better that you may put up the list.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to express my views. I shall be very brief while I am on my legs to enter into the subject.

On behalf of my party, RSP, I rise to oppose the Interim Budget. It is because of the fact that it does not cover all the aspects, needs and aspirations of the people. We have seen the mandate of the people in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. What is the mandate? We have seen an unusual complex of mandate in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. The mandate of the people is not in favour of a single party rule. It is in favour of a coalition Government. You have also professed that a consensus is your principle in your national agenda for governance to govern the country. That has been expressed in the national agenda for governance. But what is the spirit that we have seen in your Interim Budget? I am very sorry to mention that the multi-dimensions of the aspirations and demands of the rural people and the urban proletarians have not yet been expressed in this Budget.

So, I rise to oppose the Budget with a few observations which will be put forward before you.

The hon. Minister has presented his Budget speech. I have collected some information. We are living in an age of Asian debacle with a fiscal deficit and with a higher dollar rate. It is a serious crisis. It is not a crisis of the Asian countries only. It is a crisis of the sophisticated metropolitan capitalistic economic structure. It is a failure of the policy which has already been adopted in the name of economic

[Shri Pramotes Mukherjee]

reforms. Simply, the economic reforms either in the name of 'Swadeshi' or simply the economic reforms in the name of privatisation or globalisations are nothing but an effort to hand over the country's economy to the imperialist forces. It is nothing but an effort to open the field of Indian economy to the multinational corporations.

We are living in an age of uneven capitalism. You know it better that we are living in the regional imbalances. What is the result of the regional imbalances? These come from uneven capitalistic development. But during the last 50 years of independence and the country's sovereign rule, we have been suffering from the regional imbalances, we are suffering from the economic crisis and the crisis of uneven development of capitalism. This is the root cause.

I am sorry to mention that the hon. Minister of Finance in this Government in the name of economic reforms or in the name of *Swadeshi* economy is also following the same path of privatisation. All the sick public sector undertakings are going to be handed over to the private capital and monopoly capital. What is his suggestion? We had brought forward a budgetary provision in the last Budget for revival of the sick public sector undertakings. Has he taken stock of the sick public sector undertakings in his Budget?

What is the situation of the textile industry? Today, it is a sick industry. Thousands and thousands of workers in the national textile mills, workers in the IDPL and in the fertiliser plants, the MAMC, workers in jute mills, and workers in the sick public sector undertakings have now been thrown on the streets to die of starvation...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Do not blame the workers...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pramotes Mukherjee, do not look at Shri Ajit Kumar Panja. Now, please conclude. The time is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Avoid him now.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : I would request the Minister of Finance to review the entire situation about the sick public sector undertakings. A budgetary provision should be made immediately in this interim Budget for revival of the sick public sector undertakings. That is my first submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. Let me tell the House that this Bill is to be passed. Then, it has to go to the Rashtrapati Bhavan before 9.15 P.M.

It is very difficult. So, I will have to conclude the debate and call the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is the message I have received from Rashtrapati Bhavan. Please conclude.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : I am concluding with a request to this Government to review the situation for employment generation and for revival of the sick public sector undertakings.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Sir, I am a humble man...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT (Udaipur) : Sir, he is also a very good orator. Everybody cannot be given time. He has spoken three times.

Sir, we are not going to wait for more...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, did I give you permission to speak? You have to get the permission of the Chair before you speak. Let the hon. Finance Minister speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I would like to make only one submission...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTILAL CHAPLOT (Udaipur) : Here every member has come after delivering speeches, without giving speech nobody comes here. Without speeches even elections cannot be won.

[English]

Everybody is speaking and we are still sitting...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAKLI SINGH (Saharanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please call the Minister only.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a procedure to be followed in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why do you not take your seat? I have given the floor to the hon. Minister. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I just want to plead with you that if 9.15 p.m. is the outer limit, then it is not merely that we discuss but we also have to go through a number of procedural formalities and it will take time. So many points have been made by

the hon. Members and I also need time, on behalf of the Government, to reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Sir, I come from the State of Orissa. Nobody from the State of Orissa was allowed to speak on this subject ...*(Interruptions)**

You have never asked any Member from the State of Orissa to speak...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Naik, please tell them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, we are certainly asking our Members but the way the senior Members are taking so much time it is becoming difficult for us to explain it to our new Members...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Member from the State of Orissa is saying that nobody from that State has been allowed to speak on this. The Members from the State of Orissa are part of the Government and the whole time is allotted for the entire Government. So, how could he say that nobody has spoken for them? I cannot say about Orissa.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, that is why I said that you can continue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : After all, your time is allotted to your Members.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, that is why I said, 'we are running out of time...' *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You see the time allotted for the Congress Party was 29 minutes. But out of that, the Members of the Congress Party has taken just 12 minutes. They have taken only 12 minutes!

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : That is why I am saying...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : And he has started alleging the Chair.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, we are the main Opposition Party. We took only 12 minutes out of the total 29 minutes allotted to us...*(Interruptions)* Sir, why do you not give some time for some of our Members?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow our Party Member Shri Rao to speak ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I would like to know whether the 'Independent' Members would be allowed to speak or not ...*(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All Independent MPs put together have four minutes...*(Interruptions)* Would you please resume your seat? I will tell you about it. It is important to get educated before you allege anything. Independents and single-member Parties have in all four minutes according to the total time. I think, you understand the position...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: How many Independent Members are there?

MR. CHAIRMAN : RPI, HLD, MDMK, TMC, AIFB, ML, NC and the Independents have four minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I am calling Shri K.S. Rao to speak for five minutes only.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it appears to me that it has become the order of the day for the Members of the Treasury Benches to criticise the Opposition or the earlier Congress Government which has ruled the country for the last 35 years. My hon. colleagues, Members from the Treasury Benches have criticised the earlier Governments and have admired Shri Vajpayee and also Shri Yashwant Sinha for having announced effective implementation of various policies. I can understand the Members of the Treasury Benches admiring Vajpayeeji for his role as the Leader of the Opposition for the Last four decades but I could not understand Members admiring Shri Yashwant Sinha for having announced effective implementation of the policies of the Government because the hon. Minister has just put in a day in presenting this Paper. He has also started criticising, directly or indirectly, the Congress rule for the last 50 years. At the same time, I must appreciate Shri Yashwant Sinha writing in his own Paper that,

"The East Asian crisis has swept across much of the Asia in the last nine months....It is the inherent strength of our economy built over decades which has enabled us to hold our heads high and not succumb to the economic gales that have been sweeping through the Asian regions."

It clearly indicates that the present Finance Minister has got admirations for the economy built, mostly by the Congress Government, over a period of 50 years. So, I do not find any reason for the Members to criticise the past Congress Governments. I would say that in a routine way the Members have made it a habit to criticise us.

Shri Yashwant Sinha has also written in his own paper :

"The regular Budget will seek to impart necessary stimulus to agriculture and industry... restore dynamism to exports."

[Shri K.S. Rao]

It means there was dynamism in the Export Policy of the past Congress Government which he wanted to restore under his Government.

The hon. Minister has also said that he wants to take some definite decisive initiatives to improve the state of infrastructure, strengthen the financial system and accelerate the reforms. This clearly indicates that the reforms taken up by the Congress Government are appreciated not only by the countrymen but also by the present Finance Minister. So, I do not find any reason in making a criticism just for the sake of criticism. We all know from where the country began its journey under the Congress leadership after Independence. At that time there was no industry in the country. It is the Congress Government that has built an industry of which everybody can feel proud of. There may be some drawbacks or shortfalls on the part of some individuals but one cannot stop appreciating the achievements of the past Congress Government for the last 50 years. As a Congress Member, I can have my own views about it and say that it could have been much better.

Everybody is saying that the discussion is only on a small issue and it must be finished within two or three hours. The Minister has himself mentioned in his Report that the Vote on Account is for a period of four months which comes to one-third of a year and he wants us to discuss it in a span of two hours. Maybe for genuine reasons which I certainly understand but you cannot say that this is a small matter and it should just be passed. If this is the attitude, should we take the time in the same proportion for the General Budget also. No, I am sorry, we cannot.

I do not believe in finding fault with the Minister because he has just started his tenure. I have nothing to criticise him as a person. I have gone through the Revised Estimates. I could not find fault with you for this because you are not responsible for it.

Though, the Minister has made it a specific point — it attracted the attention of the entire news media of the country — by criticising the performance of the earlier Government — which, of course, is not a Congress Government — and telling very clearly that the economy was in doldrums. He himself wrote it. I was fighting it in the Congress Government also. I wanted to bring it to his kind knowledge. In the Central Plan Outlay, page 8, he made provisions of Rs. 29,765 crore for energy; Rs. 11,356 crore for industry and minerals; Rs. 14,570 crore for transport; Rs. 14,877 crore for communications; etc. But when it came to social services, he made a provision of only about Rs. 13,854 crore. If the Congress Government were to be criticised that it had not taken

care of the poor in this country, what is it that he has done which is different from what the Congress Government had done?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I represent the Congress Party and I am speaking on behalf of that Party. I am speaking in a genuine manner. I am not provoking anybody.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am aware of it.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, I would like to make a humble submission to the hon. Minister and I want his attention. I can understand his providing any amount of money for education, health care, social services and welfare. But I request that there need not be huge allocations for other sectors, the economic Ministries. I say this because if you give a loan of, say, Rs. 30,000 to a common man for purchasing an auto rickshaw, you want him to pay the interest on it, pay the loan back, then he pays the tax etc. But when lakhs of crores of rupees worth of investment is made in Ministries like Railways, Transport, etc., which are supposed to earn income and then feed the budget, he wants to give some more as the budgetary support, I request that the Minister should think over it. I do not say that the Congress Government had not done it. But at least he should think in an innovative way and prove his efficiency and competence.

Sir, many of the important things have not been mentioned in his report like the population control which is affecting the nation too much. I wrote letters earlier to the Prime Ministers of this country also mentioning the methods as to how we can reduce the rate of growth of population which will help the nation in turn. The pathetic condition today is that when we borrow Rs. 96,815 crore, our investment on capital assets is only Rs. 11,803 crore. Obviously, the hon. Minister must make an effort to see that there will not be any revenue deficit at least in future. If the Government of India itself resorts to revenue deficit, what is the state of municipalities and the State Governments? The crores of rupees collected by way of revenue is not sufficient for paying the salaries and establishment expenses of municipalities. So, should we live, forever increasing the borrowings and making a debt which cannot be serviced by the nation, and collapse like Mexico and other countries at some stage? So, it should be seen to that the expenditure which is going unnecessarily is reduced and the expenditure on capital making assets is increased.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rao, please conclude.

SHRI K.S. RAO : I am going to conclude it, Sir.

When it comes to the question of Defence, we are making an investment of Rs. 40,000 crore. Please

give a thought ! The entire amount of Rs. 40,000 crore was being used for Defence only because of the tension existing between India and Pakistan. We have no tension with other countries with which we share borders. So, the Government should think of how best we can reduce the expenditure on Defence by improving our relations with the adjacent countries. This can increase the savings which can be used for servicing the core sector....(Interruptions)

The other factor about which I humbly request the hon. Minister is...(Interruptions)

21.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will give the reply now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO : Shri Yashwant Sinha, the other factor which I humbly request you is...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rao, you will have to say the last sentence now.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Yes, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not complicate further.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO : Yashwantji, anyway, ...(Interruptions) I am a humble man who goes by the rules, procedures and the factual condition(Interruptions) I will take more time during the discussion on General Budget. I would request the hon. Minister to give some serious thought to all these matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to sit up to the completion of the hon. Minister's speech and to take up this matter then?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Finance Minister, please.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion...

MR. CHAIRMAN : ...and not to the Chair?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Of course, I am coming to the Chair. I was mentioning the hon. Members first and I was coming to the Chair, Sir.

We have had a very well-informed discussion at times, not so well-informed discussions at other times. This is a routine exercise. The House is aware that I have come with the Interim Budget and I am pleading with the House to pass the Vote on Account for four months under very exceptional circumstances.

What I have presented to the House is not my own creation. Let us be very clear about it. I cannot be, this Government cannot be, held responsible for what has transpired in the year which is just going by. There was another Government in power. Most of us on this side of the House who were sitting on the Treasury Benches were in the Opposition then and most of the hon. Members who were sitting on the other side of the House were either in the Government or were supporting the Government from outside. It is that Government's doings, that Government's performance that we are discussing that I have placed before the House, yesterday.

Now, Sir, I have said very clearly that everything, the Revised Budget Estimates and the Budget Estimates for the next financial year, do not reflect the thinking and the priorities of my Government. I have said in my Budget speech that it is our firm resolve to review the Ninth Plan and to revise the Budget Estimates so that they reflect our thinking and priorities when I come before this august House with my regular Budget. That will be the time for you to judge us; that will be the time for you to judge our intentions; that will be the time for you to judge our actions. This is not my creation, as I said, but in a parliamentary system we are often faced with a situation where the existing Government has to carry on with the legacy which has been left behind by the previous Government.

Now, I approached my task — I want to be very very honest about it, this Government has been in office for barely one week, with all honesty without rancour.

If you look at the speech which I made before this House, there is no rancour. I would have been less than honest to the people of this country whom all of us represent in this august House, if I had not stated the facts as they are. If the industrial production is down, I have stated that; if the general progress of the economy is down, I have stated that; if the agricultural production is down, I have stated that and if the exports are down, I have stated that.

I would not have done my duty by this House and by the people of this country who have sent us to this House if I had concealed those facts from this House and from the people. Therefore I have stated it. But at the same time I have done it without any rancour. It is not my intention to apportion blame. It is not my intention to unnecessarily put anybody on the defensive. There were special circumstances probably obtaining then. Some explanation has been given. More explanations would have been forthcoming if the former Finance Minister, my immediate predecessor Shri Chidambaram, had intervened and said the kind of things one could

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

have expected from him. But he chose to leave the House probably he had some other preoccupations, some other pressing engagements.

But, Sir, the point I am making is this. We have talked in our National Agenda for Governance that we believe in having a consensus. A point has been made in this House here by the hon. Member, Shri Mohan Singh that we should have the same kind of consensus in regard to economic policies that we have developed over a period of time in our foreign affairs, and in our defence policies. I see no reason why this House cannot evolve that consensus. I am pleading strongly today that we must evolve that consensus so that the economic policy which has become a major tool for the progress of this country, for the well being of the people of this country is not subject to the vagaries, to the exigencies of this situation or that situation. We must have a consensus. I think we are very close to a consensus.

Hon. Member, Shri Rao was saying that I had paid tributes to five decades of progress. Any one who honestly looks at five decades of this country will say that there had been progress. It is nobody's case that there had been no progress. But he himself has not been satisfied with the progress that we had made. We could have progressed probably faster. So, I have no hesitation in admitting that it is as a result of the strength created in our economic system as a result of that progress which had allowed us to withstand those vagaries, those storms which have swept the East Asian countries which were held out as models of economic development before all of us.

In fact we were criticised by many people that we did not follow exactly the path followed by those countries. We were criticised in this House, we were criticised in this country that we did not follow the path followed by some East European countries, including, the old Soviet Union. There was a thinking at that point of time — I do not know whether my friends from the Left still hold on to that — that that was the best model of development. That model of development has collapsed. Then, we were told that these market-economy countries of South Asia were the best models of development and India should follow those models of development. They have collapsed today. They are going round the world with begging bowl. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I would like to emphasise before this House that the only model of economic development that India can follow is the uniquely Indian model of development. There is no model in the world which India can follow successfully except the model which we must devise on the basis of the concepts and the precepts which have been handed down to us by the great leaders

of the past belonging to all shades of opinion, belonging to all the political parties. If we do that, then consensus-building will not be difficult.

I have heard here and I am sorry to say some hon. Members have talked as a matter of fun, in a very very light-hearted manner about *swadeshi*. I am sorry that is not the way *swadeshi* should be looked at. It is a matter of no shame for this Government that the bedrock of our economic policies will be *swadeshi* and *swadeshi* is exactly what hon. Member after hon. Member in this House has articulated. *Swadeshi* is defending, protecting and safeguarding our national interests.

People have talked about foreign investment. Now it is a very unfortunate development of the last few years, not that foreign investment has started to come in, but the fact that foreign investment has become the sum total of the economic discussion in this country. Wherever you talk about economic policy, you go to a TV debate, you talk to the media, if we discuss it in Parliament, everywhere, the emphasis is : are we for or against foreign investment; are we for or against multinationals?

I hope that the hon. Members, Sir, are aware that foreign investment at the best of times has played only a marginal role in our economy. Over a period of time, it has been less than two per cent of the total investment which has been made in this country.

If according to the latest data which is available with me, if 26 per cent of the investible fund came from our domestic savings, then only a little over one per cent came through foreign investment. Now should that be the central theme, the central point of our discussion and economic policy parameters should be judged only on that one point? Foreign investment, I have absolutely no hesitation in stating on behalf of my Government, is welcome. But foreign investment in India is welcome in certain areas which we call priority areas which include the infrastructure. And we are not interested in foreign investment in areas where we do not need foreign investment, where we do not need foreign technology, where there is no need for such foreign investment, where the foreign investor is not coming for our good. He is coming to this country or wanting to come to this country only for his own profit.

We have the entire society. Much has been said here about the poor people of this country. Do we want to create a society which is based on such utter disparities, that we will not be able to control the social tensions which will arise as a result of those disparities? Do we want to create islands of prosperity based on such consumerism which the rest of the people of this country will not tolerate? And then the walls around the residences of the affluent will go higher and a little more high and a little more high. Ultimately, they will all be

demolished because the poor people of this country are not prepared to tolerate the kind of affluence when they themselves are living in such apathy, in such poverty. We have to remember that this country can ill afford policies of that kind.

And if I have, my Government and its policies have a slight difference of opinion with the policies followed by the previous Government, the Congress Party when it was in power or by the United Front Government supported by the Congress Party when they were in power, it is only about not making foreign investment the central theme of our economic policy. It has a role to play. We will allow it to play that role but the sum total of economic policy is far more, is far greater than that and any economic policy of any Government which does not bother about the poor people of this country, which does not take into account the rural economy of this country, is not worth the paper. That policy is written upon. Therefore, Sir, let me make it very clear that we shall ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Hon. Minister, will you hear me? Sir, the Congress Government has not made foreign investment its central policy. We wanted foreign investment in order to strengthen our industry because alongwith investment, we wanted technology also to come, so that our industry is sustained. To say 'the central theme of our foreign investment only' is not correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has yielded to him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The results of the policies which have been followed during the last seven years when the process of liberalisation and economic reforms were initiated, are for everybody to see.

Unfortunately, I do not have the time to go into the details. The demand for level playing field by the Indian industry has arisen not from our Party, not from the Parties which are in Government today; it has been raised by the Indian industry. I am not saying that we believe in the level playing field also. But I have said and I would like to say on the floor of this House that this Government shall not accord to the foreign investors any privilege or any concession which is not available to the Indian industry. That is our policy. Therefore, it is important that we give preference to the domestic savings of 26 per cent. We have said it in our National Agenda for Governance. The Rashtrapatiji has said that in his Address to both the Houses of Parliament. We want to take it to 30 per cent in the next five years.

Domestic savings would be increased from 26 per cent to 30 per cent, and if we raise it by two per cent, then look at what we can achieve. Instead

of depending on that one per cent of foreign investment for which we have to be prepared to spend so much time and energy, we will welcome foreign investment. We will define what exactly we mean by priority and non-priority. We will define the policy in such a transparent way that nobody will be in doubt either within the country or outside the country. I promise on behalf of my Government to this House that we shall set up a completely hassle free regime for foreign investment as for domestic investment.

You know what has happened to the fast track power projects. Eight fast track power projects were taken up in this country. The proposals were invited. Those proposals have not been moved for seven years despite the fast track. What kind of fast track projects are they? I am unable to understand. If it was not track at all, where is the question of fast or slow? Now, we have to get rid of such a mind set.

I entirely agree with you that these procedures have to be simplified. I promise you that that is exactly the area we are looking at and we will make sure that investor confidence is restored both for the domestic as well as for the foreign investor by our actions, not merely by our words. But I can promise that this confidence of the Indian investor and the foreign investor in India will be restored and for that reason I agree entirely with the suggestion which has been made here that we have to look at the small investor. The small investor has burnt his fingers a number of times. He has been cheated; he has lost his money. It will be the concern of our Government to make sure that we build a system in this country by which nobody and absolutely nobody will be able to cheat the small investor and his investment will be protected.

Sir, a number of points have been made. I unfortunately, do not have the time to go into all of them...*(Interruptions)*. We are running against time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You write to the Members.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I plead with the Members to bear with me. I have taken note of all the points which have been made. There are some individual points. Shri Banatwalla has raised a point about the Indira Gandhi Open University. There are certain procedural problems. I will explain to Shri Banatwalla what those procedural problems are.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, some hon. Members have raised very valid points. So, you can write to them individually separately.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will write to them. I would just make one general observation. Some issues have been raised here by Members who unfortunately are not present in the House at this point of time.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

I would like to clear the position of my Government on that point and that is some talk about some scams and some scandals. I would like to say that neither the Finance Ministry nor this Government is interested in giving protection to anyone. If a former Prime Minister of this country can be investigated and chargesheeted, I believe we have reached a stage in our democracy where nobody is above the law and nobody absolutely is above the law.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Does it include Shri Sukh Ram? There are charges against him...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : What about Shri Jyoti Basu? There are some allegations against him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : For twenty years you have been making only allegations. Not a single thing is proved...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will conclude now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, therefore, I would like to assure the House that we are not interested in protecting anybody. As the famous words are "The law shall take its own course" and we shall see to it that the law takes its own course.

Sir, with these words I conclude my speech and I will request the Members to pass this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : The fund of Rs. one crore supposed to be given to Members of Parliament should be made available.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : We cannot discuss all those things which have been said here. It is the House which has to decide about it. Surendra Yadavji has said so many things, I do not want to give a reply here. I just want to say that the manner in which he and his party has improved the condition of State of Bihar we cannot improve conditions of other States in that way...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1998-99 to vote of the House.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1999 in respect of the

heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 28, 30, 31, 33 to 61, 63 to 93, 95, 96, 98 to 103".

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is :

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1998 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof — Demand Nos. 1 to 7, 9 to 16, 18 to 23, 26, 28, 32 to 38, 40 to 52, 54 to 60, 62, 63, 65 to 72, 74, 75, 77 to 86, 88 to 90, 92, 94, 95 and 97 to 101".

The motion was adopted.

21.25 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26.3.98.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What notice have you given?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have a very small point. Sir, the city of Calcutta has been downgraded. Both Delhi and Mumbai have been declared as A-1 cities.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North East): We had raised that demand long ago.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have also made it. The West Bengal Assembly...(Interruptions) He may please take his seat...(Interruptions) I am on my legs...(Interruptions) He may please take his seat...(Interruptions) Why is he interrupting?

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Mr. Chairman, I object to this. He can tell his Chief Minister to take his seat...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given notice. He has the right to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have given notice. I have every right to speak. I am on my legs...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Would he give order?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he is interrupting.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ajit Kumar Panja, you are such a senior Member. He is also a senior Member. Why are you interrupting?... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Would he give order?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given notice. He has the right to speak.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : Sir, let him speak. He cannot order...(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are already late. For heaven's sake, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He cannot interrupt.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : He is repeating our demand...(Interruptions).

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : He is a senior Member, but he is in the company of juniors...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The cities of Delhi and Mumbai have been declared as A-1. As a result, the Central Government employees of Calcutta are getting 15 per cent HRA, House Rent Allowance. The West Bengal Assembly only three days back has adopted a unanimous resolution to declare the city of Calcutta as A-1, like Delhi and Mumbai. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has written a number of letters to the Government of India to declare city of Calcutta as A-1 city. The Central Government employees are also demanding that the city of Calcutta should be declared as A-1. So, I urge upon the Finance Minister to take a decision in regard to declaring the city of Calcutta as A-1 with immediate effect. I want a categorical reply from the Finance Minister.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Sir, I represent Calcutta. Shall I say something?

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is a procedure here. He had given notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I had given notice. Only I have the right to speak...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nobody else should speak.

The hon. Minister may now move for the consideration of the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I have taken note of the point which has been made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You have taken only note, no action.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, The Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

21.30 hrs.

APPROPRIATION BILL, 1998*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up Appropriation Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 26.3.98.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move : ©

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1997-98 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Schedule 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand Part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

21.33 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1998

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Finance Bill, 1998 be taken into consideration.

© Moved with the recommendation of the President.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move* :

"That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 1998-99, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

21.37 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
DISAPPROVAL OF CONTINGENCY FUND OF
INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1997

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
DISAPPROVAL OF CONTINGENCY FUND OF
INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1998

AND

CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA
(AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up item nos. 18A, 18B and 19 together for discussion.

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy - not present. Shri G.M. Banatwalla, are you moving?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Yes, Sir. I will move and I will say a few words.

Sir, I beg to move the following resolutions :

"That this House disapproves of the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 30 of 1997) promulgated by the President on December 26, 1997."

"That this House disapproves of the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 4 of 1998) promulgated by the President on January 24, 1998."

Sir, I will be very brief because I am not opposed to the measure of increasing the corpus of the Contingency Fund. That is not the point. That was needed and that ought to have been done. The only point that I want to make is about the use of the power to issue Ordinances. That Government is not a good Government that resorts to using more and more the power of Ordinances and has legislation through Ordinances. In this case especially when the question of the power and control over finances of this House is concerned, I beg to submit, that issuing an ordinance on such an important thing is against the democratic norms.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the power of the Parliament to control finance is at the basis of Parliamentary democracy. History stands testimony to the fact that a long struggle has been waged for Parliamentary democracy to acquire this power which is called the financial control, the control over finances.

Here, in our own country, before Independence, in the colonial period, this war or battle was there for parliamentary democracy, to have proper control over finances. The Parliament's control was very much there. You will find that even in the Imperial Legislative Assembly, cut motions were at times not allowed to be moved and at times when they were moved, they were not even put to vote. We, therefore, have a long gradual history into which I do not go of how parliamentary democracy has been strengthened through strengthening of its control over the finances.

Now, here, we have two Ordinances. As a result of the first Ordinance, the corpus of the Contingency Fund was raised from Rs. 50 crore to a sum of Rs. 14,700 crore. Thousands of crores of rupees were added to the corpus of the Contingency Fund and then withdrawn. That is why, we have put

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

supplementary Demands for Grants over here. This is bypassing the Parliament. Through a second Ordinance, Rs. 17,790 crores were additionally provided for, and a corpus of Rs. 50 crore, through an Ordinance and without consulting the Parliament, was raised up to Rs. 32,490 crore. Now, I know that the Parliament was dissolved on the 4th of December.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister was not responding to this. Anyway, please conclude now.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Therefore, the question of consulting the Parliament did not come. The election expenses had to be provided for. I know this, but then we had the Chandra Shekhar's Government. At that particular time, we had a precedence. The present Finance Minister himself was the Finance Minister at that particular time, and then an emergency had come. Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government had collapsed. But here we were all prepared to cooperate and you yourself came to power — a commendable thing I say. You yourself came to the Parliament before dissolving the Parliament so that the Vote-on-Account can be passed, so that Supplementary Demands for Grants can be passed and so that no particular problem comes up.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah) : It is a matter of 100 crore people of the country and the budget is prepared accordingly. Therefore time should not be wasted on this topic.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : If you cannot understand then what can I say. But I want to say one important thing regarding procedure that this should not be repeated in future. There was one opportunity...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Shri Banatwalla can be brief...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is moving a Statutory Resolution.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There was another occasion. In the year 1972, an Ordinance was promulgated to raise the corpus like that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : But it was criticised severely in the House — the veteran Jyotirmoy Basu criticised it and the veteran Pilloo Modi called it a highway robbery to go on with an Ordinance.

Today, we have to pass it because now you are brandishing a sword in the air. A *fait accompli* has been given to us. But please do not do that. It detracts from the democratic norms. It is detrimental to parliamentary democracy. It sets the clock back and there is a loss of the important element of parliamentary democracy. When an emergency comes up, the House is there always to cooperate and with the cooperation of the House, the things must be done and not through Ordinances. That is the point that I want to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997 (No. 30 of 1997) promulgated by the President on December 26, 1997."

"That this House disapproves of the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 (No. 4 of 1998) promulgated by the President on January 24, 1998."

...(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. You should know that he has moved a Statutory Resolution. I cannot restrict that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The hon. Member has raised a very important constitutional point which is very valid in a democratic set up. I am merely trying to regularise, as the hon. House knows, something which was done by the previous Government. They had passed an Ordinance and this Ordinance has to be approved by this House. If it had not been for exceptional circumstances, I would not have come to this House to get this Ordinance passed. The exceptional circumstance was that the 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved on the 4th December. The size of the Contingency Fund was Rs. 50 crore. It had to be raised in order to accommodate a very essential Government expenditure; including Defence expenditure and, that is why, it had to be done. Therefore, I agreed to bring this regularisation before this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I will take up the Statutory Resolutions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Shri G.M. Banatwalla may like to withdraw his Statutory Resolutions.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I said that I am opposed to the procedure. I am only making this request that this undemocratic procedure should not be followed. I hope that this will be accepted by the Government and I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my Statutory Resolutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolutions moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla be withdrawn?

The Resolutions were, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Thank you, Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister may kindly move the Bill.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move*.

"That the Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950 be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now there is nothing left in today's Agenda. Best of luck for the Finance Minister!

21.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 27, 1998/Chaitra 6, 1920 (Saka).