[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the situation where the students who are selected for admission into First Class under category III into the Central Schools could not be admitted because of the inordinate delay that is taking place in according approval for admission from the Government of India. In nearly 300 Central Schools this situation is prevailing because of which several thousands of children could not be admitted and their parents are suffering a lot of agony. Therefore, I request the Minister of Human Resources Development to look into the matter and accord necessary approval for admission of the students into First Class under Category III and decentralise the procedure so that such type of inordinate delay does not take place in future.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the Planning Commission that the long coastal line of Tamil Nadu has become more sensitive border equal to the sensitiveness of he Himalayan area. We request the Planning Commission to include the Sethu Samundram Project in the Eighth Plan in view of its importance from of the defence as well as from navigational point of view. It is the wish of the Tamil Nadu people that Sethu Samundram Project should be included in the Eighth Plan.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as reported in the newspapers the heroic brave people of Sovit Union have restored the democracy. I request that unanimously this House, the largest democracy in the World, should congratulate the people of the Soviet Union for restoring democracy and goodwill to the Soviet Leader, Shri Mikhail Gorbachev.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, the House should convey our greetings on behalf of the people of India to the people of Soviet Union and President Shri Mikhail Gorbachev on their victory against undemocratic forces.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: We also condemn the forces which were supporting the people who have brought in the coup...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are on a different point, Mr. Bhakta. Yes, Jaswant Singh Ji....

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Bhartiya Janata Party and I personally hail the defeat of the undemocratic croup in the USSR. We further hail the restoration of the authority of the Soviet Parliament and the restitution to office of President Gorbachev. This is a momentous development. It is a development in the correct direction and it is of much greater global importance than the orginal Revolution of Perestroika and Glasnost. It is the will of the Soviet people that has triumphed. We hail the democratic spirit and the commitmerit of all men and women of the USSR to democracy. We greet them in this hour of their great triumph and the triumph of democracy.

The moral and physical courage of all those thousands that stood on the barricades led by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin is a very moving saga....(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I will say.....

(Interruptions).

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will conclude, Sir, but I have to make my observations on this momentous event...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Well, this is welcome and you are welcominn hut...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But while welcoming, I have to make my observations and place them on record, Sir. While obviously not commenting on the discomfiture of my friends in the CPI(M). I do not wish to say....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, the occasion is being spoiled by my friend. Why is he unnecessarily trying to have a dig at us?. We have our commitments. We also greet the people of USSR. We know that the wish of the people has triumphed. People wanted

this and they have got it. But this is not the way, Sir... (*Interruptions*). A very good friend of mine is talking of democracy and the triumph of the people in Soviet Russia but what he is and his party is doing for the people of this country, let us not forget that...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, this is the unanimous opinion of the House from all sides. Let us do it with grace...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please Lokanathji...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Momentous events are taking place. Let us be very very careful in saying and let us do it in such a fashion that we do not enter into controversy in the House...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I proceed further, Sir. I, however, wish to say that the conduct of our policy by the Government of India on as vital an issue as Indo-Soviet relations, marked by the statement that was made by the hon. Minister of External Affairs can only be categorised as blinkered with timidity and ineptitude. This statement itself which is on record of the Parliament...(*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER: He has started the debate, Sir,

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am making my observations. I welcome the transformation that has taken place...(*Interruptions*). I welcome the transformation that has taken place in the Congress benches...(*Interruptions*). The Government responded to a situation of grave importance. Indo-Soviet relations were involved and the Government did respond with ineptitude blinkered with timidity. It responded in a situation where it appeared that the Government's response was grooved in yesterday's cliches. We have there on record not just that statement but an observation by the Prime Minister, filled with the unnecessary homilies, that reformists must be careful. It is reported in the newspapers that our Ambassador in Moscow has made some observations on the coup that took place. Now, if these observations are correct as they are reported.....

MR. SPEAKER: Well, Jaswant Singhji, this is a very very delicate issue.....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: That is why I am raising it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am not yielding. Let me conclude. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am only requesting Shri Jaswant Singh to conclude.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If the reports appearing about what our Ambassador in Moscow has said are correct, then that is inefficient and insufficient information being handled ineptly. If they are correct, then the Government must make amends immediately, because what is involved are Indo-Soviet relations. If it is incorrect, then, yet again, the Government must make amends immediately because what is involved are Indo-Soviet relations.

MR. SPEAKER: Jaswant Singhji, these are very very delicate matters. Do not jump to conclusions.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am not jumping to conclusions. I am saying both. If they are correct, then one conclusion follows and if they are incorrect, then another conclusion follows. I demand that the Government must come forward with a statement on the issue. Either way the Government must come forward with an authoritative statement inside the House and not comment on these events outside the premises of Parliament. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri George Fernandes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, please allow me. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me handle it. I will allow you. I will allow Buta Singhji.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I am very sure that all of us understand the delicacy and the intricacy and the momentousness of

the events that are taking place. My only request to the hon. Members is to put the facts in a correct perspective so that our foreign policy becomes an instrument for creating conducive conditions throughout the world. Yes, Shri George Fernandes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge this House to congratulate the brave people of Soviet Union for the commendable role they played during the hour of crisis when dictatorship was being thrust upon them. ....*(Interruptions)*.....

MR. SPEAKER; Sir, I would also like to state that whatever we witnessed in the last 48 hours in Russia, it proves that in today's world, if somebody attempts at destroying the individual's freedom or the citizen's freedom, he would not succeed in his endeavour. I do not want to enter into any argument nor do I wish to initiate any discussion yet I regret to point out that our Government should have been aware that the changes brought about by Gorbachov were basic and radical and were liked by the people there very much. We had thought that like our country there was politica of courtiers (Darbari Politics) in Soviet Union also.....*(Interruptions)*..... What we have experienced and seen is that the democracy of Russia is not confined to Courtiers only. In Soviet Union there is democracy of the people in true sense and the people of Russia succeeded in foiling the sinister designs of those who attempted to bring dictatorship in the country.....*(Interruptions)*..... The Minister of External Affairs is present in the House. I was present on the day he made a statement in this House. I want to interrupt him at that time but the delicacy, to which you referred just now.....

MR. SPEAKER: I still maintain it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree that there is any delicacy in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us wait.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is no delicacy when people are standing on the barricades.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no delicacy in it. Gorbachov was an elected leader and an attempt was made to overthrow an elected leader. It was the duty of the Government to support Gorbachov ort behalf of people of the country who have always championed the cause of human rights.....*(Interruptions)*..... Had our Government tried a bit to understand the power of Boris Yeltsin, Russia and the Russian Republic, we would have saved ourselves from this embarrassing situation before the people of Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those people who supported the people of Soviet Union despite the changed attitude of our Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to congratulate Shri Gorbachov, Mr. Boris Yeltsin and the people of Russia on behalf of the country.....*(Interruptions)*.....

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, it has been proved again that the people are the only determining force of the developments of history and nothing sustains against the will of the people. We wish well for the people of Soviet Union. It is very good that bloodshed has been averted and we, the people of Third World Countries, look forward to the Soviet Union to help the struggles in these countries as they did before. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't have any cross talking.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, we have always the best relationship with the USSR and our country definitely wants to continue it. There is no doubt about it. As far as that is concerned, Sir, we are afraid that American imperialism is getting strengthened, but then I do not want to pass any judgment. I only wish that in their wisdom the Soviet people will emerge victorious and the destiny of the Third World countries will be fully protected.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a few days back the developments in

Soviet Russia have perturbed crores of people throughout the world.

Sir Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev is not only the President of the USSR, but he is a person who is loved among several countries, the peace-loving people, and he has almost become a symbol of peace and the recent historic Agreement with George Bush has raised several hopes among several countries regarding the future of the world.

Sir, we are very happy and we join along with you and all our colleagues in congratulating the people of Soviet Russia in bringing back Mr. Gorbachov as President, and ultimately they have proved that the people in Soviet Russia have really taken to Glasnost and Perestroika, which has been initiated by Comrade Gorbachov for the first time in the history of the Communist World.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has taken place in the Soviet Union is momentous and epoch-making, and this whole process has started. But I share your view that the matter is still delicate. It is delicate in the sense that the development in the Soviet Union is still their internal affair. We have so far good relationship with the Soviet Union. And no doubt Soviet Union's contribution to Third World countries to keep their independent economy is innumerable. But, when the matter is unleashing itself at this stage, we also know that any attempt to take power by coup is condemnable. The American imperialism has intervened in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that it is a delicate matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It applies to both the sides.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, I am saying about the American imperialism and especially the role of Mr. George Bush. At the time when the Soviet people were to decide their fate, the intervention of any Government in any quarters in the internal affairs of a country is also condemnable. We should express that also. We, no doubt, think that the Soviet people would emerge ahead and their collective will will work. But, at the same time, we must also take into consideration the negative developments that are taking place in the world. That is why the Government of India giving any opinion at this stage will be delicate and we will have to watch till the condition is stabilised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a momentous development; there is no doubt about it. But the sovereign people of the Soviet Union have got the inalienable right and ultimate authority to choose their own way of life, to fashion their own economic policy and to formulate their own foreign relations. They are independent, they are sovereign and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is the party of the people of the Soviet land. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union has got its own policy and programmes. On the basis of the support of the membership and the general people, they have taken up their policy and programmes. We have got no right to interfere in that. Every political party has got the right to formulate its own policy and programme of action. I feel the CPSU, at this particular momentous period, will take the right direction and bring about political stability in the Soviet Union. So far as Indo-Soviet relations are concerned, the people of India, for ages together have been nursing the friendship between the two great people. I think the Government of India would continue that policy which it has been pursuing for so long and the people of India will be happy to see that the Government of India do not depart from that policy.

Sir, I hope, I believe, I trust and I am convinced that the Soviet people who have got the revolutionary legacy would continue to struggle for the re-establishment of socialism in Soviet Union and for peace and democracy in the world.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jallore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern expressed by all the parties on the development in Soviet Union is something very natural. I urge that instead of discussing this issue by rising above party lines, the leader of the House should express his views on

behalf of the Government and Congress Party. As mentioned by Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, I would request you to bring forward a resolution welcoming the restoration of democracy in Russia on behalf of the entire House. Because India is a pioneer of world peace and Shri Gorbachov and Shri Rajiv Gandhi had worked together for achieving world peace..... *(Interruptions)*..... When Rajiv Gandhi started his journey of world peace to bring the Gulf war to an end, his first stop-over was Moscow and his first deliberation was with Mr. Gorbachov.

The historic treaty signed between Gorbachov and President Bush, recently, can successfully be implemented when there is democracy in Soviet Union. For this we all pray to the almighty, that there be stability and democracy in the Soviet Union.

The age old friendship between India and Soviet Union should continue. Such a resolution should be brought by the leader of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Hon. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that this is a momentous event not only in the life of a great nation, the Soviet Union, but I think in the historical course perspective for the democratic aspirations of people all over the world. The ups and downs, the tragedy and triumph that have accompanied it are all part of history, I would say that not serene generations but times of tumult and turmoil have always been the creative epochs of history.

We do not need any homilies on Indo-Soviet friendship. Permit me to recount that it was the architect of the Indian nation, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who laid the solid foundations of Indo-Soviet friendship. For all these years, it is a matter of record that these relations have found support from all quarters in this country, though there have been some people who, in their own logic, thought that we were going a bit too far in our friendship with the Soviet Union. But as it has been said time and again, this friendship has not been forged for applause from the gallery, this friendship has not been forged for or against anybody, this friendship has been forged in the crucible of time in the interest of the great Soviet people and in the interest of the great people of India.

Therefore, I not only join but I rejoice with the people of the Soviet Union who have once again established their supremacy in whatever they want to do in their country.

If the Hon'ble Foreign Minister was reticent the other day, it was not that on our part, there was anything wanting in our commitment to the expanding horizons of democracy. That was a diplomatic reticence and, I think all those in this House who have, at one time or the other sat on the treasury benches, would very well know. I do not want to cite any example and I do not want to pick any excuse against anyone.

I would like to say that so far as the reported statement of the Ambassador to USSR is concerned, I have seen that press report. It has been quoted from somebodyelse who has quoted the Ambassador. It will be in fairness of things that the Foreign Ministry should be allowed to ascertain as to exactly what are the facts of the case. If it had been a direct quote from the Ambassador, it would have been quite a different thing. Somebodyelse is reported to have quoted the Ambassador as having said that.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, we do not rely on that.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: But that has been referred here.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right in saying that. But we do not rely on that.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR (Gopalganj): Shri Shankar Dayal Singh has just come from Moscow. He told me that he had discussions with the Indian Ambassador.

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is a private conversation and this is a delicate matter. I will look into it and I will take a proper decision.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The Hon'ble Foreign Minister will ascertain the facts and he will come to the House because it is not, as I said, a question of expediency or convenience. Indo-Soviet relations and friendship are based on solid foundations. They are not only of mutual interest but have also been instrumental for preserving the peace and tranquility all over the world and to stand up against anyone whenever peace is threatened, democracy is threatened, well-being of the weaker nations is threatened. When the poor people around the country or in the world face an adverse, a situation, somebody has to speak up for them. At least, the last 40 years have proved that it is the bedrock of Indo-Soviet friendship which has emboldened millions of people around the globe to stand up against imperialism and fight for their rights irrespective of the risk involved. I would, therefore, associate this Government and our Party with the triumph of democracy in the Soviet Union.

We wish President Gorbachev all well who has boldly charted the course of his own country for the fulfilment of whatever aspirations the Soviet people have. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the Members have expressed their views. All the Members of the House would like to have the facts in an authentic manner which may please be given by the Foreign Minister. He was asked to ascertain the facts and give them to the House. The same is being done now also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: No, Sir. I am sorry. This is the unanimous view of this House that at least we should send greetings to the people of Soviet Union and to the Government there. Please send our greetings on behalf of the Parliament...*(Interruptions)* Please send our greetings on behalf of this Parliament in the larger interest of Indo-Soviet friendship and peace. Everybody has agreed on this issue. Let us at least convey the feelings of this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Shri Thangkabalu, please take your seat. Please don't come to the conclusion that the Members of the House have different views. But at the same time, you know, that we got the information two days back. You also know, the facts today are different.

Allow me to discuss the same thing with you in the Chamber and then take a correct decision. Please do not come to the conclusion as I do not decide like this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But the facts must come from the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly correct. He was asked not to comment but to give the facts. I am doing the same thing now also.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. The Railway Protection Force had an Association for 13 long years from 1973 to 1985 and the permission to the Association was withdrawn in 1985. Now, the Railway Protection Force has been agitating for a very long time to form an Association. Yesterday, Shri Harish Rawat, former Member of Parliament, had staged a *dharna* before the House of the Railway Minister. Those who took part in the *dharna* were taken away to the Police Station and were detained. This is a matter which has the consent of the House also. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation in its report has already given a view that that order and that Act, by which this Association has been withdrawn, should be rescinded. I would like to urge upon the Railway Minister to take up the issue once again and restore the right of forming the Association of the Railway Protection Force. The Leader of the House should react.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be Laid.

(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND