

12⁵⁴ hrsMOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Covid

[English]

MR SPEAKER Now we shall take up discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav to speak

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (NALANDA) Mr Speaker, Sir while moving the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address Shri Buta Singh traced the history of past 10 years There has been Congress Government since Independence and that Government has been the Government of failures The Congress Government in spite of well intended announcements has failed to solve the basic problems and that is why it has been plagued by problems like poverty unemployment inflation and communalism The Previous Address is just like a mirror which reflects the policies of the Government But this time it has failed to mention the way electoral process has been ruthlessly attacked and maligned People have lost faith in the electoral process

Mr Speaker Sir you may be aware that the electoral process has not yet been completed in the country The Election Commission has not functioned as an impartial body but in a most biased manner as if it was an agent of a particular Party Even today the result of Munger Constituency in Bihar has not been announced The counting is over and as the candidate of Communist Party is leading by 93 000 votes the results have been withheld and hearing after hearing is continuing We don't know what they want to arrive at Similarly the election of Patna Constituency has been countermanded Result was withheld after election Counting was stopped half way and the candidate had to say that the Election Commissioner has acted out of vendetta When he was foreign Minister he had ordered the transfer of that officer

and now when the latter got an opportunity he has misused his office Now a days there are frequent polling and countermanding and results are not announced despite counting It is most unfortunate and the Government should come out with a clear cut stand on electoral reforms

So far the people believed that Election machinery was independent but it is for the first time that the faith of the people has been shattered We hope that

(Interruptions)

SHRI VITAS MUTTEMWAR (CHIMUR) Are you speaking about Bihar ? (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV I am speaking for whole of India
(Interruptions)

SHRI VITAS MUTTEMWAR These incidents do not take place any part of the country except Bihar and West Bengal
(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV That is why ? I want to submit that a comprehensive policy should be formulated in this regard

The policy should define the powers of the Election Commissioner so that he could not act in an arbitrary or dictatorial manner

There is a mention of social justice in the President's Address but there is no mention of the burning issue before the Government i.e. Mandal Commission It is said that priority will be given to the poor among the economically backwards It is also said that provision would be made for those who are not covered under the Mandal Commission that is the so called economically backward among the high castes If such a provision is made it would be good but there is no mention of it in the President's Address Provision of fifty per cent reservation can be made at the most out of which 27 per cent is given to backward classes and those who are educationally and socially backward No reservation quota is left

13.00 hrs.

If their intention was good about the implementation of Mandal Commission report, it would have figured in the President's Address. They would have indicated that a Constitution Amendment Bill would be brought forward to raise the limit of 50 per cent reservation. But there is no mention of it in the President's Address. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav, how long will you take to finish.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Sir, I want 10 minutes more. I want to speak on 2-3 important points.

MR. SPEAKER : Then you can speak after Lunch.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Alright, Sir.

13.01 hrs.

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

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock (Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya in the Chair)

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Vijay Kumar Yadav to continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (NALANDA) : Ma'am, social justice, the report of the Mandal Commission and reservation are not only constitutional obligations but also social obligations. These are the issues concerning the future of nearly 50 crore people of this country. The Congress Government can be held guilty for a triple murder. In 1952 the report of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission was shelved in 1980 the report of the Mandal Commission was shelved and

now the Presidential Address seeks to suppress it further. The coming generations, particularly people of the exploited classes, will never forgive the Congress for this.

Madam, the recent verdict by the Court clearly shows that the Government has not clarified its position in this matter. What is the meaning of economic basis? Which is discussed above? The Mandal Commission had also taken the economic basis into consideration but in the Constitution, greater emphasis has been laid on the social and educational aspects and because of that the economic aspect has been added and criteria has been laid down. If the economic aspect is taken into account, of the 52 per cent population of backward castes in the country only 4 per cent are there in the Central Services. If the economic aspect is considered, the existing social inequality will remain. Our country is not like a European country because our society is divided on the basis of castes. So I request the hon. Minister to explain in his reply as to what do they mean by economic basis merely inclusion in the election manifesto will not serve the purpose.

In these times of economic crisis, Madam, the previous Government which was a caretaker Government, sold some of the gold belonging to the country. Even before seeking the confidence, this Government mortgaged the country's gold to foreign countries. There was talk of seeking a loan from the I.M.F. but the people and representatives of the people and the House were not taken into confidence about the terms and conditions of the loans. What is the situation today? We are in the midst of a grave economic crisis and solutions are being found to tide over this crisis. The latest Railway Budget proposes an increase in second-class fares and freight rates and in the forthcoming General Budget also we expect an additional burden of taxes on the common man. Madam, the Government has refused to disclose the conditions attached to the I.M.F. loan. In other countries where the I.M.F. has given

loans, its conditions were such that these countries were forced to mortgage their freedom.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA-BUNDI) : Madam there is no Minister of Cabinet rank in the House (*Interruptions*). How the points referred to in the speeches will be replies to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) : We do have some brains. We can keep it in mind. There is some misunderstanding. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : There is no misunderstanding. This is a rule. According to the traditions of the House, at least one Minister of Cabinet rank must be present at all times (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN You have made your point Please sit down

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV Madam, the conditions attached to I. M. F. loans are universally known. There is talk of seeking a loan from the I. M. F. It is also being said that conditions will be finalised keeping in mind the country's prestige and self-respect. It is quite the opposite of I. M. F. history. The conditions attached to I. M. F. loans usually aim at an increase in direct taxes, reduction in subsidies on articles of common use doing away with the public sector, restrictions on monopoly industrial houses, increase in the rates of interest charged by banks, liberalisation of imports and increase in the administrative prices of essential commodities. All these conditions will be accepted in this period of economic crisis. The common man is

burdened by taxes and such a state of affairs is detrimental for the country. The West Bengal Government has come up with an alternative economic programme to resolve the crisis. Age-old policies must be abandoned and new policies should be formulated. Among the new steps to be taken are increase in the purchasing power of the common man, enlargening the domestic market, priority to agriculture, industry and land reforms and emphasis on self-reliance. It is a detailed report and I think it should be taken into consideration. A new economic policy must be formulated in consultation with all political parties. Only then can the country be pulled out from the thorns of the present economic crisis. Shri Buta Singh said that he has started a movement against communalism. There was a time when Mahatma Gandhi sacrificed his life for this cause. What about the present-day Congress ? The Congress of today aligns with communal forces. With the help of communal forces the Congress opened the lock of the temple, did the 'Shilanya', 'dislodged the National Front Government and got the speaker's post. Now they are offering the Deputy Speaker's post to the communist elements. The B. J. P. says that it does not want to demolish the mosque but at the same time it says that the temple will be constructed where the mosque stands today. The whole issue is very confusing. Anyway, the issue is not a simple one. Demolition of places of worship of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians would be a destructive step for the country. The separatist elements within the country are gaining the upper hand.. (*Interruptions*). The current political conditions in the country are such that no party can hope to have its Government in all States. The Centre is so dominant that States are not able to achieve economic independence with this dependence of the States on the Centre, the party in power is not able to develop. The States have to bow to policies made by the Centre. State Governments should be given more powers because there is frequent interference by the Centre in the State's affairs through the Governors. The Sarkaria Commission was formed by the

Congress. Till now the Congress Government has not tried to implement its recommendations. There has been mention of a public distribution system. I shall not go into its details. A comprehensive programme is on the anvil.

The programme should include supply of the 15 listed essential commodities in rural areas, adequate supply of items to be distributed through the public distribution system and steps to check black-marketing of such commodities.

For a long time the Congress has supported the concept of workers' participation in management but it is yet to be implemented. Even now there is no indication that they are interested to introduce a legislation in this matter. I think the Congress should seriously consider this issue. A central legislation for farm labour has been under consideration for some time. A time-limit should be fixed for giving farm workers the rights similar to those industrial workers so that a comprehensive law can be made.

The legislation concerning administrative reforms has been pending for a long time. Today the country is not ruled by representatives of the people but by bureaucrats. Until the administrative units at the grass-root level like the Gram Panchayat are not given more powers and bureaucratic interference is not checked the steps taken for mass welfare would remain ineffective.

The Congress makes tall claims in respect of land reforms but people know that the left Governments of West Bengal and Kerala took positive steps towards land reforms. The Congress has not done anything about it. They should make laws to grant powers to those under Ryot and the surplus land arising out of the ceiling on land should be given to poor farmers and labourers. In urban areas people have large areas of land. The Government should take over that land and distribute it among the poor.

Lastly I would like to say that the Chief Election Commissioner should be

dismissed and then arrested for his actions.

With these words I thank you and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Madam, I want to raise a point of order. This has been a great tradition of this House that whenever such an important debate as the Motion of Thanks on President's Address is going on, a Cabinet Minister or the mover of the Resolution is always present. But neither any member of the Cabinet nor even the mover of the Resolution is present in the House. The tradition is that they should always be present. I have seen Ministers running on their toes. The Prime Minister always allots this assignment to a Cabinet Minister. I must tell you that this is an insult to the President that this kind of a thing is being done. You must give a ruling and direct the Government.

AN HON. MEMBER : That shows their scant respect.....

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : But where is the leader of the Opposition ?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Let me point out that we have asked the Cabinet Ministers to come.

The Ministers will be coming any moment now.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : It is not the question of coming. They should always be present. Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is a very important discussion. Please direct their Ministers to be present. Please give a categorical ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The point is already made. It is being taken care of.

AN HON. MEMBER : But you must direct them.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP) : Madam, Chairman, the President's Address is a charter of the policies of the Government. Sixty paragraphs of President's Address point out the situation that is prevailing in the country, particularly the law and order situation. It also points out the deep crisis at the economic front with which we are now engulfed.

Madam, I have been hearing with attention my senior colleagues from the Opposition. I found that they have belittled the President's Address by not giving proper thought to what the President has said. For example, in the morning direction given by Supreme Court in the case of Mandal Commission was raised by Shri Paswan. That is very well there in the President's Address. Therefore, it is but proper on the part of every Member of this House, particularly senior Member like Shri Paswan, to go through the sixty paragraphs of the President's address in minute detail.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATIMI (DARBHANGA) : Where is the Mandal Commission ?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : If you would have gone through the President's Address, You would have found it.

[English]

An explanation was also given by the Leader of the House.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Even that is not mentioned there.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : That may not be according to your liking but it is there.

We had an unprecedented violence in the country in the last two years. Who is responsible for that ? I am not pointing out my finger towards the accused. But, Madam, the President has pointed it out that in the last two years the cult of violence was let loose. Members have been repeatedly accusing the forty years of the previous Government.

I am not giving a free hand to anybody. Who was responsible for the spread of unprecedented communal violence throughout the country in the last two years ? I squarely put the responsibility on the previous Government.

People have been very wise this time and they have not given majority to any party

AN HON MEMBER : Including your party.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Not only Congress Party but to your party also. You were making your kitchen cabinet even before the elections were held.

Recognised Opposition party sought vote under the name of Ram. But Ram has not come though both Ravana and Sita have come. Their number has gone up from two to 117. B.J.P. was expecting to get a clear cut majority. And also the National Front and Left Front were confident that the Mandal Commission's recommendations which created havoc in the country, will bring them back with an absolute majority and that they will get 400 seats. Therefore, they are also fixed according to their size and we were also expecting a majority. Anyway, I am not going to raise any controversial matter. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA (CUTTACK) : If Shri Rajiv Gandhi would not have been assassinated, then your picture would have been different.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (BULDANA) : If Shri V. P. Singh would not have been there, do you want to say that, you would have been here ?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : The President has also mentioned in his Address that the country is passing through a crucial period and everyone of us has got an added responsibility. When the BIP was asked to form the Government, they were not prepared to do so. When the Left Parties were asked to form the Government, they were not prepared to do

so. And when the Janata Dal was asked to form the Government, they were also not prepared to form the Government and therefore, the President had asked the Congress Party to form the Government. We were not in majority, therefore, we did not form the Government. The other day, Shri Indrajit Gupta, a senior Member, said that if we again go back to the people, we will be received by them with chappals. That is the situation.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Do you agree with this ?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Yes. The Prime Minister took the earliest opportunity to take the co-operation of all the parties, particularly, in the economic front, which was in a mess and still is in a mess. Therefore, even before the devaluation, he acquainted with the Leaders and took them into confidence. There are certain matters which the Prime Minister himself had said that he may not be in a position to part with those information. That apart, he was honestly seeking the co-operation from the Opposition.

The first step we took after the constitution of the Tenth Lok Sabha was the election of the Speaker. The established convention is the ruling party Member is elected to the Office of the Speaker. There, unfortunately, the Left Front and the National Front, had not co-operated to honour the established convention, to elect unanimously a member from the ruling party as Speaker.

Now, the Left Parties and the National Front wanted to capitalise this opportunity for gaining something, and ultimately, the Speaker was elected unanimously. They are conveniently forgetting—Shri V. P. Singh and the Left Parties—this established convention.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE : Did you follow that convention in the Eighth Lok Sabha ? What about the Ninth Lok Sabha ?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Shri Shivraj Patil was elected as Deputy Speaker in

the Ninth Lok Sabha because we were recognised as the major Opposition Party.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE : In the Eighth Lok Sabha, you gave the post of Deputy Speaker to the AIADMK, when the TDP was there.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : It was an established convention. We had genuine differences with the BJP. But we will definitely be seeking the co-operation from all the parties for solving the national problems.

We have genuine differences on many matters. But to uphold the dignity of this House, to uphold the convention established in this House, we would definitely honour any arrangement; whether it is public arrangement or private arrangement. We will see that the honour and dignity of this House and the conventions established in this House are honoured.

SHRI B. VIJAYKUMAR RAJU (NARSAPUR) : You have not followed any convention.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : For the post of Deputy-Speaker, if there is any arrangement, let them say. In U.P., Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, BJP is ruling. They have come to power after winning the elections. Do you denounce that ? Can you do that ? Since they happen to occupy the second place in the House, can you denounce that ? You cannot do that ? According to the convention established in this House, a Member of the second largest party will get the post of Deputy Speaker. I request you to put up with this. It is only to malign the Ruling Party, the Congress Party that they have conveniently forgotten what has happened here.

SHRI B. VIJAYKUMAR RAJU : What is the meaning of the co-operation ?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : He is not yielding.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : I am reminded of a story of an absent-minded Professor. It is like this :

Henry Erskine, Lord Advocate of Scotland towards the close of the eighteenth century, had a tutor who was very absent-minded. So much so that Erskine, who thought a great deal of the old man, was one day flabbergasted to hear him say : "I was very sorry, my dear boy, you have had fever in your family; was it you or your brother who died of it ?" "It was I," Erskine replied "Ah, dear me, I thought so—very sorry for it—every sorry for it" And the old man walked away

You have established a convention. When we are going to uphold it, you have conveniently forgotten that fact. You are taking an advantage politically by maligning us. I don't think people will be befooled like that

My friend, Shri Jawant Singh, while speaking, opposed the formation of the composite action force. In the President's Address, it has been explained in an elaborate manner. There will be a number of Special Courts to dispose of the people expeditiously. Compensation will be paid to the victims of the riots. It has mentioned so many other things. I do not know why he opposed to the composite action force to be established ?

SHRI EBRAHIM SULIAMAN SAIT
(Ponnani) That is minorityism.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : That is there in their mind I am telling to our Left friends that we are very close to them.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE Instead of Left enemies, kindly consider us your Left friends.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : They have taken advantage of the Perestroika in the name of democracy. The global change which Mr. Gorbachev is now trying to bring about, if that aspect at all is going to be taken up by this Government, if they do not support, I do not know who else will support us. (*Interruptions*). We have no quarrel whatsoever with them. Our quarrel is to ameliorate the situation that has been created by the previous Government. Therefore, the President's Ad-

dress has appealed to the Members of Parliament to assess the situation realistically, And so, this new arrangement which has come up after this election succeeds, and will succeed for five years. I, therefore, support the Motion moved by Shri Buta Singh

Some members have complained about the Punjab election being postponed. Because of the Khalistan movement, they said that this election was going to be a referendum. They have already published the posters Several voters and as many as 24 candidates have been annihilated. In such circumstances, where were the chances for free and fair elections? We were not there in it from the beginning. I am not accusing the previous Government

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE You only recommended

SHRI P. M. SAYEED We said that we were going to boycott them. We said that it was not possible to conduct free and fair elections within the Constitution.

One heartening feature was that elections could take place in Assam. The Chandra Shekhar Government considered that the situation had improved and that elections could be conducted peacefully.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE Also in Tripura Give Mr. Santosh Mohan Deb his due. But for him there could not have been an election there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) He got four lakh votes.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : About Jammu and Kashmir, my friend Mr. Jawant Singh's party has situated the whole situation. In the beginning itself the Rubaiya incident was there and later on they were supported by a Governor whom we had from the very beginning opposed who according to our prophecy made a mess of it. He was then given a promotion to the Upper House. That is the situation. Now, what are we to do ? We will have to see that the people who are subscribing to the Constitution of India are encouraged. How are we going to do ? It is for the colles-

tive wisdom of this House to see to it and find a solution for it. Therefore, we all have to raise above party politics.

Shri Jaswant Singh had demanded the deletion of Article 370. Is it realistic ? It is not. But in some other places Article 371 is helpful to them. They are not demanding removal of that Article, because of obvious reasons. Therefore, it is in the interest of the nation that we will have to search our hearts and see to what extent in the given circumstances can we all put our heads together and do something for the betterment of the people in this unprecedented scale of violence and industrial mess on the economic front which the country has never seen before. Therefore, all of us will have to see to whatever extent we can help each other. That is why, the Prime Minister repeatedly said this : "I seek co-operation from all of you." You may have a grudge against the Finance Minister for the way he de-valued the rupee and some of us also have complained. Twice or thrice, by instalments it was done. But at the same time, his intention was pure and therefore, you will have to give him the benefit of doubt, about his intentions.

I have already taken much time and Madam has been ringing the bell. We wholeheartedly support this Motion moved by Shri Buta Singh and I request all our friends to support it and pass the Motion unanimously.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) · Madam Chairman, I rise to oppose the Motion of thanks on the President's Address

Madam Chairman, the President's Address did not reflect the facts. We, on behalf of Telugu Desam Party had expressed deep condolences over the assassination of the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is really a very tragic incident and it will remain as one of the blackest days in the history of India. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a charming personality. And because of his clean image around 1984 added to the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the Congress-(I) party got the largest number of seats in

this House. The subsequent events are a part of the history.

The President's Address has failed to mention one important aspect of violence that had followed the assassination of the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Madam, you might be aware that unfortunate incidents had taken place in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and in several other places. In Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 70 crores worth of property was destroyed. In my own constituency, in a village called Nagaluru, one person by name Mr. Morla Jamalaiah, who was a poor Gowda, was murdered by the Congress (I) people. In Vijayawada, Kambampadu, Jaggayahpetta, Kodapalli, Macherla, Hyderabad, Cherlapalli and in several other places, very large number of commercial establishments belonging to petty traders—cigarette, pawn, soda bunks—were looted they were destroyed and some were burnt. The houses of a large number of people were destroyed including the houses of our MLAs of Macherla and Chilakaluripeta. Even the hospitals were not spared. The Congress (I) Goondas in collusion with anti-social elements raided the hospitals and the inpatients were forced to run actually to save their life. In Hyderabad the twin theatres 'Rama-Krishna', which were having very beautiful art pieces,—really many people from Bombay come to Hyderabad to see those theatres, of course they all belong to our Party leader Shri N.T. Rama Rao—were completely burnt and they were destroyed. Also 'Tarakarama' theatre was destroyed. Madam I am sorry to say that all these things had happened in Hyderabad in the presence of some of the Congress (I) Legislators.

Madam, due to the indifferent attitude of the State Government, our leader Shri N. T. Rama Rao had resorted to silent indefinite fast demanding an inquiry, an impartial inquiry, by a Supreme Court Judge, making available assistance to the victims and also taking stern action on the guilty people who were behind these atrocities. Madam, till today nothing had happened. No inquiry has been ordered so far and no assistance was given even to the petty traders who depend on their daily earning

of about thirty-five or forty rupees for the survival of their families. Not a single rupee was given to them. Unfortunately, the MLAs, against whom police reports are there, are still roaming in the streets and they are still claiming to be the leaders of the Congress Party. Madam, these things have not been mentioned in this President's Address. The Government should immediately look into this matter and take necessary steps to provide necessary assistance to the affected people. In 1988 the disturbances had taken place in Andhra Pradesh following the assassination of one Congress (I) Legislator. Then Govt. had given assistance to the affected people. Similar assistance should be made available to all these victims also and immediate action should be taken against those who are responsible for the disturbances.

In Page 1, Paragraph 5 of the Address it is mentioned :

"The assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has brought into sharp focus the need to arrest the growing cult of violence in the country. The law and order situation in the country has been a cause of great concern for sometime now."

True, it is hundred per cent correct. But as my hon. friend Shri P M. Sayeed, has just now said let us search our hearts to findout who is responsible for this increase in the cult of violence " Who is responsible for the cult of terrorism and violence and extremism, separatism in the State of Punjab ? Who has encouraged Bhindranwale ? Who has brought him to the forefront ? And who has brought violence in Tripura ? Who has supported the TNV people just to get electoral advantage in Tripura. What is mentioned about J & K is a fact. Just now Mr. Sayeed has mentioned about somebody. He remarked about some gentleman who worked as a Governer and later became a Rajya Sabha Member. But have you forgotten conveniently that he is the same person who had pulled down the Government of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and brought in a new Government

headed by Shri G. M. Shah. This violence, unfortunately, is being encouraged for narrow political ends. And the repercussions are quite longer and the people have to pay the price. In Punjab how many thousands of people had lost their lives just for the narrow political ends of the Congress (I) Party at the point of time. Even in our State of Andhra Pradesh democratically elected Rama Rao's Government was thrown out and Bhaskar Rao's Government was brought in and later due to the strong movement of the people, sacrifices by the people again Shri N. T. Rama Rao's Government was restored. You know what you have done. Just through Shri Chandrashekhar's proxy Government you had pushed out Shri Karunanidhi's Government. The people democratically elected DMK Government. At that point of time yourself and the AIADMK party were not having electoral understanding, the DMK Government had come with the votes of the people. How dare did you bring down this Government ? Have you forgotten that ? ..(Interruptions). Just to gain some electoral advantages. You are doing these things. But this makes the people lose confidence in electoral process and in democratic polity itself. That is what I want to impress upon this House.

So, let us search our hearts and let us not resort to such narrow political means and bring undemocratic methods in this country.

Finally it is stated in page 4 that people have to make lot of sacrifices. There is a loud talk that the subsidy on fertilisers is going to be removed. I would like to bring to the notice of this Government that the farmers are very much worried with this statement and with this news. Till now, out of this fertiliser subsidy, 60 per cent is going to the farmers and balance 40 per cent is going to the manufacturers to meet their cost of inefficient production or it is shared by some vested interests. My humble suggestion is, let the Government not take the step to reduce the subsidy that is available to the farmers because farmers are the worst hit. Now, the Government say that the farmers are

the backbone of this country, but unfortunately the ratio of the agricultural income to non-agricultural income is dwindling. In fact, it came down to half.

In fact, it came down to half when compared with 1970-71. Even regarding the loan facilities, the credit facilities, only seventeen per cent has been given to the entire agricultural sector, which is contributing nearly one third to the national economy, but thirty six per cent is going to capitalists, industrialists and the big business people who are contributing only twenty per cent to the national economy. Even the savings of the farmers from the rural areas are siphoned off to the urban areas. So, in these circumstances, I suggest to the Government not to put burden on the farming community.

Finally, I only want to say a word of caution. Now the Government has announced its intention to delicense the industrial sector. Already, unfortunately in the name of modernisation in the name of liberalisation plants were imported from abroad. Almost all the components of the Passenger Cars—Standard 2,000, Maruti 1000, Fiat 118 NE and other cars—were being imported. Even for the washing machines also they were imported thus putting the economy in the whole mess. My friend has said that only 1-1/2 year of the National Front Government or Mr Chandra Shekhar Government is responsible for this. No, it is the result of the wrong economic policies pursued by the Government till all these four decades. That is what I want to bring to the notice of this House.

Now, with your no holds barred, a large number of small industries are going to become sick. Already more than two lakh small industrial units have become sick and several millions of people have been rendered jobless. They have been thrown to the streets. With your new policy, again more millions of people are going to suffer. So, my suggestion and caution to the Government is be very cautious in this approach. Please see that the small industries do not suffer. Give top priority to agriculture which Mahatma

Gandhi had told and which you have conveniently forgotten all these years. Give first priority to agriculture, second priority to small industries and then only to the large and heavy industries. With this new approach only we can overcome the present economic crisis.

I hope the Government will take care of these suggestions.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (TEHRI-GARHWAL.) Madam Chair person, in the President's Address it is stated that "power generation will be stepped up" and that India has a deep commitment to environmental conservation". I wonder whether these two go together where the hills are concerned. I am specially taking up this matter because of the Tehri Dam. Tehri Dam controversy started from the very beginning and it continues to be there even today. I feel that this House has not been fully made aware of the implications of this Tehri Dam and, therefore, I have taken this liberty of presenting our case before this House.

The Tehri Dam, with its height of 260 metres, blocks the flow of two very important rivers—the Bhagirathi and the Bhilangana, creating a lake of forty miles. It is alarming that apart from the destruction of the flora and fauna, it submerges two fertile valleys, and also uproots the people of Tehri town and villages. According to 1981 Census 46,000—and today it may be 70,000—persons will be uprooted from their homeland. I feel that this Dam has been ill conceived and a controversy has naturally, therefore, arisen.

Initially when this controversy took place, a Roy Commission was set up and, in fact, they rejected the scheme on grounds of lack of essential data to determine the safety factor, life of the Dam, rehabilitation and the cost benefit, that is, to ascertain that if cost is 1, then benefit should be 1.5.

Another Committee was set up under the Central Water Commission, but the findings of that Commission can be discounted, because it was primarily made

to sell the project to the Russians, we sold the project to the Russians, and they gave us aid. But that was not a confirmed Report. Another significant thing is that the work was hurried up without the clearance from the Environmental Department. The Comptroller and Auditor General, Shri Chaturvedi, pointed out that when the estimates of the Tehri Dam were sent to the Finance Ministry for revised sanction, no environmental clearance and clearance from Planning Commission existed. Perforce the whole Tehri Dam was sent to the Environmental Appraisal Committee. They interacted with their experts, technocrats and authorities and they came to the unanimous conclusion that the life of the Dam was uncertain due to no proper silt load study. The project says that the life of the dam is going to be thirty years. But they said it was very ambitious. The conservative estimate would be only fifteen years. They also said that no proper plan for catchment area had been prepared. Disaster management had not been studied and rehabilitation approach was defective.

The pertinent point which is very important and very essential is the earthquake element. Let us take the history of the Himalayas. We find that periodically in about 300 years cycle the energy is released due to the collision of the Indian Plate with the Asian Plate. And therefore, we find that in 1905 the seismic energy was released in Kangra; in 1934 in North Bihar and in 1950 in the North East. The only remaining seismic gap is in mid-Himalayan Region, where the Tehri Dam is situated. And Tehri Dam is supposed to be sitting on the top of the fault. Therefore, they say that it is not a possibility but it is certainly that the earthquake will take place and that also within the lifetime of the Tehri Dam.

Along with this, we should study what the effect of the earthquake on the Richter scale was. The magnitude of the earthquake in Kangra was 8.6 on the Richter scale; in North Bihar it recorded 8.4 and in North East it was 8.7 on the Richter scale. The Tehri Dam has been planned on the basis of a magnitude of 7.2 on the

Richter scale, whereas all the rest have gone 8-plus. This is just the fact. Yet along with this the situation Peak Ground acceleration is still being maintained at 0.25 g., even as And it is said that the Law Safety is going to be 8.0. 0.25 g. peak ground acceleration is too little. It should be 1.0 g. An expert like Prof. James Brum states categorically that it should be nothing less than 1.0 g., whereas we are still working on the basis of 0.25 g.

In fact please imagine the impact of the earthquake. The impact of 8-plus magnitude which took place in the three earthquakes mentioned before by me are equivalent to about ten thousand Hiroshima bombs or 2.87 crore tons of TNT, while the impact with the magnitude of 7.0 in the Richter scale would be equal to only 90,700 tons of TNT. It is going to be great calamity in our region.

The Government may be banking on the Supreme Court judgement passed by Mr. Justice Kuldip Singh. But the Hon'ble Judge, while passing the judgement, categorically said that he was not a technocrat; he did not know much about it. He had to entirely depend on the technocrat's opinion. But the question is which type and kind of technocrats were there. One of the technocrats was a famous scientist of the world who is now in the Oceanic Development Department.

15.00 Hours

His name is Shri Gaur. His was the minute at dissent That Sir, should have counted leaving apart whether it is right or wrong Project, unfoundedly there is a danger to the people and the land of the Hills. The need of the hour is to give the benefit of doubt to the people, their homeland and their fauna and flora. The rule of prudence also demands this. Many dams in the past have failed and Morvi is still fresh in our mind.

In respect of Tehri Dam, a lot of money has gone in but I would like to know whether the life and property is more important or the dam. Of course, I would not go for the extreme Step, but I would suggest that instead of the Tehri Dam we should have the Run of the

River type. We, in this Tehri Dam, have two tunnels and one Head Race Tunnel. With the Run of the River scheme, the two tunnels would still be used, only the Head Race Tunnel becoming redundant. Where thousands of crores of rupees are involved, a loss of Rs. 50 crores is nothing in comparison to the devastation that is in the offing. And, therefore, there should be no hesitation on the part of the Government to convert the Tehri Dam

The Run of the River type has many advantages and I would like to enumerate them a little. The Run of the River type would give electricity round the year all the 24 hours in a day, whereas the Dam will only give us power during peaking hours, that is, only four hours in 24 hours. The non-silting element is non-existent in the Run of the River while the silting would make the Tehri Dam's life only 30 years or 15 years.

Another thing is that there are 9,800 rural families that have to be rehabilitated. So far, only 1900 families have been rehabilitated and the rest have not been rehabilitated due to lack of land.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : It is very important, Madam. Therefore, I would like to touch upon this point.

So, I would say that the Run of the River have many advantages and they are :—

- (1) The people can continue to stay in their habitual habit.
- (2) Micro-hydro power schemes would electrify 100% villages
- (3) Water pumping schemes would solve the water problems of the Hills.
- (4) Protection to the environment would be there.
- (5) Above all, destruction from earthquake would be minimum if and when the cycle comes here

Disregard and the step-motherly attitude towards the hillfolk is one of the primary

reasons, why we are demanding a separate Hill State of Utteranchal, and if this colonial attitude towards us Hillfolk continues, I am afraid we shall not accept this position.

Madam, I want to plead with the Prime Minister that as he is without the U.P. shackles, he will take a new share and help us out of trouble. I also request all the Parties and all the Members of the House to come to our help and rescue us from this diabolical monstrosity. It is our life and death question and I hope there would be unanimity on this.

I thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity. Let not the coming up of the Super Lake become a Bitter Lake for us

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad) : Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views.

Madam, I have both heard and read the Address of the Hon President and I think that I should oppose it fully. The address reflects the policies of the Government. In this Address, efforts have been made to reflect the new policies of the new Government, which clearly show the steps to be taken by the Government in coming months. At present the country is facing an unprecedented economic crisis which is a matter of a grave concern to the patriotic citizens. Terrorism is prevalent throughout the country and the life of the masses has become insecure. The law of 'might is right' is prevailing. The youth is facing the problem of unemployment and the women are distressed due to torture and exploitation. To meet even the routine day-to-day expenses of the country, country itself is being mortgaged and gold in its stock is being sold. In this hour of crisis, everyone was looking forward to this Address and hoped that the new Government would bring some concrete programmes, which would enable it to successfully face the challenges on every front. But, this Address has only caused a lot of disappointment among all the classes.

Madam Chairman, like its traditional policies, the Congress Government has again tried to give the country sugar coated pills, which are full of bitterness and only due to these reasons, the economic situation of this country has deteriorated and the entire country is passing through a phase of economic crisis. The young national leader of this country was assassinated brutally and indiscriminate mass killings are going on unabated in Punjab. The law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir is going from bad to worse. There is continuous infiltration from across our borders, but whatever has been mentioned in the Address about security is very ambiguous. In the Address, the armed forces have been praised, but no mention has been made about the policy or about the steps to be taken by the Government to suppress the internal disturbances in the country, to check the infiltration and to protect the unity and integrity of the country. It has been mentioned in para 13 that the Government is very much concerned about the rise in prices of essential commodities. In its manifesto the Congress Party had promised that the prices of essential commodities will be reduced within 100 days but now it does not seem to be possible, because nothing has been mentioned in the Address in this regard. Regarding the public distribution system, the Prime Minister had said that the benefit of this programme should reach the poorest of the poor. But there is rampant corruption in public distribution system, due to which essential commodities do not reach the needy. Nothing has been clearly mentioned as to how this disorder will be checked. The hon. Members effectively raised all the problems of the country, but nothing has been mentioned about the women. I would, therefore, like to submit about the problems of the women. Regarding the women and children, it has been said in the Address that these are two most vulnerable groups of our population that need special attention. Satisfaction has been expressed regarding the successful implementation and completion of 15 years of the integrated child development programme in our country. Madam Chairman, I would like to sub-

mit that this child development programme has been converted into a den of corruption. Under this programme, the nutritious diet, meant for the children of rural settlements is either sold in the market or is used as the fodder of animals. Even today, if you go through the official documents of this department, the rampant corruption in these schemes will be exposed. You will find that the children of the particular rural areas, where the nutritious diet has been presumably distributed, are suffering from malnutrition. The children who have been presumably given anti-tetanus injections and polio drops are dying of tetanus and are becoming the victims of polio. Why is this happening? The programme are only being implemented only in the paper files. What else could be the greater example of the rampant corruption? Nothing has been said about measures to be taken to check this rampant corruption in Development works. Instead, by praising the successful implementation of these development programmes, it has been again sought to cover up this rampant corruption in them. If these schemes are implemented only on the paper in this manner, the future of the women and children of this country will remain as dark as it was earlier. It is also very surprising that although in the Address, it has been said that awareness should be developed among women, yet no mention has been made about the Bill relating to 'National Commission on Women' unanimously passed by both the Houses in 1990. The National Front Government had passed a National Commission on Women Bill with a view to raise the social, economic and political status of the women and to bring them in the mainstream of the country. This Bill was unanimously passed by both the Houses of the Parliament and the State Governments also gave their consent to it. But no mention has been made about it anywhere in the Address. The National Commission on Women empowered with constitutional powers was authorised to tackle all the problems of the women and to carry out all the investigations in regard to atrocities on women. The process of constituting this Commission which comprises of

a Chairman and seven members had already started But the National Front went out of power before this process could be completed and this dream was not fulfilled Instead of referring to the National Commission on women, it has been said that a 'Commission for Women's Rights' will be appointed in regard to the development of the women and children It has also not been mentioned in the Address whether the Commissioner for Women's Rights will be lady officer or a lady social worker It is not known to our Government whether this Commissioner for Women's Rights will be able to protect the rights to bring awareness among those women in rural areas who with faces covered with long veils are living in dim and smoke filled huts, silently facing the taunts of their relatives for bringing insufficient dowry? Do you think that you only have to think about the urban women or the lad Members of Parliament? The rural women who are illiterate and living a life worse than even animals are sent to their in laws' house after marriage but they are not aware that at any time they may be thrown out of that house on the pretext of inadequate dowry or some other pretext and will be forced to live as a destitute and neglected person What will be done for their welfare? I would like to know as to what shortcoming was there in the National Commission on Women Bill that it has been thrown in the waste paper basket It has been mentioned nowhere Instead you have tried to appoint a commissioner for women's rights even though such a proposal had been rejected several times in the past It was decided to appoint a National Commission on Women after consultation with different women's organisations Your negation of the National Commission on Women shows that you have simply completed the formality in regard to creation of awareness among the women You don't want the women to come forward to contribute towards the development of the society and to come into the mainstream of the nation

Besides this, there is no mention about the family courts in the Address You

are aware that the family courts are also very closely related with women If there was any shortcoming with regard to family courts, the provisions could have been amended and these made more powerful After being pressurized by the lawyers of the Hazari Court, the Congress supported SJP Government was ready to bring forward amendments to it I would like to know whether the present Government wants to make some amendments in it? If so, it will be proper for the Government to consult the women's organisations before taking any step because these courts are particularly related with the women The family courts which are functioning at some places are not getting full facilities The family courts have not been constituted in some districts Therefore, the Government should start constituting these family courts in all districts at the earliest so that both men and women could get their benefit

Besides this no mention has been made about the female foeticide It is a matter of joy that the medical science has developed but this development is also hanging like a sword on women's heads Till now our well brought up daughters were burnt or hanged to death for bringing insufficient dowry But now the schemes are made to kill them during the pregnancy stage itself Nothing has been mentioned about the measures to stop this heinous crime I want that in regard to the female foeticide a stringent law should be enacted to ban such tests so that the killing of female child could be stopped Besides this the commercialisation of women's body through obscene advertisements should also be banned Nothing has been said about taking stringent steps to ban such advertisements No mention has been made about the problem of unorganised women labourers Women labourers also work in the construction of big buildings Some of the pregnant women labourers give birth to their children in unusual circumstances at the construction sites They do not get any medical help Just three days after the delivery they have to go back to their work to earn their livelihood, leaving behind the newly born baby They have to carry load even while weak What scheme is being proposed by

the Government for these hopeless pregnant women ? The Government should set up a mothers-fund to look after the mothers and their infants. It has been said that the women and children are two vulnerable groups of population of our country. The Government should pay attention to them. Even after 44 years of independence, there are no maternity homes in the villages. The women are still passing through a very painful phase. Nothing has been said about opening maternity homes in every village.

First of all, there are no maternity Centres, if there is maternity centres, neither doctors nor medicines are available in them. In these circumstances, how can you take care of the health of mothers and children ? I would like to state that the intention of the Government towards the welfare of women is not good. The Government should make all out efforts to provide adequate rights to the National Commission on Women so as to make the women living in backward areas of the country, aware of their rights. The women are facing one most serious problem. With the rise in population people have built houses all over the places leaving no space for public lavatories. As a result of it, the women have to face a very awkward situation. In the darkness of the evening why do women stand up with their faces covered, whenever the lights fall on them ? Till date nobody has gone into this issue. By what time this state of affairs will go on. If the Government is not sincere enough towards this problem, it should stop talking about the emancipation of women.

I would like to mention about the problem of drinking water. Today most parts of the country are drought prone. There are several News Paper reports that the adequate steps have been taken to tackle the problem of floods but no news have ever appeared in the newspapers that something is being done to handle the problem of shortage of drinking water. Peoples in the villages are facing acute shortage of drinking water. They are even drinking the polluted water of discarded wells. Animals are also suffering because of shortage of water. Almost all the canals have gone

dry. The Ministers are forcing the people of these areas to welcome them. On my visit to Lucknow I saw that the people were facing the acute shortage of drinking water. But when the hon. Minister went to the thirsty town, she was getting warm welcome with banners and welcome arches. It is regrettable that on the one hand the people of the country are facing acute water shortage and on the other hand thousands of rupees are being squandered on holding welcome ceremonies. If the Government is unable to provide food to the poor, it should provide at least drinking water to them so that they may somehow pull on their lives.

I would also like to submit that the intention of the Government in respect of Mandal Commission is not good. What ever the National Front Government did for the upliftment and due participation of the backward classes in the power, has been set aside. But the light of hopes glittering in their houses cannot be easily put out by the Government. It should implement the Mandal Commission's report in toto and the jugglery of words in this regard should be stopped. Due to this verbosity of the Government regarding the Mandal Commission Report, the Supreme Court has to give directives to the Government that it should clarify its intention. The President's Address has also created confusion in this regard. What is the bitch before the Government in clarifying its stand ? Why Government does not clarify its intentions about the implementation of the Mandal Commission's report ? The Government should try to provide adequate reward and appropriate participation to the Backward classes in society as well as in the Power.

Today religious fundamentalism is going grand in the country. Everywhere communalism is spreading. It is essential to stop issuing of controversial statements in connection with the Ayodhya Mandir-Babri Masjid issue. It is very strange that one day earlier the Uttar Pradesh Government took oath to preserve the secular character of the Government and the other day the whole cabinet went to the temple in Ayodhya and said "Ram Lala Hum Aye Hain Aur Mandir Yahan Banayenge"

It has given a severe blow to the secular character of the country. Nobody would have objected to the individual visits of the members of the U.P. cabinet and their staying in the temple even for three hours, but when you are holding a special position and you are made the custodian of the people's faith you should not have behaved in this manner. It has created a sense of terror in the minds of our minorities. Such steps of the State Government are fomenting religious fundamentalism. Raising of religious slogans a few days back in this august House was also objectionable, because there are several Members of this House, who belong to other communities also. If the Members belonging to the other communities had followed into their footsteps, the sanctity and secular character of the House would have greatly suffered. Madam, if the Government wants to preserve its secular character, it should make its policy clear on this issue. Will the Government allow the demolition of the mosque or will it agree with the statements stating that the temple will be constructed and the sanctity of the mosque will also be preserved? The Government must make its position clear on the issue. Preserving the unity and the integrity of the nation first the Government must safeguard the religious sentiments of all the sections of the society. Our nation is like a big garden consisting of various types of flowers. There are different castes and languages in the country. Unity in diversity persists in this nation, and it must be maintained at all costs. It is the responsibility of the Government to safeguard the interests of the people who belong to different sections. Though the Congress(I) does not enjoy the clearcut mandate, yet it has got the opportunity to form the Government. So it is the duty of the party to run the Government in a proper way so that the unity and the integrity of the nation may be maintained and the needs of the people may be fulfilled keeping in view the internal and external conditions.

There are a number of shortcomings in the President's Address; it is anti-women and anti-Mandal, so I totally condemn the President's Address.

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgris) : Madam, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address. The President has rightly, in his Address in the first two paragraphs, pointed out that we have met after a very great national tragedy. This tragedy for me is all the more because not only Shri Rajiv Gandhi was our beloved leader—I also had the privilege of being a Member of his Council of Ministers—but also this dastardly act was committed in my home State of Tamil Nadu. The gun culture which was encouraged during the DMK rule has taken its toll. The darling of the masses, the man who was adored by millions of people throughout the length and breadth of this country was assassinated in a most cowardly and dastardly manner.

This assassination is a great challenge to our honour and our democracy. Why I say this is, the diabolical forces of destabilisation have tried to interfere in our political process. What could not be achieved by the ballot paper was sought to be achieved by the bullet.

Madam, I would like to say this that the man who was going to become the Prime Minister of the country in a few days was eliminated. We cannot accept this; we cannot tolerate this. Strong action would have to be taken to see that this does not recur.

The President has in his Address made references about containing terrorism in Punjab, Assam and Jammu and Kashmir. But I am sorry to see that terrorism in the South perpetrated by the LTTE has not been mentioned at all. It should be recognised here that terrorism perpetrated by the LTTE is no less a threat to the integrity of the country than the terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir or in Punjab or in Assam. The very security of the nation is threatened here by external forces. I am glad to say that the new Government in Tamil Nadu is taking measures on a war-footing to contain this menace. I would request the Central Government to give all assistance—both financial and physical assistance—to contain this terrorism in South.

The Centre also should probe the links of a certain political party who has links with the LTTE. And also they should probe the links of the LTTE with the terorists in the North of India. (*Interruptions*) I would not like to go into details about what my friend Mr. V. S. Rao said about the dismissal of the DMK Government etc. But I would like to set the record straight here that after the DMK Government was dismissed—for reasons which were discussed in the last Lok Sabha; if you go through the record, it is all there—I would like to say that in this election, they did not get even one seat in the Lok Sabha. They got one seat in the Assembly. I would like to say that even that one member who came to the Assembly did not have the guts to face the Assembly and resigned and ran away.

The President has outlined in detail various new measures for tackling the economic problems in the country. We have followed for the last 44 years since our Independence a particular model of development. And we have had spectacular success following this model. On the food front, our hon. Minister of Agriculture intervened yesterday or day before and said that we are in a situation today where we have 20 million tonnes of foodgrains in stock. We have a food security system in this country which is the envy of any developing nation. We have improved our production of sugar and wheat so that today we have exportable surpluses. We have made a fine, sound infrastructure in terms of education, health, financial services etc. We have also developed a wide spectrum of industries which manufacture sophisticated items, hi-tech items right up to consumer products. If today we are able to sit in this country, in my constituency at Ooty, and are able to watch the tennis match played at Wimbledon, I think, that is a very great achievement. Television network has been spread throughout the country. 95 per cent of the villages in this country can view television. Television is not only a means of entertainment, it is a means of human resource development and this was perceived by our great leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Our national income increased every year by five per cent. Today fast and sweep-

ing changes are being made both in the political and economic fronts all over the world. Even the East Europe and Russia have made a U-turn and are opening up their economy. We cannot lag behind. And we should try also to follow changes taking place elsewhere. We should keep our ears and eyes open. We have already made some structural changes recently I would like to come back to that if I have the time in the end. But while making changes, we should keep in mind that in this country there are millions of people living below the poverty line. There are a lot of poor people in this country. They survive with a bare minimum and they live at the subsistence level. They have ~~minimum~~ needs of food, clothing, shelter etc.

While opening up our economy, we should take care that prices of essential services, essential commodities do not go beyond the reach of these poor people and we should see that care should always be taken to provide to the bare necessities for keeping themselves alive.

My friend, Shri Sobhanadreswara Rao, has also talked about fertiliser subsidy. When trying to rationalise, cut, or whatever adjustment is done in food and fertiliser subsidy, I would like the Government to please keep in mind that lot of poor people are dependent on this. They are marginal farmers, small farmers, who are dependent on fertilisers. This also should be kept in mind, when the fertiliser and food subsidies are rationalised. I was particularly happy when the Prime Minister in his reply to the debate on the Confidence Motion assured this House that the Public Distribution System would not be done away with; it would be strengthened, it would be revamped and made more effective.

(Rao Ram Singh—*in the Chair*)

It is a pity, as the hon. lady Member has also mentioned, that even after 44 years of independence, we still have villages in this country, where there is no protected water supply. When we go across our constituency, when we travel widely in our constituency, we go to villages and find people who do not have the bare minimum

of drinking water available. I am very happy that the President in para 30 of his Address has said that a crash programme would be evolved and named after our great leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to provide drinking water to rural areas within five years.

I would like to remind the House that during Rajivji's tenure as Prime Minister, he had a lot of foresight. He also visited vast areas—rural areas—in this country. I remember him going in to even huts of poor people and asking them their problems. He had the foresight and he found out that there were certain deficiencies in the system. He had identified five areas, where he had set up technology missions. Drinking water supply was one of the technology missions that he had set up. Technology missions are nothing great but they cut across the bureaucratic red tape and gets the things done quickly. I would like the Government to review and revamp these technology missions and see that they are again re-vitalised.

There are various programmes of poverty eradication. The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Kozgar Yojana have been dealt with in the President's Address. But unfortunately what happens in these programmes is that there is no linkage between the needs in any particular village, the money spent and the assets created. Our previous Prime Minister, Sri Rajiv Gandhi, had understood these problems. So what he did was to try to make the system more effective. He conceived the Panchayati Raj System, the Nagarapalika System where Panchayats were strengthened to take care of these problems. I would like this to be reviewed. I do not think there is any difference in this House. We can cut across party lines and we all have the same opinion that the rural masses in this country should be uplifted and they should be given a better quality of life. I would like specific linkages between the needs of poor people in the villages; the money spent and specific assets created. So, there is a self-balancing system. There will no pilferage and there will no waste of money. If there is a pilfe-

rage or waste of money, it is just unnecessary, unproductive and creates inflationary tendencies.

I would like to remind you that the Cauvery delta in Tamilnadu was the rice bowl of India. But today, it is dry, probably, because we found oil in Thanjavur district. The whole area has become, like the Arab countries, dry without any water. There has been a long standing dispute about the Cauvery, which is an interstate river, between Tamilnadu and Karnataka. It is an old dispute. Recently, a Tribunal was constituted under the direction of the Supreme Court. On the directions of the Supreme Court, the Tribunal gave an interim order stating that 205 TMCs of water should be released to Tamilnadu. Unfortunately, the Government of Karnataka is not honouring this Tribunal order. I would like to stress here, Sir, that the Tribunal order should be honoured. (*Interruptions*) The point is that if a Tribunal is constituted under the directions of the Supreme Court and if a State Government does not honour the Tribunal order, what happens to our legal process stay? It is not the question of water for Tamilnadu or water from Karnataka. What is happening to our judiciary? What is happening to our legal system? This is one point which we should consider. Another important point is to see that these problems do not recur. The Constitution should be amended; inter-State rivers should be nationalised; they should be made Central subjects and not left to discretion of the States. I would like to go further and say that power should also be made a Central subject so that thermal and hydel power are probably integrated so that the distribution and the generation of power is equitable to all the States.

We recently have made some structural changes which we thought were good for our economy. The rupee has been devalued; the value of the rupee has fallen and a new method of compensation has been given to exporters thinking that our exports would be boosted. When we talk about change and try to change our economy, open up our economy, that does not

mean that we should give a go-by to what has happened so long or say that whatever we have been doing for so many years was wrong. We might get suggestions from any forum; be it the IMF; be it the World Bank; but we should take these suggestions, understand the suggestions with relation to our system and we should evaluate them from our point of view and then implement these suggestions. No compromise should be made; if a suggestion is good, we should go ahead and implement that suggestion whatever criticism we have. But if a suggestion is not good, we should also have the guts not to take that suggestion and we should not implement it.

This sad situation has come to pass because in the last two years the economy has come to be in shambles. Our credit rating is so bad today that we have to send gold out of our country to borrow a paltry sum of 200 million dollars. I remember that in 1988 some of our good public sector companies could raise a loan in the international market which was more than 200 million dollars and today we are in a position where we have to pledge gold in the Bank of England or send gold out to get the paltry sum of 200 or 300 million dollars. This has come to pass because of the total mismanagement of the previous two governments as far as the economy was concerned.

About the devaluation and gold sale, I am not an economist and I do not know much about economic matters, but I am told that these are textbook prescriptions to reviving our economy and opening up our system. Probably this is to try to avert future shock to our economy. I am not per-se against devaluation or against textbook methods of restructuring our economy or improving our economy. But should we not look at the whole system; should we not look at what comes first and what comes next? Probably we are putting the cart before the horse. Should we not improve our production base and our productivity? Should we not have a whole package of measures to boost the economy? For the export promotion a new export policy has been announced. I am very happy that very far-reaching decisions have been taken.

Consequent to the devaluation, naturally cash compensatory support should be withdrawn. But only in one direction the export policy has gone. They say if you get more money for your exports probably exports will go up, exports will increase. I think export promotion is a multi-dimensional problem. It just does not mean that if you get a little more money for exports, automatically the exports will increase. What is happening is, now that the currency has been devalued, importers from other countries are asking us to reduce the price by 10% to share the effect of devaluation with them. My opinion is, we should not only think of a one-point programme in increasing compensation to exporters; but to promote exports we should look at this problem with a multi-dimensional focus. We should try to improve the handling of exports. Today goods marked for exports are lying in ports; they are lying in airports; there is no ship to take them; there is no aircraft to take them. So we should think of strengthening our infrastructural facilities. We should think of strengthening our port handling systems, our systems in the airports to see that our exportable goods are immediately taken out of the country.

Also we should take lessons from a country like China which has opened up some years ago. The first thing that they did was to strengthen their embassies abroad, strengthen their foreign missions for export promotion. We should also do the same thing. We should strengthen our foreign missions; we should see that commercial attaches are more effective and higher level people are out there as commercial attaches in foreign countries so that the exports are promoted. I understand the problems. The economic problems of this country are very serious. I think all the parties should join and co-operate with the Government to see that these problems are solved. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Cooperation in what? In devaluation?
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. PRABHU : In whichever way you can. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is this cooperation ? About IMF, you are not telling us the position. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. PRABHU : Sir, I would like to conclude. The devaluation or taking of IMF loan should be linked with increasing the production base, increasing the exports, increasing our productivity and various types of measures so that the whole economy gets a boost.

With this, Sir, I would like to thank you and say that I support the motion moved by Shri Buta Singh to thank the President for his Address.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to oppose the motion moved by Shri Buta Singh, thanking the President for his Address.

The leader of my party has already dealt with in detail, the major policy decisions. My party is firmly opposed to the blueprint for development that is given in the Address. In fact, it is a blue-print for under-development and anti-development for those who need it. The most glaring omission in the Address is the total absence of a formal reference even to land reforms legislation. Yesterday, the Prime Minister has expressed his opinion about land legislation. What the Congress party feels is that already land reforms have been implemented and there is nothing more to be done.

If you go back and see, you will find that in 1950s, Mahalanobis Committee was appointed. What was the report of that Committee? It found out that at least 63 million acres of surplus land was available for distribution. After that, Committee after Committee was appointed to find out what was the surplus land. Finally what happened ? Seventy seven lakh acres of land was taken into possession and fifty eight lakh acres of land was distributed. Out of that, nearly twenty per cent came from West Bengal. Out of the rest, if you calculate the land distributed in Kerala, Kashmir and Tripura, what would be the

acreage of land that was distributed by the other Congress Governments ? There was a lack of attempt to distribute the land. How are you going to solve the problem of unemployment ? Nearly fourteen crores of people are unemployed now. But the major prescription is developing Khadi and Village Industries and small scale industries. With Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, IRDP programmes, will you be able to solve the problem of unemployment, if you do not distribute land ? Radical land reforms are necessary ? Take surplus land and distribute it. That concept is not with the Congress party. Whatever is said about the agrarian front is only meant for richer agriculturists in the country and not for the agricultural workers and other poor peasants. What will happen if this is the situation ? You are actually against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and so much is said about them in the Address Attacks on women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are increasing. Will you be able to save them without giving them land ? There was a lot of talk about joint pattas and so much is publicised at the time of Rajiv Gandhi. But, there is no mention in the Address. Where has it gone ?

For joint pattas to be given to women, there must be land. You have no plans to take over the land. You are not envisaging any land reforms. You cannot solve the problem of unemployment.

The new industrial policy which you are evolving is actually going to reduce employment. In Post & Telegraph and Railway Departments, immediately lakhs of employees will be thrown out if your plans are implemented. So, what is going to happen ? You have no plan of action for eradication of unemployment.

You have not done anything about the workers. There are three lakh E.D. workers in postal Department. How much are they getting ? You are giving Rs. 250 to Rs. 450 per month. What will happen to them after the devaluation of the rupee ?

There is another sector. How much are the Anganwadi workers getting ? The emoluments of an Anganwadi worker range

from Rs. 225 to Rs. 325. An Ayah gets Rs. 110. What actually is happening ? I do not know what your approach is towards the working sections. You have to explain in detail how you are going to modify the industrial relations and protect the working class. What is your approach towards the workers ? Actually the modernisation programme in the textile industry has already created a crisis in the handloom industry. Lakhs of workers will be thrown out. What is the remedy ? You are saying that you are going to develop industries in the small scale sector in a big way but interest differential are not actually provided by the banking industry. How are you going to improve the small scale sector if protection is not given. Is there any demarcation of the areas where they should work ? In all these areas, actually the monopolists are coming into the field and the small scale sector will be suffering. There is no demarcation of areas. How are you going to create employment especially in the field of agro-based industries ? If you distribute land, then agrobased industries will develop. That will help the people in the rural areas. You are not actually interested in improving the lot of the rural poor about whom you are talking. There are atrocities against them. Attack, killing, everything is taking place. Without radical reforms, you will not be able to do anything. The Congress Party even with the experience for so many years, has not learned a little.

You want support from us. For what ? I fail to understand what for we should extend the support. All your policies are against the people and working class. Actually, the Government should spell out their policies. But that is not there.

Sir, the communalism is increasing in our country. .

AN HON. MEMBER : Not communism ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why are you coming to us with folded hands ? (*Interruptions*). What is your 'ism' ? (*Interruptions*). You spell it out. (*Interruptions*).

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (*Mukundapuram*) : We can substitute the word 'communism' in place of 'communalism' I . (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Who is responsible for that ? Even now when communalism is increasing in our country, you are not learning. What have you done in Kerala ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN . I request the Hon. Member to address the Chair.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : In the Address, much concern about communalism has been expressed. But who is responsible for developing it ?

If you look back Sir, you can find that the Congress Party in power was responsible for Developing Communalism... . (*Interruptions*) ..Even now, the Congress Party is not prepared to learn from experience. Even now, they are aligning with all the communal elements in Kerala and are having secret dealings with the BJP.. . (*Interruptions*) .. They are aligning with the Muslim League on one side and the BJP on the other side. . (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI E. AHMED : What was the communalism with the Muslim League in Kerala ? Can you point out one instance ? In fact, when you were in power in Kerala you have been doing a lot against a particular community, the Muslims.. . (*Interruptions*) .. And we know how you behaved in a communal manner when you were in power in Kerala. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : To improve the situation, the Congress Party should change its methods. They should actually disassociate with the communal elements with whom they are joining. Their association with communal elements should be stopped. Unless that is done, you cannot speak about communal danger in the country. It is because of your policies that the BJP has developed. And you allowed the BJP to do Shilanyas in the disputed place and that actually encouraged their position .. (*Interruptions*) .. For communalism to be wiped out, you

have to actually disassociate with those communal elements. Communalism is dangerous in our country. Without lighting minority communalists, you can not light majority communalism. Now, you are not actually realising that. You are responsible for increasing communalism in the country..(Interruptions).. You are speaking about violence like that of communalism. How can you combat violence unless the Congress Party stops it ? I remind you of the incidents after the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi in Delhi and the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Violence was unleashed throughout the country..(Interruptions)..

SEVERAL HON MEMBERS : No
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Actually, I am a witness to what is happening in Tripura. I had been there and I had talked to women organisations and also to a lot of women there. Women were raped and killed. Houses were burnt people are gilled..(Interruptions)..

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you have to give her adequate time. Her time has been taken away by interruptions.
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : I am ready to reply you all, provided I am given more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request you to wind up please.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : Mr. Chairman Sir, ..(Interruptions) .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, the Hon Speaker has made an appeal in the morning kindly not to interrupt the members because everybody should be given an opportunity to speak. We are wasting a lot of time because of these interruptions. I also request you kindly not to interrupt.

Madam, I request you to conclude.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : I will conclude Sir. You are asking support from us after attacking us. In Kerala, after I left my constituency, one lady was killed and many families were beaten. Everybody

knows what is happening in Tripura. The Chief Minister of Tripura has said that only seven people died. during election campaign. This is the attitude. Now if you ask for our co-operation, how can we give co-operation ? You must first mend your ways. You must prevent or contain the violence that is unleashed in the country by your party ..(Interruptions).. Yes, you are responsible for so many offences. That is the reality of the situation. Unless and until the Congress Party mend their ways, there is no proper way to improve the affairs of the country. That is the major thing.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY (Katwa) : Buta Singhji accepts what you say.

AN HON. MEMBER : He has mended his ways and is seeking your cooperation.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : How can we be convinced that they have mended their ways ? At least by your actions, we do not think you have mended your ways. You are doing everything without consulting opposition. All your policies are being evolved without our consultation. You have not consulted us even on devaluation of rupee. Then, how can we think that you have mended your ways ?

Sir, we are facing a grave situation in the country because of your policies. There is acute unemployment. As a result of your policies, there will be a massacre of jobs and there will be much more unemployment. You must think before you act. The prescription of IMF is not going to save us. This is a bitter pill which is very difficult to swallow. It is a poisonous thing that will destroy the entire country.

Lastly I want to mention a few points on international affairs..(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is there to laugh. They should not behave in such a childish manner.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : With regard to foreign policy, I would like to mention that the role of the Non-Aligned Movement against the imperialistic machinations is absent in the President's Address. Actually, the Non-Aligned

Movement came into existence to fight against the imperialists and not to play between two blocks. Those countries which have got Independence, the role of the Non-Aligned Movement is to fight against the neo-colonial machinations of the imperialistic forces. The President's Address does not mention anything about this. Sir, as far as the Non-Aligned Movement is concerned, we have to play a very big role, especially at present Soviet Union has got its own problems. Now, there is no Soviet Union to help the Third World Countries. That is why, the role of the Non-Aligned Movement is much more important and India in particular has to play a very big role. Gulf war amply proved it. But there is no mention about this anti-imperialistic role in the Presidential Address. I wonder whether it is due to the IMF loan? It is very difficult for you to fight against the imperialists especially the USA. That is the touch stone and that is the role we have to play.

Lastly, I want to say something about the Women's Rights Commission, as mentioned in the President's Address. An Act is passed in this Parliament with regard to the National Commission on Women

16.00 Hrs.

Without any reference to that President has mentioned about the Women's Rights Commissioner. During the time of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, a conference of the Women's organisation was called. We had discussed perspective plan but what was the result? Everybody opposed the proposal of Women's Rights Commissioner and now the Congress Party is coming up with the same proposal. I say a Commission at the Centre alone cannot deal with the problems of the women of the whole country because we are living in a country where feudal attitude still dominate the society. Even the progressive women are speaking in favour of Sati and all that in the House. We have also witnessed it. Such things are happening. So, a Women's Rights Commission at the Centre alone will not help. You should establish the Commission in all the states

and they should have connections with the districts, then only it will help to improve the lot of the women of the country. We had a lot of discussion on this and at that time the Congress Party did not realise it. Now they are coming up with the proposal to have the very same Commission. They don't have the democratic sense. That is the major drawback and we have to rectify it. We should discuss this with the women's organisations and immediately a Women's Rights Commission should be constituted. This is the demand of the women organisation of the country.

Sir, I oppose this motion because of all these points. Please don't expect co-operation for all these things from our party. Only if things are discussed and if you are prepared to change your ways something can be done.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (JADAVPUR) Sir, Congress (I) lady Member is silent on the Women's Commission

16.02 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(i) Bank Robbery in Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi on 15-7-1991.

[English]

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs :

(SHRI M. M. JACOB) : I wish to apprise the Hon'ble Members of this august House about the incident of bank robbery which took place in the State Bank of Patials, Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi on 15th July, 1991.

At 10.40 a.m. on 15-7-1991; 4 unidentified persons entered into the premises of the Bank. When one of them was caught by the Bank guard, Shri Moasi Ram, he was shot at by the other two intruders. He, alongwith a bank customer, Shri Rajiv Sharma, sustained bullet injuries. While one of the intruders stood guard

at the entrance of the bank, his accomplices resorted to unprovoked firing killing another customer Shri A K Sharma. The robbers then pulled out the Head Cashier Shri Ashok Chowdhry from his cabin and took him alongwith the Branch Manager, Shri Rajiv Gupta to the strong room of the Bank. The safe was forcibly got opened and cash amounting to approximately Rs 2 lakhs was taken out. Both of them were shot at from point blank range. While the bank customers the Branch Manager and the Bank guard died either at the spot or en route to hospital, the Head Cashier succumbed to injuries later.

The robbers fired at least 11 rounds from 9 mm pistol and another weapon which could be of 7.62/7.63 calibre. The description given by the eyewitnesses indicates that the weapon could be a mini sten gun. After killing the Bank employees and customers the assailants fled in a white Maruti car bearing Registration No DIL 3796. They also carried away a double barrelled gun of the Bank guard. A case vide FIR No 202 dated 15.7.1991 under section 394(1)(7) 302 IPC and sections 25, 27, 54, 59 Arms Act and Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act has been registered at Police Station Okhla and the investigation entrusted to the Crime Branch.

City-wise alertness was sounded immediately after the incident. Special night bandi was organised and combine operations conducted in various parts of the city. The car was apparently carrying a fake number plate in DIL series is being issued for only trucks and commercial vehicles.

A Police Control Room which was at a distance of about two kilometres from the place of incident.

The Bank had an alarm system but the alarm was sounded only after the incident.

I request the Hon'ble Members to join me in condemning this reprehensible incident which has resulted in the loss of lives of 5 innocent people. I would also

request the Hon'ble Members to join me in conveying our deepest sympathies to the bereaved families.

I would like to assure the House that we will make every endeavour to arrest the culprits and deal with them sternly. We are determined to provide full protection and security to our citizens. Decisive punishment will be inflicted on those officials entrusted with the maintenance of law and order, if they are found remiss or negligent in the discharge of their duties.

[Translation]

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER) Sir through you I would like to know whether the police has come across any clue during the course of its vigorous combini operation.

[In English]

MR CHAIRMAN There is no provision for asking questions when an hon Minister makes a statement (*Interruptions*)

[In translation]

SHRI KAIKA DAS (KAROI BAGH) The question is as to what steps the Government proposes to take in this regard. What I want to say is that the things mentioned in the statement have already been published in the newspapers. What are the measures being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN There are other procedures open to you.

SHRI KAIKA DAS Mr Chairman, Sir mine is not a question, but it is a point of clarification (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN Kindly do not interfere. According to Rules, no questions are allowed at this stage. If the

Members feel that they wish to bring something to the notice of the Government, then there are various other procedures open for that and they can raise it.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS Sir, such incidents are occurring almost daily. Last week a similar incident took place in Kalkaji and then came the Okhla incident and yesterday robbers made off with Rs. 40,000 after killing a woman, at Nauwala who falls in my constituency.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN I would now ask Shri Jacob to make the other statement

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUM DUM) Mr Chairman, Sir let me draw your attention to the procedure that is being followed in the Rajya Sabha

It is true that there is no provision here in this House unlike the practice that is being followed in the Rajya Sabha that after the statement of the Minister, clarifications may be sought. We considered that in the Rules Committee of the North Lok Sabha and decided that some provision should be there in terms of discretion of the Chair. This was decided in the Rules Committee. On that basis, we are asking for some clarifications. Nothing more than that. There is no harm done in this House if we seek clarifications and he provides the answers. There is no difficulty in that. If it is done, the quality of the debates and discussions of the House will improve.

MR CHAIRMAN Hon. Members, the Rule is quite clear on the subject Rule 372 states - "A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

I am bound by the Rules. The Rules have to be followed

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE I was the Member of the Rules Committee. That is why I had informed you that we did take up this matter and decided that we should leave it to the Chair. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS Sir, whatever the Minister has stated that has appeared in the papers the day before yesterday

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) We have decided it. (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE It was decided that just clarifications will be sought. For instance, did they find any connection with the terrorists or militants who are creating troubles all over the country? May I know whether they are associated with this bank robbery? These are some of the important questions that are agitating in the minds of the people of not only Delhi but throughout North. (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN At this stage, it would be unfair to throw questions at the Minister because he has just now made a statement. I do not know what type of questions you would like to put; and whether he is prepared to answer them. However seeing the sense of the House, I will allow one question from this side and one question from that side. If the Minister is prepared to answer them, he will answer them or if he requires further information, then he will say that he requires further information to answer them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (ROSER) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has given details of the incident in his statement, but the statement is silent on the steps, the Government proposes to take to check the recurrence of such incidents. (Interruptions)

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, such incidents have become a regular feature in the capital. Seven days back five people were died at J-82 in Kalkaji. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will allow you to raise only one question. If the Minister is prepared to answer, he may do so, but if he is not prepared, he can say that he requires notice to furnish the answer.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum) : I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order ?

SHRI A CHARLES : You have just now read out a rule. You, in your wisdom, has given your ruling. But one hon. Member has stated that there was a decision taken by the Rules Committee. A decision taken by the Rules Committee is one thing. Unless the rules are changed on the basis of the recommendations of the Rules Committee, may I know whether the procedure that has been going on so far and the procedure laid down in the rules can be changed ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am informed by the Secretariat that during the life of the Ninth Lok Sabha, the Rules Committee met and it was decided about it during the life of the Ninth Lok Sabha. This question did come up and the Speaker, at that point of time, did allow one or two questions on a statement made by the Minister. Therefore, I am informed that I am not creating a precedent now; a precedent was already created during the life of the Ninth Lok Sabha. Therefore, I am allowing one question from this side and one question from that side. If the Minister is not prepared to answer any question or if he requires further information on that, then he can always say that he would like to require a notice for that.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I congratulate you on this. The only function of this House is that the

quality of the discussion is really flourishing. You have given your ruling which satisfies all of us. Since you have extended your mercy to only two Members, kindly extend the same mercy to a few more Members so that we can also clarify some more points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want to open a Pandora's Box. The House is already discussing the President's Address. I think it is an important matter and the Minister will tell us something about it.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : He has got two statements.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The other statement is a different one. We are talking about the first statement that he has read out.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Delhi is fast becoming a terrorist haunt.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly restrict your question to the bank robbery on which the hon. Minister has made the statement. You cannot generalise about what is happening. The statement is on bank robbery which had taken place on the 14th. Kindly restrict your questions to it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS : That's what I am saying. The recent bank robbery at Okhla claimed five lives. Similar incidents took place in Naiwala and Kalkaji. I would like to know the steps Government proposes to take to curb and check the recurrence of such incidents ? The information that has been furnished in the Statement was there in the newspapers published three days earlier. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly give a chance to the Minister to answer.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Please listen to me. I will answer this question. Actually it is a general question on law and order in Delhi. I would appreciate very much if a notice is given for a general discussion on the law and order problems in Delhi. Regarding this bank robbery that took place, the Government is making all efforts to find out the culprits. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

[English]

SHRI KALKA DAS : What are those effective steps which have been taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the hon. members to listen to the Minister.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : As soon as the bank robbery was reported, within a few minutes a red alert was sounded and the whole area was cordoned off. The search is going on and the Crime Branch has been entrusted with the inquiry. We have alerted the nearest State, the Haryana Government, information has also been flashed to the other areas and a search is going on. That is the position at the moment. The Police Officers are very vigilant on this question.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : Mr. Chairman, with your permission may I put a question to the hon. Minister ? He has said that the necessary protection have been provided to the bank officers so that this kind of a thing may not happen, where the bank officers and the customers become the victims in this kind of killings. What concrete steps have been taken ? What kind of protection is being provided to the bank officers ? (Interruptions)

I was asking what concrete steps are being taken to provide protection to the customers as well as the bank officers. Is this arrangement going to be there only in Delhi or for other banks also ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : I think I am misunderstood by the honourable questioner, I only said that we are taking other steps in this particular matter. The question is of a general nature. What will happen to the bank officers and other banks in Delhi and outside, all that is a wider question. We have to take a serious view on this question and find out how best we can do it. If there is a threat to a particular bank and if there is any information about some threat perceptions, then certainly we will provide them special protection.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Will they give you notice ?

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Otherwise, in a place like Delhi where we have a large number of police personnel on duty who are expected to go round, protection is there.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It will give ideas to the robbers. You are saying that you will try to give protection to some.

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Let me complete my answer. If a particular bank thinks that they need protection that is a separate issue. If you give protection to banks then the next question will come. Why not give protection to the shops ? People in other offices also will ask. Everybody can ask for protection. All of them are equally responsible and we are bound to give protection to everybody; and that is why we are generally giving protection now.

If there is a specific request, we will certainly take adequate steps to prevent any such incident in that particular area. This problem has to be discussed separately. The issue as to how to protect all the banks and the bank staff in the country is a very major issue..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will the hon. Minister be kind enough to make the second statement ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Hon. Minister and myself were good friends when we were in Rajya Sabha. I do not want to alienate him. Kindly allow me to make one clarification from him. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the second statement, you can ask your question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : The steps taken in this regard have not been outlined.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The facts he has mentioned in his statement have already been published in the newspapers. Now, do you want him to distort the facts and present them before you?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The facts have already appeared in the newspapers and he has made them clear in his statement. Now you please give a patient hearing to the next statement on the agenda. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly allow the Minister to make the second statement. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : When I am on my feet. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : This incident took place in my constituency. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Khurana, you were not present at that time. Mr. Kalka Das very ably represented your constituency.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I should also get an opportunity to speak....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Khurana, after the second statement I will allow you to ask one clarification from the Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar) : Why they have failed to nab the robbers? Where could they have gone to in a place like Delhi? I would like to know whether even a single robber has been apprehended? (Interruptions)

(ii) *Bomb explosion at railway track near Patparganj, Delhi on 14-7-1991*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : I wish to inform the Hon'ble House that on 14-7-1991 at about 11.15 pm, a bomb explosion occurred on the railway track (New Delhi-Ghaziabad Section) near the rail-bridge over Karkarduma Ganda Nala. A goods train which was going towards Ghaziabad had just crossed the railway bridge when the bomb exploded. The goods train, however, passed over the track safely. A case vide FIR No. 448 dated 15th July, 1991 under sections 4/5 Explosive Substance Act & 3/4 Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (P) Act of 1989 and 151 Railway Act has been registered at Police Station, New Delhi Railway Station.

The explosion blew off about two feet of the track and made a crater with a depth and diameter of one foot each. On examination of the site, it was found that the explosion was caused by a high explosive substance which was connected with an electric wire of about 100 metres.

length. The wire was used to blast the explosive remotely as the other end of the wire was located about 75 metres from the site of the blast. The explosive charge was ignited through a battery of 6 volts and it was done manually. The battery used in the explosive could not be traced so far. The quantity of the explosive was approximately 2 kg. The explosives were neatly tied with one of the two tracks.

The investigation of the case has been taken over by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. All efforts are being made to apprehend the criminals.

Patrolling on the railway tracks is being intensified. The length of the railway tracks in the Union Territory of Delhi is approximately 150 kilometres. Steps are being taken to cover the entire track by joint patrolling by the Delhi Police, Railway Protection Force, Railway Gangmen and Home Guards.

SHRI NIRMAI KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) Sir I want to state that our country has failed to protect the two Prime Ministers. It is because of the lack of guards in one case and the lack of vigilance in another case that led to the death of the two Prime Ministers. We know that this indicates the quality of protection that we offer not only to the most important people but by inference to the ordinary mortals of the country. In this case also the first question that has to be answered by the Government is whether or not these two events collecting funds from the bank and in the process killing people is related with the fact of manually operated dynamic charge on the railway track. We want clarifications on these points whether or not the terrorists with whom some time or other some of us hobnobbed have been able to penetrate so deep in Delhi that the Delhi

MR CHAIRMAN I am sorry I did not get it. Did you say that some of us have hobnobbed with the terrorists? (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Sir, I do not want to enter in details

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with you in a political dialogue... (Interruptions)

So, what I want to know and the entire House and the entire country will be interested to know is whether these are events generated out of those kinds of activities of those kinds of organisations. And if so which kind of additional protection he has attempted already and succeeded in providing to the citizens of this country. This is what you have to ensure in your reply.

SHRI M M JACOB Sir, Shri Chatterjee has raised an important question. I have to accept it. But the threat perception in Delhi is not a new phenomenon. It was happening earlier also. But this Government after taking over the responsibility is making a serious attempt to study the depth of penetration of such terrorists in Delhi and we got information that there are some attempts made for penetrating into Delhi. There is evidence of these kinds of happenings. I think there is no information as far as I know about this bank robbery and railway track incidents. (Interruptions) I have no information and we have to find out whether there is any connection between them. Anyway our crime branch is investigating both and I hope that with the assistance and cooperation from Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, who says he knows much about it I will be able to do much better in this respect.

[Translation]

SHRI KAIKA DAS (Karol Bagh) It is not proper to say that it is not a new phenomenon in Delhi. (Interruptions).

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) I will give an example of total insecurity of Delhites. A few days back a dacoity took place in this very South District, for two hours and a half the dacoits

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Kindly restrict your questions only to the two statements that have been made by the Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA The Criminal Investigation Department of the Delhi Police has totally failed in its duty due to its inefficiency. They do not act upon even receiving the valuable information. They provide security to VIPs only. The common man in Delhi is left to his fate.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN He is not here to defend himself. I think the police is doing commendable job and condemning the police force here is not good.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA I would like to know whether the Government has taken any decision to pay any compensation to the bereaved families? If not, I would like to say that

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN I think that is a very valid question. He has asked whether the families of those five people, who have been killed in the bank robbery, are going to be given proper compensation.

SHRI M M JACOB Sir, already compensation was announced by the bank itself.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA What I wanted to say is that the Bank employees went on strike demanding certain additional facilities for the bank employees working in Delhi on the lines of those being provided to the bank employees working in the terrorist affected States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. They have also stated that the responsibility of their security should be entrusted either to the Delhi Administration or to the Union Government. What is the Government's stand in this regard?

The second point is that employment should be provided to the dependents of

those killed in the incident. I would also like to know the amount of compensation proposed by the Government to be paid to the bereaved families. If no decision has been taken in this regard, they should be provided rupees five lakh each.

16.31 hrs

[*Mr Speaker in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI M M JACOB Sir, there are two questions involved in it. One is whether we are giving compensation to the victims of the bank robbery. I mean those who were assassinated and killed. Sir, immediately the bank announced compensation to the victims and if any additional compensation from the Government side is required, we will look into it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA You give fifty thousand as compensation. What has Delhi Administration done? Bank will provide compensation but what have the Central Government and the Delhi Administration done? Please do not interlink them.

[English]

SHRI M M JACOB Secondly about the general question if a due notice is given to me, I will come back to this House with sufficient information on any other issues in a general way.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA Mr Speaker, Sir I have not got any definite reply. Bank employees went on strike but have you made any provision for their security? What do you propose to do for the families and children of bank employees? Mr Speaker Sir I seek your protection. Nothing has so far been done, even after such a long time.

[English]

SHRI M M JACOB Sir, if a Government employee dies in distress, the depen-

dants are given employment by the Government. It is a usual thing. In this particular case, I must examine the rules and see what is available. Usually, if it is a Government employee, the immediate relative is given employment if he dies in distress or in such kind of accidents. But in this particular case, I will certainly make note of what the hon. Member has suggested.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : We have been asking for the last one hour as to what steps Government propose to take to check the killings but he has not given any specific reply in this regard so far.

[English]

SHRI M. M. JACOB : Sir, it is a general question of law and order and it requires a separate notice. (Interruptions) . . .

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, an announcement has been made regarding giving compensation to the bank employees who have been killed in the incident but what have you done for the customers who have also been killed ?

MR. SPEAKER : No question on the statement made by the Minister is generally asked in the House. Despite that you have been given a chance and now if you want to extend it beyond a limit that is not good.

[English]

We have rules, we are following those rules. Let us not extend it beyond a certain limit. . . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know how much compensation was given to the bank employees, the reply to this has not been given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving you the protection. I will tell you. If something has happened at some place to some employee of the Government, there are rules. Under the rules certain protection is given, certain compensation is given and all those things are given. It is not necessary to explain what are the rules, what is the compensation given and all that, it goes without saying. So, it is not necessary that all these details should be explained to you.

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, the Customers should also be provided compensation.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not speak like that. Take your seat.

AN HON. MEMBER : My only submission is that customers should also be paid compensation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing some important matter also. Now, if you prolong beyond a certain limit, you are losing your own time. Please take your seats now. Not like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated) : Sir, as a person who has defended literally thousands of murder cases, I entirely agree that the Minister should not exude titbits of information which may go on to the people who are part of the conspiracy. But he made one statement. He said that this matter has been remitted to the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. I have been studying carefully the investigation of the murder of Rajiv Gandhi and I am not satisfied that the SIT which has been appointed to investigate into this murder will be able to identify all the traitors. You have a separate investigating agency and what has just emerged has been most disturbing that your State agency in Tamil Nadu states that the DIG and six people have been arrested because they

fled from the place. You have other agencies which are probably more competent and it is for you to coordinate them to get maximum help from them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) They don't understand your point (*Interruptions*)

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY I want to know whether you are coordinating all your investigating agencies in the country.

MR SPEAKER You can explain to him later on Now, Shri Kadambur M R Janarthanan (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE He has not replied to his suggestion (*Interruptions*)

16.38 hrs

MOTION OF THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*contd*

[English]

MR SPEAKER We are now taking up discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address Shri Janarthanan

SHRI M R JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) Sir, on behalf of the All India Anna DMK I support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address moved by Shri Buta Singh

Sir, I stand here as a representative of Tamil Nadu It is a clear mandate of the Tamil Nadu people that the Congress (I) should be the Ruling Party of the Central Government and the All India Anna DMK should be the Ruling Party of Tamil Nadu. Now, I recall what happened in the Ninth Lok Sabha It was a furious scene, when the Central Government took a decision on anti-national measures and dismissed the DMK Government in Tamil Nadu, our veteran leaders both of the Left and of the National Front were all on their legs criticising the dismissal of the people's elected Government there. And the former Chief Minister respected Karunanidhi, went to the people asking for justice for the dismissal of his Govern-

ment. And we were also moving with the people asking for justice for the injustice done to our party for what all the former Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi, has done to us. And I was hearing the socialist leader, Rabaji Raju, the BJP leader, Jaswant Singhji and our great Somnath Chatterjee and all bombarding the Congress (I) with a bombastic language here. But you must understand your main platform. You have no mandate. I do agree this Government is a minority Government but the people of Tamil Nadu have given 98 per cent of the results in favour of our party in the Assembly election which never happened in the history of India. When our late leader Shrimati Indiraji was killed, the DMK leader Mr Karunanidhi has said . one vote for the dead, one vote for the sick. Our leader P. J. Thalaivar Dr MGR was in New York at that time. Even at that time the DMK got two Members elected here. At that time they said in Tamil

"Savukku oru vottu Novukku oru bottu" Mr Karunanidhi is a great Tamil scholar and a Tamil leader. I am also a staunch follower of Anna from 1949. There is a verse in Tamil Thirukkural which says

Yakavarayinum Nakkal Kavakkal
Sokappar Solizhukku Pit'u'

However great you may be but you must restrain your tongue. Otherwise, you can never rectify the consequences. That is what Mr Karunanidhi is experiencing now.

Although the people of Tamil Nadu voted in favour of us overwhelmingly with a clear majority we bowed our heads in shame because of the brutal assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu where great leaders like Rajaji Periyar Kamaraj and Anna were born. We were afraid of the danger to the life of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and that brutal assassination had occurred. Even today, we are not directly charging the DMK with the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Here, just now so many Members were agitated over a bank robbery. Similarly it is the right of the people of Tamil Nadu who want that a thorough investigation to be made about the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi (*Interruptions*). You should be ashamed

to have had a Chief Minister who brought terrorism and gun culture to Tamil Nadu. We are from Anna DMK; he is the leader of DMK. A Special Investigation Team is functioning at Madras to enquire into the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi; in the print media and in the electronic media they are repeatedly showing the photographs of Sivarasan, the one-eyed man and Subba who are wanted by police in connection with the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But the people of Tamil Nadu are very much interested to know the political persons behind the conspiracy. Who is the top police officer and who is the IAS officer who saw a trial of bombing a wax model in a forest area of Andhra near Tamil Nadu? They must be brought to book. Who went to Sri Lanka stealthily in an illegal way? It was the generosity of the Congress which had allowed it at that time; now you have paid for it with Rajiv Gandhi. What is the link of that person with LTTE and Mr. Prabakaran? You were very generous. You were acting in a Gandhian way. After Mabatma Gandhi after Indira Gandhiji we have also lost Rajiv Gandhiji. DMK should never forget the magnanimity of Rajiv Gandhiji, in not taking action against that MP who went to Sri Lanka illegally and stayed there with Prabhakaran. Now LTTE has openly come to say, "We have assassinated Rajiv Gandhi. What is the Central Government, our friends are going to do? You must take immediate steps. Otherwise, the voters who have voted for me will kill me for not taking any action against the LTTE. That is the feeling of the people of Tamil Nadu. On the 22nd and 23rd of June, when I went to the villages, nobody cooked the food. They were condoling the death of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The memory of Rajiv Gandhi is fresh in their minds. The Prime Minister, Rajivji was riding from Madurai to Kanya Kumari in his own car. Every Tamilian used to say, "We have never seen the Prime Minister driving his car". He stopped suddenly at some village without informing the bureaucrats. He would ask the villagers, "How the IRDP and NREP work at the grassroot"? That is how, he would investigate the works of poverty programmes.

I request in this House that the Special Investigation Team must come forward very clearly as to who are the political persons behind this conspiracy. May be, he may be the then DGP or he may be even the then Home Secretary. That is the talk of the city and not talk of the MPs.

I expressed my feelings about the first four paragraphs in the Address delivered by Kamaraj led, Shri R Venkataraman, His Excellency, the President of India.

Coming to the other subject. I want to deal with the textile industry. As a textile man, I must say that the textile industry has not faced sickness so far. It has been in bloom in high profit. Only now because of our National Front, Janata Dal friends, because of the export policy of the former Agricultural Minister, Shri Devi Lal to export cotton, today cotton is being sold at Rs. 14,000 per kandy. My colleague, Shri George Fernandes asked why has the price of 40 counts Dhoti not come down. When the cotton price has gone up so much within these 20 days, how will the price of Dhoti come down? There is scarcity of cotton. Therefore, it is the duty of our Union Government to see very carefully about the position and they should be careful in announcing the cotton export policy. Let us all pray uniformly for good monsoon. I think, in this thing there is no difference of opinion between BJP and National Front. Otherwise it will be a worse year for us.

I want the Central Government to be very careful in announcing the export policy of cotton and they should not stick to some formalities but should see the realities of the situation keeping in view high price of cotton within India.

Now I am coming to the public distribution system as announced by the President in his Address. I want to stress two points. One is about extending the public distribution system to remote hamlet which is far away from the main panchayat, say 2 or 3 kms. away. The people living into remote hamlet are mainly below the poverty line and the public distribution system should reach them. Those

people have to walk two or three kms late in the evening to reach the main Panchayat. By the time they reach the Panchayat, the shop is closed. Therefore, you must work out practical thing. The norm and criteria for opening the fair price shop should be reduced from 300 to 200 card-holders so that the hamlet will get the essential commodities and the employment will also be generated.

Coming to labour and unemployment problem, I would say one thing. This is time our comrades, our socialist leaders should think about unorganised labour. The organised labour get their employment. Their job is protected. Their pay is also higher than the pay of the unorganised labour. Unorganised labour are in larger number than organised labour. What have you done for the unorganised labour? The NF Government said that they would bring forward the Right for Work Bill. But they did not bring it. There is only fight for work. There is no right for work.

AN HON MEMBER What have you done in Tamil Nadu?

SHRI M R Janarthanan You come and see in Tamil Nadu.

MR SPEAKER You are provoking him.

SHRI M R JANARTHANAN In Tamil Nadu, all the cooperative textile mills are running in profit. All the NTC mills are running in profit. I urge this Government to do something material for the unorganised labour and let us all come to one consensus. Let us not merely talk but let us guarantee work and high pay to all the unorganised workers. As a homage to Shri Rajiv Gandhi, let there be no strike for one year till 21st May next. We may or may not be here. But the political mind is to get going on. But we do not know how political trend would go. As a homage to Shri Rajiv Gandhi, all the organised workers should avoid strike as it would be for the welfare of the people. It is my humble request as the representative of the common man.

I want to thank Mr V S Rao, for representing DMK here.

Shri Anna introduced the Rising Sun symbol in 1957 elections. I was one of the candidates. We got 15 MLAs with no support of anybody. In 1962, Anna lost. We were 50 in number in the Assembly. In 1957, when we were not in power, we got two MP seats. Our MGR is no more. I request our socialist and communist leaders not to have links with the DMK as our leader Ms Jayalalata as Bhadrakali has executed the Mahishasura, Karunandhi. You must realise what is the character of our old friend Shri Karunandhi.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Belpuri) You should join this Government.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY I will ask two questions from this gentleman.

MR SPEAKER No. You can ask him later. I request you to meet him and you can ask him please.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY It is a question which affects the country. The place where Shri Rajiv Gandhi was murdered has been officially described as a sterile area and as one of the safest areas in the whole of Madras. There was no frisking, and no metal detectors. Obviously, there was conspiracy by internal elements.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE To whom are you putting the question? The Hon Member has already left the House.

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum) The Hon Member has gone to the Record Office. He would come back.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kiranganji) Mr Speaker, Sir, without any disrespect to the President of the Republic and without questioning in any way the legitimacy of the Government which has won a vote of confidence in the House only the other day I find the President's Address a lifeless document. It lacks human warmth and reads like an officenote written by a bureaucrat. It does not throb up with the ebb and flow of national life. It does not synchronise with the heart-beat of the nation. It lacks a sense

of urgency and it does not, although he uses the word concern, really measure the depth of our national concerns today, our travail as a nation and as a people and it, therefore, does not inspire us and does not serve as a call to mass action against massive threats that face us today to the very survival of our State and our nation.

Sir, the President's Address is supposed to be a report on the state of the nation and a programme for the year that lies ahead. How can we ever have a proper diagnosis if we remain silent on the direction the ship of the State is taking? It seems to some of us that we have lost our way, if it is silent on the challenges to our democratic system, if it is silent on the upsurge of chauvinism and fundamentalism that is corroding our national life, if it is silent on the persistent threat to the rule of law and the majesty of the legal process, if it is silent on the sufferings and the pain of the nation, on the persistent pattern of atrocities against the weaker sections, if it is silent about the growing effectiveness even of the judicial process whose wheels appear to have been clogged and which does not give us legal remedies anymore as urgently as it should, if it is silent on the inherent inefficiency and corruption and piracy of our administrative structure and our bureaucracy, if it is silent on the multiplicity of our black laws and their blacker application in practice, if it is silent on the growing concentration of wealth in our society and on the denin' disparities inter-group and inter-regional and if it is silent on the convergence of what I call two cultures and two nations in our country—the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots, the top and bottom who have hardly anything in common in terms of interest/aspirations? Therefore the Address is not adequate to our situation, our perception. The Address shows the insensitivity of our Government, perhaps reflecting the insensitivity of our elite, our establishment, to the sorrows and the anguish and the agony that our people suffer day in and day out.

Our country today is passing through a historic transformation. A structural upheaval is taking place before our very eyes.

Long suppressed sections of our people are demanding a new dispensation, a share in wealth and power, a place in the sun and they shall not be silenced. The Indian society, therefore, today has been transformed into an arena of struggle and what we do, Mr Speaker, inside the Parliament, inside this Hall does not sometimes adequately represent the struggle that is going on outside the portals of this House and which we can ignore only at our peril. This is a titanic struggle between the status quo forces and the anti-status quo forces. The anti-status quo forces today are fighting a last-ditch battle. They are engaging themselves perhaps in their last manoeuvre to return themselves in positions of power.

17.00 hrs

And therefore, I would like to make my first basic point that the communal polarisation that we see today is nothing but the expression of the frustration and the threat and the challenge that the status quo forces are facing today. The communalism that we see today is not directed if I may be permitted to say, against another community, it is directed against the have-nots and the deprived within the same community.

The communilisation and exploitation of religion for political purposes has reached absurd limits. It is corroding the very foundations of our republic, the very constitutional foundation that we had given ourselves. And we know it that the forces who are opposing the change in our society, who are opposing a radical transformation and those who are preaching communism and exploiting religion for political purposes are one and the same. It is the same face. It is the same forces which demand demolition of a Masjid to build a Mandir thereon, which also oppose reservation and a share in power for the derided sections of our people. It is the same forces today who have been challenging the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and wish to substitute the statue of Godse across the land for the statue that we have erected to the revered memory of the Mahatma. (Interruptions)

It is this force that has to be identified and it should have been identified by the Government clearly and in unmistakable terms if a battle has to be waged for the security and Survival of the secular system And here is where the President's Address fails

It is true that the era of massive majority is over And perhaps the era of minority Governments has set in I would have preferred it to be an era of coalition Governments Perhaps we could have developed a culture of coalition, a culture of political adjustment, a culture of working together in the larger cause at least for the larger national issues that are there before the country Then this polarisation could have been checked Unfortunately nothing has been done, nothing is indicated in the President's Address how we propose to build up this condition of the healthy forces which shall nurse our democracy back to health

What lies ahead perhaps if I may be permitted to say, is a period of turbulent times But we who are sitting inside the Parliament we who have been elected as their representative by the people have the responsibility of rowing a ship of a State across somehow We have to ensure that the ship does not founder or does not sink on the shoals of any other insensitivity or, if I may say so of mutual antagonism If the ship sinks we all sink if the country does not survive no one of us survives And therefore I feel that the President's Address should have been a call for the country to come together in this hour of peril

Our ancient wisdom impels us to acknowledge that tolerance is a great virtue that hatred does not work the confrontation will not yield results that equality and dignity are values in themselves, that justice is a just and fair call which cannot be silenced and therefore somehow we have to take up these few challenges and allow them to transform the society without disrupting the national life I find no such prescription in the President's Address

We are all today in the era of respect for human rights India is signatory to

all the international covenants on human rights We have always upheld human rights wherever they were violated all over the world But today, I find a persistent pattern of violation of human rights which I do not find the Government challenging anywhere in this President's Address

About Punjab, I would like to say one simple word

17.05 hrs

[Shri S. Millikarjuniah in the Chair]

The sentence about the Punjab situation in the President's Address seems to have involved the Election Commission of all responsibility It appears to endorse the decision of the Election Commission in postponing the polls at the very last minute History will alone decide whether this was a wise step I fear and I hope that I am proved to be wrong that we have not missed the last bus for restoring democracy in Punjab

About Kashmir I would like to say that I have been there several times I notice a very plain fact that the administration which is responsible for protecting the people does not make any distinction whatsoever between the innocents and the masses I do not find it surprising therefore that the President of the Republic does not have even one word of sympathy for the victims of recurring atrocities which alienate the people of Kashmir more and more from the love politics from the rest of the people of the country and make the task of reconciliation peace normalisation and democratisation increasingly difficult every year

Sir we have to apply the principles on some of these wounds We have got to detach the people from the embrace of the militants We have to instill a sense of confidence in them We have to make it apparent to them that we care for them that the lives are precious that they are Indian citizens that they are entitled to the full protection of the Constitution of India and to the rule of law Until this is done, unless this duty is performed I am sorry we are at the brink of losing the soul of

the people of Kashmir even if we can retain the body under our control.

The communal violence has been touched in the President's Address. I welcome some of the suggestions that have been made therein for action. But about this rapid action force let me say with the former Home Minister present here that the issue is not the rapidity of action, but the impartiality of action. I am sorry, this point has been lost sight of. What have we to do is to ensure that the people have confidence in this force, that all sections of our people have confidence in this force. Otherwise there will be a vicious cycle of challenge and response. We shall reach nowhere. We shall be only adding fuel to the fire, if the people have no confidence in the impartiality and the neutrality of the administration system, of the magistracy and of the security forces. I am sure that the former Home Minister who proposed the vote of thanks will appreciate this point that the confidence of all sections of the people in the ability and in the impartiality and in the neutrality of the administration and particularly the police force has to be reinstated, has to be reaffirmed.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) . Mr. Chairman, Sir, precisely this was the point that I made. When I made my speech, I emphasized that it is always the local police which becomes the point of doubt and suspicion by all sections of the society. Therefore every State which is under the grip of communal riots situation tries for the central force because they have a confidence in the central force. That is what I expect that the new force will also carry the same extent of confidence from all sections of the society so that the situation will be diffused because of the presence of such a force. I did make that point.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN . As for the compensation, we give a dole as a matter of grace. I believe and I suggest that there should be a statutory provision for the payment of compensation for the loss of life and limb and property because the first essential duty of any civilised Government is to protect the life, limb and property of the citizen and if it fails

to do so, it must compensate the victim. Therefore, I urge upon the Government not only to promise compensation, but to promise bringing in a law for that purpose.

As far as a punishment and as far as the Commission of Inquiry are concerned, the less said the better. The other day we read about the Maliana Commission and the Hashimpura Committee. Even the Reports have not come before the people. The former Prime Minister—whose assassination has been a great national tragedy—promised me personally, not once, but several times, that the killers of Hashimpura shall be brought to book. Until today four or five years have elapsed not one person has been brought to book. Does it inspire confidence in our system, in our judicial process, in our Commissions of Inquiry, when the killers of Maliana and Hashimpura are still at large, when the killers of Bhagalpur are still at large? In Bhagalpur, people were not only murdered; and burnt, but they were laid down in a macabre manner in neat rows in fields and then vegetables were planted over them. And the killers are still at large. Something has to be done about it. There is no promise in the President's Address that a sense of urgency has entered the mind of the Government.

Now, the question of Babri Masjid and Ram Janambhoomi I would not dilate on it. But I will point out only one thing which is rather alarming. There is no mention in the President's Address of the sanctity of the judicial process, to which the former Governments in succession had committed themselves. I know Shri Buta Singh had tried his very best; I know Shri Chandra Shekhar had tried his very best; and I am still prepared for yet another series of negotiations. But if the negotiations do not produce any result, if the negotiations are not reduced to surrender, under coercion then the law must take its course. A civilised society can only live by rule of law. It cannot decide disputes either by votes or by violence. By force or by threat, issues cannot be resolved. So, the ultimate civilised method is the judicial process. However if negotiations take place I am sure all sections of the House will

come together and desire that the negotiations will bear fruit. (*Interruptions*) If they do not, then the Government is duty bound, — may I say, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government is duty bound — by the oath of allegiance to the Constitution, to restore the Majesty of the legal process, to expedite the judicial process and to give the law a chance, to give the law an opportunity to resolve the issue. And then, to make a commitment that whatever be the final verdict—whether it goes against one community or the other—it shall be accepted by everyone; it shall be enforced by the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : Including Shah Bano case ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I can teach you a lesson in law, if you want to bring in Shah Bano case. But, I do not have the time unfortunately. (*Interruptions*) For every point—whether it is Somnath or Shah Bano, I will reply. You don't worry about it. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I have said that the previous Governments had made a commitment; and that commitment must be reiterated on the floor of the House. (*Interruptions*) We are facing a very critical economic situation. I am very happy that the President has acknowledged that it is the cumulative result of our over spending or living beyond our means. So, the crisis is not the result of a few months, it is something which we have inherited over the last 20 years. So, as they say, "Things have come home to roost". Now, we are facing the brunt; we are facing a crisis. I would like to assure that in order to save the country from bankruptcy and ruin, the people of India shall be prepared for any economic sacrifice that is demanded of them. But then the brunt of that sacrifice must be borne by the elite also, by those who have something to give, by those who have something to sacrifice. The burden should not fall on the common masses who have nothing but their sweat and tear and toil to offer for the country.

The price rise is unprecedented. Not only the absolute rise but the very rate of inflation is unprecedented. My wife informs

me, Mr. Chairman, that every week the prices are going up and she does not know how to manage. I am sure, that is the experience of every housewife in the country. Something has to be done about it. I do recall that the Government has made the promise that within 100 days, it will bring the prices down. We shall tie it down to this commitment and would like to see that the Government does bring the prices down, if it cannot be brought down to a level of earlier level, at least there should be a tendency that the prices are beginning to fall.

Privatisation of the public sector has been referred to. I am afraid privatisation can have two aspects. Privatisation can mean dispersal of ownership to include the working masses. But privatisation can also mean reinforcement of the monopoly system. From the example that we have before us, the recent sale of the cement factory in Dalla to a monopoly house, privatisation, it seems, is going to mean the strengthening of the monopoly system. That is not acceptable to us.

We are aware of the limitations and the haphazard growth of the public sector. We would like it to be reviewed. We would like it to be more efficient. We would like it to be accountable. We would like it to channelise its energy into areas of major national concern. But we would not like that in the name of privatisation, the capitalist system, the monopoly houses enrich themselves at the cost of the nation.

Foreign collaboration has become a major issue. We seem to be opening our doors bit by bit. Perhaps now we are reading the point of open-door policy. I have made a special study of all the schemes of foreign collaboration that had been agreed to by the Government during the year 1989-90. I found that a vast number of the schemes of collaboration that were agreed to, were in the field of consumer products, of footwear, of shirts. That is a betrayal of our people, of our industrial interests. We do not want the multinationals. We do not want a consumer society in our country. We do not want the disparity between the standard of living of the high and the low to widen

further We do not want the beautiful people And we do not wish to cater to their gracious requirements of keeping them and their women folk in the latest style or fashion (*Interruptions*) This is precisely what is happening That must be stopped Foreign in vestment is a necessity But the field must be chosen very carefully a field in which such technology is not available in the country I think it has come to revise the entire strategy of industrial development in view of the growing unemployment in our country, to make a clear national choice between labour intensive and capital intensive technology

Nothing has been said about how the Government propose either to unearth black money or to somehow make it possible to be used for some social purpose (*Interruptions*) Productive and social purpose is a must When I say social purpose I mean a purpose which help the masses For example it can be a question of mass housing It can be a question of building some roads and bridges for which the Government has no money (*Interruptions*)

AN HON MEMBER They are running short of funds after the elections

SHRI SYED SHAH ABUDDIN So this is the way If you offer tax incentives you can bring out the money and channellise it into areas of mass utility Perhaps this can be done The educated unemployed today according to our record number 35 million But the real unemployment in this country must be of the order of more than 100 million What a we are going about it ? There is just one small sentence, just noting the unemployment problem Is that an adequate response to this massive situation to the frustration of the hopes of our youth who are the future of our country ? And therefore Sir, something more needs to be done

I would like that the welfare programmes should be as universal as possible and not be restrictive Once they are restrictive they lead to corrupt practices and partisanship Whatever the Government wishes to do on the question of primary education,

the question of pension for the aged and the handicapped or the widows or the orphans let that be done across the board and for everybody who is indigent circumstances Let there be no pick and choose because the moment there is pick and choose then all the inherent bias and prejudice of our society will come into operation and the deprived will remain deprived and those who do not deserve will get the benefits of the welfare schemes

Sir I would like to say that mandatation has come to stay Today the Supreme Court was supposed to get an indication about the stand of the present Government on the question of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission Report We are not aware as to what the Government has told the Supreme Court or what the Government proposes to tell the Supreme Court But let me say with all the emphasis at my command that today a time has come for every social group to have a share in running the administration and the society And even if it is deprived of it to day by the present Government and perhaps by the Supreme Court a day will come when we will have to amend the Constitution in order to make it possible and bring in an equitable system of reservation I would like to have a clear indication from the Government that if the Supreme Court finds on some ground the present scheme of reservation as ultra vires the Constitution then the Government shall be prepared to come to the House with a suitable amendment to the Constitution so that equitable sharing by all groups in the spirit of Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution will become possible

Sir I would not like to take more of your time I would like to say one word about the foreign policy I think the Non Aligned Movement is in the throes of an agonising reappraisal It does not know which way to turn Its ground appears to have slipped from under its feet It is trying to find a new mooring It is looking for a new role There was a time, Mr Chairman when India provided the leadership to the Non Aligned Movement I think in this quest for a new role it is

not enough to say that India shall participate. I think India's honour and India's place in the international community demands that we shall give a lead and a new sense of direction to the Non Aligned movement so that once again we can be a beacon of light for the international community. You can call NAM by any name if you like. Obviously, the emphasis has changed and that is why, it is looking for a new role. There can be no non-alignment between justice and injustice as Jawaharlal Nehru once said between freedom and slavery, between oppression and liberation. It is not a question of being for one country and against another country. But it is always a question of standing for a principle and against any violation of the international order... (Interruptions)...

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish that the President's Address was a little more philosophical and gave us an indication of the shape of things to come. As I said, it has not given the direction that a ship of a State should follow in order to reach the shore and avoid floundering on the rocks that lie on the way. Sir, we have a vision and the vision is not new. That vision rises out of our culture, our history, the ethos of our freedom movement, the heritage that we are all proud of. We want a society without violence; we want a society which is based on social justice; we want a society in which every individual is free and holds his head high.

We want a society which is humane, a society which is not brutal in its methods or in its approach, a society which is not insensitive to human travail and human pain, a society indeed without tears and without fear and without want and without hatred. That was Gandhiji's dream and that was Tagore's dream and that was the promise of our Freedom Movement. Somewhere, somehow we have lost our way and this office note does not show us the way and does not tell us how to proceed, where to proceed and which way to turn. Therefore, against my wishes, with due respect to the President of the Republic, I have no option but to oppose the Motion of Thanks.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan) : At the outset, I would like to thank you for having given me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the Presidential Address. We all know that the President's Address reflects the policies and programmes of the Government for the coming year. Our country is facing several burning problems and some of our senior members have elaborately dealt with those points. To my misfortune, I am unable to express my views on some of those burning problems because today in one of the leading national daily papers, one important issue pertaining to Karnataka is published—'Centre to notify interim order on Cauvery'.

This is a burning problem for nearly one crore population who are residing in the Cauvery Basin. This is a problem which is being considered for more than one hundred years. I know the ins and outs of the Cauvery Basin problem. Unfortunately all Governments have let down Karnataka from the beginning. This is my grouse.

Today I do not want to take much of the time for the issues that have now been pending before the Cauvery Tribunal for final adjudication. But I am going to deal with the interim order only which has been pronounced on 24th June 1991. The implications of the interim order should have been known to the Government of India before taking any hasty step.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Sir, I am on a point of order Is it in order for a member to devote, as he threatens to do, his entire speech to a subject which has not been mentioned in the President's Address?

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : The Presidential Address makes a mention about development of irrigation. I do not want to mention about the item under which I am going to raise this particular issue. Though I am a new member to this House, I know that anything can be discussed during the debate on Presidential Address, within the ambit of the rules framed by this very House. I know my limitations. Though I am a new entrant to this House, being a member in the State Legislature for more

than twenty years, I know my limitations. That is why I am very cautious. Since last week, I am watching the proceedings of this House. I am a new member. Therefore, I do not want to elaborate on that point.

Sir, the interim order says that 205 TMC of water should be released from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu in a crop year starting from June to May. Sir, I want to caution the Government of India, particularly about the implications of the order that has been made by the Tribunal. If you go through the release of water that is going to come from each project, i.e. what is called the inflow in the Cauvery basin during these months, you will understand the implications the tribunal has categorically mentioned, "We direct the State Government to release the water from its reservoir in Karnataka so as to ensure 205 TMC of water in a crop year commencing from June to May I wanted to draw the attention of this Government to the availability of water in the bad year. This is a moot point for the consideration of the Government before taking any step in this direction. In the month of July release in bad year ranges from 24 TMC to 2.4 TMC. The lowest reservoir in the Cauvery basin are KRS and Kabini. Hemavati Harangi are the two major reservoirs above KRS which are under construction, why I am only taking into consideration the release that is going to be made by Kabini and KRS is worthy to be noted by the Government of India. If we are going to honour the verdict given by the tribunal to release 42.76 TMC of water in July that means the water that is going to be impounded in the reservoir has to be depleted at the cost of the Karnataka farmers. Total water that is going to be stored or impounded will come to about 95 TMC in all the four reservoirs that we have constructed in Karnataka including the KRS. KRS is a reservoir constructed about 50 years back. If you take into account that reservoir also the total storage in all the four reservoirs, i.e. Kabini, Harangi, Hemavati and KRS, comes to about 95 TMCs. You can understand the predicament of Karnataka Government. In case they are going to honour the verdict, Karnataka have to deplete nearly 30

TMC of water in a bad year that they have stored in the reservoir. So, this was for the month of July.

For the month of August they are asked to release 54 TMC of water. Unfortunately, in a bad year the outgoing water from KRS and Kabini ranges from 5.9 TMC to 31 TMC if you take release of 5-6 years. If we want to honour the tribunal verdict, we have to again allow our farmers to suffer and release the water from our storage as per the direction of the tribunal. I don't know whether it is possible for the Karnataka Government to allow the water at the cost of its farmers.

Sir, let us further examine the another direction given by the tribunal. Another direction is that we should not develop more than 11.2 lakh acres of land. We have already developed 11.2 lakh acres in the month of May, 1990. They have taken the cut off date as May, 1990. Subsequently, for the areas that have been brought under irrigation by the Karnataka Government, they have not taken into account the last one year's figure. Sir, I want to highlight some of the points because our counterpart, the Tamil Nadu has tried to create an impression in the minds of the general public that Karnataka has taken an unreasonable stand. Outside Tamil Nadu, or Karnataka, in other parts of the country reasonably thinking people are under the impression that Karnataka is taking an unreasonable stand so far as the Cauvery water dispute is concerned.

In a nutshell, I would like to say that this is not based on facts. It was unfortunate that the successive Governments of Karnataka had not taken proper care to remove this sort of impression from the minds of the people.

Karnataka is contributing nearly 425 TMC of water out of the total field, whereas Tamil Nadu is contributing hardly 225 TMC of water and Kerala is contributing about 130 TMCs of water in the basin. When such is the case, what is the total water that has been used by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu? If you compare this, Tamil Nadu has developed more than 28

lakh acres whereas Karnataka—unfortunately because of our political blunders—was able to develop only 112 lakh acres. Out of the 112 lakh acres, I would like to make it clear that we are not growing paddy in all the new projects. It is only in KRS and in some of the old avacuis, we are raising only one crop that is paddy and in some areas we are raising only sugarcane. Except the new projects that are pending before the Government of India—whether it is Harangi or whether it is Hemawati only dry-cum-wet crop is growing—because of the objection that was raised by Tamil Nadu, all these projects have been constructed by the resources of the State itself. We have spent nearly Rs 800 crores on these major projects but unfortunately today, on account of this Interim Order, our projects are going to become reserves for storing water for Tamil Nadu without using it for the benefit of our farmers. It is as good as balancing reservoirs for the sake of Tamil Nadu. This is the position that we have come to today because of the Interim Order of the Tribunal.

I do not want to cast aspersions on the Tribunal or on the Supreme Court. I know how the whole matter was dealt with.

Sir, in this country, there are various inter-State river water disputes. Several Tribunals have been constituted and to my knowledge no Tribunal has passed an Interim Order. When the Tribunal was constituted, Tamil Nadu went with some civil miscellaneous petition before the Tribunal for an Interim Order for staying the on-going projects that are going to come up in Karnataka and also to pass an order for the specific quantum of water to be released whether in a good year or in a bad year. The Tribunal, in its wisdom has taken a decision that they cannot go into the merits and demerits at the stage of the civil miscellaneous petition. But unfortunately, the matter was turned down by the Supreme Court. That is why I said that I do not want to cast aspersions at this stage. To my knowledge when in the whole country, such an issue was raised and the matter regarding distribution of inter-State River Water came up before the Tribunal, no Tribunal passed such an

Interim Order. It is the misfortune today that because of the directions of the Supreme Court the Tribunal had taken an advantage and had passed this Interim Order.

I would like to mention here, how Tamil Nadu had behaved in the past. I would like to draw the attention of this House and through this House, the attention of the general public why Karnataka had taken an unreasonable stand—because the Karnataka Assembly had passed a Resolution—to boycott the Tribunal and also not to implement or to honour the Tribunal's Interim Order. This is not for the first time that such things have occurred. I would also like to quote the previous events. This matter cropped up about 100 years back when the old Mysore State was ruled by the then Maharaja and Tamil Nadu was ruled by the Britishers. I am going to quote some of the relevant points because these are very relevant in the present context.

How did the Tamil Nadu Government try to flout the decision of the arbitration which was being made in those days? I am going to give in chronological order how the events took place.

In 1870 a serious controversy was reported to have risen between Mysore and Madras about adverse effects on claims of Madras by ryots irrigating lands down the river. By extension of irrigation in Mysore Madras claimed that International Law was not applicable to a dual State like Mysore in its delimited paramount power. After this issue was cropped up the Government of India had appointed Mr H D Griffin as the Arbitrator and Mr M Nethersol, Inspector-General of Irrigation in India as an Assessor. After this Tribunal was appointed, the Arbitrator, Mr H D Griffin had given an award in 1914. That award was not honoured by the Tamil Nadu Government in those days. In 1915 they made an appeal to the Government of India against the award. Even then the award was ratified. The Government of India did not take note of the objection made by the Tamil Nadu Government at that time but the Government of India in its wisdom,

had ratified the award made by the Arbitrator. The ratification was made in the year 1916. After the ratification was made by the Government of India in 1916, an appeal was made to the Secretary of the State for India. What was their political power, what was their strength and all that, any one can understand. Then the Secretary of State issued a directive for fresh arbitration. The arbitration award was rejected by Tamil Nadu in the inception itself, because did not help them. At that time, it was Mysore, a tiny State which was under the rule of then Maharaja; he was not powerful to influence the Government of India or the Secretary-General in those days. I went back to the history to tell the people of this Country about Karnataka having been taken unreasonable time on the interim award given by the Tribunal. We do not want to create any conflict.

While replying to the Motion of No-Confidence, the Prime Minister was kind enough to say that an era of confrontation was over. He wants cooperation to solve some of the major problems.

The Tribunal itself in their earlier order has mentioned that "the Central Government has made rules under Section 13 of the Act viz. Inter-State Water Dispute Rules, 1959. Under Section 13 of the Act, Rules have been framed but no power has been granted to give any interim relief. In the circumstances, this is also indicative of the fact that the Tribunal has no power to grant any interim relief of the nature asked for. In case the intention of the Parliament was that the Tribunal may be able to grant an interim relief without the dispute being referred to the Tribunal it would have either provided such power in the Act itself or in the rules framed under the Act, but this has not been done." This is an observation made by the Tribunal itself in the interim order while rejecting the plea of Tamil Nadu on the civil petition in January, 1991.

I do not want to waste the time of this august House. I know the value of time. Normally—You know my previous background—I never, never try to indulge in unnecessary speeches. This is very relevant

and it is the life and death question of Karnataka. Fortunately, you are in the Chair. Please do not try to curtail my speech. This is such a grave issue. Sir, why I am stating the observation made by the same tribunal in orders in the month of January is this.

Again, the Supreme Court, while turning down the orders of the Tribunal on the civil miscellaneous petition they have also observed :

"In view of the above circumstances I think it is not necessary for us to go into the larger question whether the Tribunal constituted under the Water Disputes Act has any power or not to grant any interim relief."

Sir, when such is the case, I do not know how a direction was issued by the Supreme Court and the Tribunal has based on that direction, the Tribunal had passed this interim order.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : May I ask the hon. member a question ? Does he or does he not accept that the Supreme Court is the final authority on the law of the land ?

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : I really want to compliment my friend. This is an Inter-State Disputes Act. A Tribunal has been constituted under Sections 3 and 4 of this Act, which has been framed by this very same House, though I was not a member in those days. I am just a new entrant and I would like to draw your attention to Section 11 of the Inter-State Disputes Act, which says :

"Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall have or exercise jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which is referred to a tribunal under this Act."

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I am sorry. But the Act refers to the substance of the issue. The point at issue under the law was whether the Tribunal should or should not, under the law of the land, give an interim order. The Supreme Court

of India has directed them to issue this order. So, what we have got in the order is an order from the Supreme Court, the highest court of the land, plus an Award given by a judicial body. Karnataka is in double jeopardy in not accepting that Award.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : I do not want to cast aspersions on the judiciary.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA (Banaskantha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is going on between the two hon. Members ?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN . One is from Karnataka and the other is from Tamil Nadu.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : In this very House a matter relating to a Supreme Court Judge is pending for impeachment. I do not want to comment on it.

SHRI D. K. Naikar (Dharwad, North) : The question before the Tribunal was about use and distribution. These are the words used : "The use and distribution and channelling". This Tribunal took an application, an interim application and decided on the ground that no reference had been made by the Central Government to give an order on this. The reference was to the main dispute, "Use and distribution of water". Therefore, on the ground of want of jurisdiction they dismissed the petition. Now the petition for interim stay came. Against this dismissal order the parties went to the Supreme Court and there the learned Judges of the Supreme Court took a view that it was not the use and distribution point only, but that they were considering it on merits. It is only the question of power, whether Tribunal has got it or not, to dismiss this interim petition. Power and limitation and jurisdiction all these are questions of law. But that was entertained by the Supreme Court and a verdict was given to the Tribunal to decide the matter even in respect of interim applications also. But at the

time when the Tribunal was giving the order they have taken into account the capacity of Karnataka State also, because Karnataka has got a capacity for impounding of 100 TMC ft. One hundred TMC ft. The direction of the Tribunal was to give 205 TMC ft. Even the Karnataka Government has got storage capacity of 95 TMC ft. in all the four reservoirs, namely, Kabini, Harangi, Hemawati and K. R. Sagar. The Tribunal did not have any practical idea to pass such an order. The matter was decided in such an illegal and impracticable way that it cannot be implemented by the Karnataka Government... (Interruptions).

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Can they not settle the dispute at our expense ? We can donate the required water to them from North Bihar as much as they like... (Interruptions).

SHRI H. D. DEVEGODA : The interim order passed by the Tribunal should be reviewed again by the Government of India. The Government of India has got the powers, including the State Government, to do so. Under Section 5(3) they can ask the Tribunal to re-examine the whole issue and refer the matter within three months.

Sir, today's *Indian Express* says that it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to publish this report within one month. I do not want to cast any aspersions on anybody.

I would like to make another four, five points. Please allow me another five minutes.. (Interruptions).

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Before he moves to the other points, I would like to ask one clarification.. (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : When you speak you can mention it.. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Hon. Member Shri Aiyar, is just getting up and interrupting the other Member's speech. Unless

he rises on a point of order, he cannot just disturb like this. Once in a while, he can do it. But this is the fourth time he is disturbing him.. (Interruptions)

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : I am only drawing the attention of the Central Government through you, Sir, to Section 5(3). Under this Section, either the State Government or the Central Government can ask for reconsideration of the whole issue on a revision petition. The Government can also give a direction. This is the moot point that I wanted to impress upon.

I would like to point out as to how the Karnataka State has been deprived of Since 25 years, four major projects are pending for clearance. Contrary to 1924 agreement Tamil Nadu had developed six lakhs acre/ of land even though the Karnataka Government raised objections to it. Unfortunately the Government of India did not take into cognisance the objections raised by the Karnataka Government. Sir, a similar treatment was given in the past also when we submitted three projects, namely, Harangi, Kabini and Hemawati, to the Central Water Commission for its clearance. They are not cleared and they are pending before the Government of India from 1965. That is why, I am a little bit afraid about the attitude of the Central Government. I know as to how even the Janata Dal Government handled this matter at the time of the constitution of the Tribunal. I do not want to elaborate this at this stage. If we are going to honour the Tribunal's Interim Order stopping the further development of irrigation, it is going to incur heavy financial loss because of the contractual obligation already fixed. As the works are already going on at various stages and the contracts were already fixed for distribution system, if they are going to be stopped, there will be lot of financial implications and heavy burden on the State Government. If the Interim Order is going to be notified by the Government of India, it will be a great damage to the farmers and the Cauvery basin.

Tamil Nadu has developed 28 lakh acres and they are growing three paddy crops

namely, Samba, Tuladi and Kurvai whereas Karnataka is growing only dry-cum-wet crop in all the new projects. Even if you complete all the on-going projects it will irrigate only 23 lakh acres that too dry-cum-wet. The seasonal condition as per the Irrigation Commission Report of 1972 is that 27 Talukas in Karnataka and 17 Talukas in Tamil Nadu will be affected by drought. I am saying this point for the consideration by the Government of India. Even now I request the Tamil Nadu counterpart to solve this problem by mutual discussions, negotiations and bilateral talks without adhering to a rigid stand. This matter is unsolved for the last 100 years. If the Karnataka people are going to be deprived of the rightful share, it is not so easy to digest. I want to cite the comments made by the National Commission on Agriculture. Water is a scarce commodity. It has to be utilised very cautiously. I am just mentioning one of the comments made by the National Commission on Agriculture :

"In view of the inadequacy by water resources to meet the future agricultural and other requirements in many parts of the country it has become a matter of great national importance to conserve and utilise them most judiciously and economically."

The C.C. Patel Committee and also UNDP Report says nearly 340 TMC water can be saved if we use the groundwater by adopting a new technology. If you want to conserve and utilise most judiciously and economically, there are various modern technologies which can be adopted. The political power will now come into the picture who will be mightier whether in Tamil Nadu or Karnataka. I want to warn the Government of India and the Congress Party, the people of Karnataka stood with Congress from the very beginning whether it is undivided Congress (I) or divided Congress (I). During Shrimati Indira Gandhi's bad days they stood with Congress. It should not be forgotten. Hungry stomach knows no law, no constitution. He will die to fill his belly. This should be remembered. With these words, I conclude.

18.00 hrs

18 3 hrs.

These are the two points which I wanted to raise because it is going to help to solve this problem by further discussion and bilateral talks. (*Inruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN Mr. Devegowda, the time allotted to you is over. You have spoken for 35 minutes. The House is in an agitating mood now.

SHRI H D DE EGOWDA Sir, we know who is mightier. That is the issue before us. Now what politics is and who is mightier who will handle this situation in the present political atmosphere. Now political power is trying to prevail.

The Central Government now being ruled by Congress would do forget that the Karnataka people stood with the Congress from the beginning. Whether it is the divided Congress or the undivided Congress, Karnataka people always stood with them. If the reward which is going to be given is that the Karnataka people are going to suffer on account of the hurried decision about the resolution going to be issued by the Government of India, then the people of Karnataka will not pardon the Congress and the Central Government.

With this warning I would like to make myself clear that the people will not pardon the Congress. The people of Karnataka will not give help to the Congress that they have given during the time of late Madam Gandhi. They should not forget this. (*Inruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN That is all, Devegowda. Now Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam. (*Interuptions*)

SHRI H D DE EGOWDA Lastly, Sir, I would like to make one point. I have already made it clear that the hungry stomach will not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN No, that is over now. I have called Mr. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FIRST REPORT

[*Erashish*]

MR. CHAIRMAN Shri R. Kumaramangalam

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) Sir, I beg to present the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

In terms of the recommendations by the Business Advisory Committee, may I request the House to agree to sit up to 7 pm?

MR. CHAIRMAN Is it the desire of the House to sit up to 7 o'clock?

SOME HON MEMBERS Yes.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Aumgarh) Sir, this is not the way. Already the time of the House is over. (*Inruption*) Why do you propose at the end of the sitting? If the Business Advisory Committee's Report has to come, it should have come earlier. This is not the way to extend the time of the House.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM Sir, the Hon Member should know that the Business Advisory Committee's meeting took place at 3 o'clock and it is always placed on the Table of the House on the same day at 6 o'clock. (*Inruption*)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV That is all right but not after 6 o'clock.

(*Interruptions*)

AN HON MEMBER Probably the Minister does not want us to agree.... That is why he is arguing.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM : Normally this is called before six o'clock. But because the Hon. Member we thought would continue for a little more time, that is why it is being called now. I hope the House will agree because the BAC has together agreed.

SHRI RAM NAIK : As a special case we are agreeing today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, the House agrees to sit up to 7 o'clock.

Now Shri P. K. Bansal — Absent

Shri Manoranjan Bhakta — Absent

Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

18.04 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

SHRI SРИBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have the pleasure to support this Motion of Thanks for the Presidential Address. No doubt, it is an annual exercise and it is an annual ritual. This is a very valuable document containing the policies and programmes of the Government to be pursued during the year to come. Although this is an annual exercise, this year's Presidential Address and this debate assumes great importance in the sense that this is the first occasion provided to the Government after the Tenth Lok Sabha Elections to come before the House, to come before the Parliament with its programmes and policies.

Sir, enough has been said in the course of the last 3-4 days about the mandate people have given in the last Lok Sabha election. People being the supreme masters in a sovereign democratic State, we bow down to the verdict they have given to us. But, Sir, I feel that judging the seriousness of the situation we are facing in our country, it would have been better had this verdict been more decisive, had it

been more clear and decisive because, Sir, this is the time when firmness is required on the part of the Government to tackle the situation that is threatening even our unity and integrity. Sir, there is a lot of violence taking place everywhere, the law and order situation in some parts of the country is awful, is very bad, and in a sense violence is overtaking us. Sir, it is unfortunate that in this land of Buddha, Asoka, Gandhi and Jawaharlal who used to send the message of peace and non-violence to the world, violence is overtaking us. Sir, this is the largest democracy of the world and we are proud of being the largest democracy in the world. But, Sir, our heads also hang in shame when we find that this largest democratic country has turned out to be a place where three great national leaders—the Father of the Nation and thereafter, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, our beloved late lamented Prime Minister and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, our popular young leader and former Prime Minister—were assassinated.

1907 hrs.

[**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA**
in the Chair]

So, the mandate as I said, is a people's mandate and we accept it with all humility. But this mandate is clear in one sense. This verdict is definitely against casteism, against communalism, whatever those groups who promote casteism and communalism may say. This people's verdict is definitely and positively a verdict against casteism and communalism and it is a mandate for the Congress Party to form the Government, to run the affairs of the State when things are in a mess, of course with the cooperation of the Opposition Parties on the basis of consensus on national issues. Is there anybody to dispute it? Whatever they might say, I think many hon. Members from that side who participated in the debate yesterday and even day before and also on other occasions like the debate on the Confidence Motion, they are not here but they have become unduly critical, they have become uncharitably critical of Mr. Narasimha Rao's Government. Is there any time for

the Government to start its activities, to start its work ? Its performance should be analysed, it should be tested and thereafter observations can be made, references can be made and also this criticism can be brought about. Mr. Somnath Chatterjee was all the time asking the hon. Members from this side, when they asked for cooperation, 'what for cooperation and on the basis of what ?' He again said in the course of his speech yesterday that this Address lacks in hopes and inspiration for the people.

I have both the copies of the President's Address, the one which was delivered on the 11th July, 1991 and also the one which was delivered on the 20th December, 1989 when Shri V. P. Singh formed the Government. At that time it was said that the Government was formed with the committed support of the Left parties and also with the support of the BJP. What is the difference between the two Addresses ? What hopes and aspirations were there in that Address ? Even in West Bengal where Mr. Jyoti Basu is the Chief Minister, they have not spelt out the details in the Governor's Address; policies are there, indications are there, but they have not spelt out the details. If you are spelling out even the details in the President's Address, then I am afraid Shri Chatterjee might complain that what was the head for consideration. When details have already been spelled out in the Address. So, today the situation demands that a different type of atmosphere should prevail in our country. The Opposition should not run with the hare and hunt with the hound. Therefore, I would say that it is time for a new era as the hon. Prime Minister has aptly stated.

SHRI PIYUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar) : Madam, I am on a point of order There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The bell is being run—

There is quorum. The hon. Member Shri Sriballav Panigrahi, may continue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Madam, I was referring to the verdict of

the people which is in favour of the Congress Party to run the affairs of the country, to form the Government and get the cooperation of the Opposition on the basis of issues and on the basis of consensus on national issues. The Prime Minister has also rightly said on the floor of this House that there could be a national agenda prepared and it is time for all of us, particularly for the party leaders to apply their mind, to sit together and work out details. Otherwise, the people will not tolerate another election now. During the last 18 months, we have gone to the people twice and if we go again, it is against the national interests; people will not relish that.

Of course, earlier we were not accustomed to this type of situation. This type of situation is prevailing outside India, in many foreign countries and we have to get accustomed to it, since twice the people have given this type of mandate where no single party, no party on its own could form a Government. Naturally that requires adjustment amongst ourselves. The situation demands adjustment between the political leaders, political parties among themselves to run the affairs of the country.

This Government has started some work in right earnest. As you know, things were in a mess and this Government is required to clear the mess created by the previous Governments. I do not like to blame anybody for this. But the outcome of what they have done during the last 18 months is, the coffer is empty and we have to mortgage our gold. This was required to salvage the national prestige, the prestige of the nation. Naturally devaluation of rupee took place. You may call it adjustment of rupee against foreign currency.

It is not charitable on the part of the Opposition to criticise in such a way the Election Commission. The Chief Election Commissioner is not an individual. The Election Commission is an independent institution, an autonomous institution and some of its decision may not be to our liking. Madam, I would like to remind the Opposition who are critical of the role of

the Election Commission. When the Punjab election date was deferred, they were critical of the Election Commission. But I welcome that decision of the Election Commission to postpone the date till 25th of September. If the elections were held or allowed to be held in Punjab on the earlier day, would that have been free and fair elections, especially when 24 candidates were already killed and many candidates were taking shelter in the police stations ? Who would have turned up as voters in the polling stations and how many real voters would have come ?

As Sardar Buta Singh while moving the Motion said, the militants declared that it was a referendum for them to go for Khalistan. What would have happened when the militants in that process formed the Government at the State ? I apprehend that had the elections been held as scheduled, the militants would have gone for the resolution being passed on the floor of the Assembly for Khalistan.

The Opposition are talking about the postponement of Punjab elections. But I would say, after the tragic assassination of Shri Rajivji, the elections were unilaterally deferred to 12th to 15th of June. The advancement of the election dates was demanded by the Congress-I but it was not headed by the Election Commission. But we do not entertain any grievance against the Election Commission.

When the symbol case of BJP friends came for freezing of that symbol as demanded rightly by all of us, as it should be the endeavour of all of us to separate religion from politics, what did the BJP friends do ? When the Election Commission wanted to freeze the election symbol of BJP, the BJP friends who claim to be very much democratic, went to the streets. They took the issue to the streets. Was it not a fact ?

What happened in Bihar ? We know about the rigging take place in large scale, booth capturing in large scale. One gentleman was running the show. He has mastered the art of rigging election.

The Chief Minister of Bihar has mastered the art of rigging the election and the outcome of such rigging. (*Interruptions*) I want to go on record. I do not want to be shouted down. I know my point. I said it. I want to go on record. Because of only large-scale rigging, we saw the type of result that has come in Bihar. Regardless of voting, the Returning Officer's and the Collectors were instructed to declare the candidates, of only one political party as elected. Was it not a fact ? Did he not say it ?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) : I am on a point of order. The hon. Member said that the Chief Minister of Bihar has master-minded the rigging in the last election. Will it go on record ?

MR CHAIRMAN : Yes. It will go on record.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Why ? Are we discussing about the elections in Bihar ? Are we discussing about the character of Mr. Mishra ? This is wrong.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I said it. There is no secret about it.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : This afternoon I have submitted that seven persons have been killed in my Constituency, five of them Muslims and two Scheduled Caste people. All have been killed unfortunately by my friend, the Leader of the Bihar Congress Party, Dr. Jagannath Mishra. They could not arrest the people.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Newspaper reports suggest it. It is common knowledge as to who did what in Bihar during elections. O.K.

Regarding Punjab elections, I was saying that not only the elections should not be held in Punjab as long as normalcy is not restored. Together with the restoration of normalcy, the relevant laws should be amended. What is the amendment ? Anybody who advocates secession and becomes a party to it should be prohibited from contesting in the elections. Nobody can go to the extent of demanding secession in

Assembly or in the Legislature. As a matter of abundant precaution for future, unless the relevant laws, the Representation of People Act, is amended properly, we should not go for election there. Not only Congress but some other Parties also were thinking in terms of boycotting the elections in the prevailing situation there. When Congress boycotted, some other Parties also decided to boycott. This election process that is going on should be cancelled. Election process should start afresh in Punjab. (*Interruptions*).

As regards economic reforms, as I said, everywhere, in the socialist countries also, rigorous economic reforms are now going on and, therefore, we should also go in for economic reforms and liberalise our economy. At the same time, we have to keep in our mind the national objective of growth with social justice. We have our objective of democratic socialism, which does not permit accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few individuals. It is also not a healthy trend to permit certain provinces to advance and others to lag behind. There should be healthy and balanced development of all regions and of all sections of the society. They should stand to gain. They should all benefit by our planning and our development schemes.

As regards public sector, there is a reference of the reforms to be brought about in our public sector. That is the need of the hour. Unless the Public Sector prospers, our very objective of socialism will get defeated, will be defeated. Of course, Shri Rabi Ray ji is not here. I agree with him when he was expressing anxiety. He was feeling concerned with the growth, about the phenomenal, growth of monopoly houses. But at the same time I would like to say that when mixed economy is our economic policy, they will grow. We have gone for mixed economy. At the same time, we have to ensure the very basis of Gandhian economic policy based on trusteeship to operate.

MR. CHAIRMAN : May I request the Hon. Member to wind up now ?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I am trying to wind up. Please give me

some time. Actually, in letter and spirit, we should give a look at the Gandhian economic philosophy which is based on trusteeship. We should observe this at least in respect of the monopoly houses. Of course, there are changes taking place. If the Opposition friends hurl accusations at the Congress, what is the use ? Of course, the Congress was ruling the country for four decades. Has not enough development taken place in the country ? At the time of Independence, India was just not capable of producing a pen, a blade. That India today does enjoy the reputation of being one among the ten most industrially advanced countries in the world. Is it not a tribute to India, to the progress we have made so far under the Congress regime ?

Sir, our agricultural production has gone manifold, more than three times, 300 percentage. Is it not a tribute to our peasantry, to our farmers that too during the period of Congress administration ? Therefore, they should not undermine everything that we have made. We have our limitations. At the same time our population also has grown manifold. That is our main problem. It has increased more than double. Therefore, I will say pinpointedly that wasteful expenditure has to be curtailed, economy has to be observed. Then, public sector accountability has to be fixed. While appointing the managers, care should be taken. I am constrained to observe that today many of our managers in public sector are behaving like princes. We have done away with the princely States. But they are replaced by these people, some of the IAS officers, some of the senior bureaucrats as also these industrial managers in the public sector. Therefore, accountability has to be fixed. More freedom be given to them. Workers participation has to be ensured. Thus, a new work culture in our public sector has to be evolved. There should be a new work culture, new political culture. By new political culture I mean judging the situation of today as to what is required now. We should adjust among ourselves. We should become realistic in our approach. We should become more practical and approach this problem in that light. Madam, I will finish in a few minutes. About

communal harmony and Mandal Commission I would like to give my opinion. Communal harmony should be maintained. Regarding Babri Masjid, right type of approach has been reflected in the President's Address. The other day I was hearing Hon. Member Shri Dixit. He was saying that his party, right from the beginning, abides by the court decision. As far as this issue is concerned, there should be an attempt to settle this matter through a negotiated settlement, through mutual discussion. (*Interruptions*). I wish it should succeed. If that fails, only the court decision is to be honoured. The matter is now pending in the Division Bench of the Allahabad High Court. Everybody should abide by the court decision including the BJP. What is the harm? I heard with rapt attention when Shri Dixit spoke. He said there are other court judgements and they are abiding by that. If they are abiding by the court decision till today, why not they abide by it as far as the last one is concerned.

Shri Rabi Ray was speaking yesterday about the Mandal Commission, about the economic criteria. Things are changing. He is opposed to caste-based politics, casteism as such. I feel personally that we should do away with casteism, the caste system. We are all committed to fight out backwardness, we are all committed to fight out poverty. Where is the problem? Reservation should be ensured for socially and economically backward people. Is it not a fact some of the communities, some of the castes which are today the richest in the society find a place in the list of OBC according to Mandal Commission's Report? Should every benefit go to them without any consideration? Is it a justice? Is it a right type of justice, social justice? In the interest of justice, in the interest of progress, let us not take the country backward. Let us take the country forward and the economic criteria as suggested in the Presidential Address should be rigorously followed.

I have told you about the regional imbalance. I welcome this particular sentence 'steps will be taken for the rapid economic development of Assam'. I welcome this

because you know about the discontentment which grew in Assam and also the culminating effect of it—how it finds expression in different unpleasant forms and in several other parts including Orissa. Such situation may arise unless remedial measures are taken right from now. Now let us read the writings on the wall. Let us evolve a system so that no area, no State, no region should be left backward.

While coming to Orissa, I emphatically say that the Western Orissa is being discriminated politically and economically very much in the matter of economic development. That is why I request to invoke the constitutional provision under Article 371 and an autonomous regional development council should be set up for Western Orissa. (*Interruptions*). Yes, there should be a regional development council for Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Sundargarh, Bolangir etc. If you talk of consensus we can sit together and decide about each area. We will not allow the coastal domination in Orissa. In Shri Biju Patnaik's Cabinet there are 36 or 37 Ministers and out of that, representation from the Western district is just four or five. And that too, they are not senior ministers. They have got minor portfolios. This is the type of treatment meted out to Western Orissa. That is why, in the national interest, in the larger national interest of unity and integrity what is required is to fight out regional imbalance to ensure healthy development of all regions and also to see that property and assets do not get accumulated in a few hands and they should be spread over.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack) . There should be one Central Minister from Western Orissa. If you recommend to the Prime Minister that there should be a representation from the Western Orissa, there should be a representation to the coastal area also. (*Interruptions*).

MR CHAIRMAN : Don't you want other Members from your party also to speak? There is a long list before me. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is one very welcome feature in the

President's Address (Interruptions) Generally when we have a Madam Chairman in the Chair, we feel inspired and also we get very kind support from the Chair I believe you will not disturb me till I close

Now there is a mention about the drinking water scheme, which is very much needed every where, dedicated to the memory of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi

I welcome this I hope this will work well keeping the true spirit of this scheme

Madam, I now close with one or two sentences. There should be one nation energy policy and a national wage policy. The Government should apply its mind to the formulation of a national energy policy and a national wage policy. It is a matter of great concern. I think everybody is concerned that till today many parts of our country have not had sufficient rains. The rain God is not favourable. It is not kind enough to all the parts. Therefore right from now the Government should have a vigil over the situation take stock of the situation and also take precautionary measures. I think there is enough time for the rains to come and the situation to improve. But failing that the situation should not overtake us we should remain well prepared right from now so that no impending drought threatens us.

I express my gratitude to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who has given me this opportunity to speak on this occasion. I am grateful to you Madam for having given me sufficient time to express myself. Madam, it is time for the whole country and as the representatives of the people for us to feel reassured over the future of our democracy, over the future of our economy over the future of our young generations and also about the political uncertainty. That is why to tackle the situation that lies ahead of all of us according to the verdict of the people—we should go into the verdict of the people in right perspective without nursing abuses against each other—we should build up a national consensus. We should see that this Government runs with their cooperation from the opposition and this Government

gets adequate opportunity to implement its manifesto

[Translation]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secundrabad) I rise to oppose the motion of Thanks on President's Address because the Address has failed to reflect at length the various problems confronted by the country at present, whether they are political or economic. This Address has failed to make a detailed mention of the problems of unemployment, price rise and the problems faced by the industries. It has also failed to mention the steps proposed to be taken to overcome these problems. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during electioneering in the political parties in the election fray suspended the election campaigns as all of us were grief stricken. I represent the Secunderabad constituency of Andhra Pradesh. Riots took place in Andhra Pradesh after the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and people were instigated to indulge in violence. Some thing happened in Tamil Nadu

I can give you an instance. You have heard about the character of Dusshashin of Mahabharata and we have also heard about Kanya Shri Butti Singh is not present in the House now. He says that the Congress culture is the culture of the nation. I want to tell him is to what happened on 22nd May in Wymsui Mandal Mulpadu village of Khinnam district of Andhra Pradesh to which former Union Minister Shri J. Venkai Rao belongs. A mother and her daughter were running a shop there. They were asked to close down their shop in the wake of assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. That woman closed her shop at that moment but the Congress workers repeated that very act with her which Dusshashin had done in Mahabharata. They stripped the young lady and made a scar mark on her foot.

Similarly, what was done with the one and a half year old daughter of Shri Ram Mohan Rao who is a worker of Telugu Desham Party? How was she concerned with the Rajiv Gandhi's assassination? Those workers threw the child on the road

What was her fault ? What had the child done ? I would like to mention another incident relating to the four year old child of Vijayawada. (*Interruptions*). Not only this, the child died immediately. Andhra Pradesh suffered a loss of property to the tune of Rs. 70 crores. Shops and factories belonging to B.J.P., T.D., C.P.M. and C.P.I. people were looted in the presence of police. I would ask the Government as to how all this happened ? I gave a memorandum to the Governor and met the Director General of Police in person but riots and looting continued unabated on the 22nd.

I would like to bring to your notice another incident. A wine shop was looted on 21st. Some *goondas* were involved in the looting spree and it was done at the instance of the Congress Party. I would like to ask whether this is the Congress culture ? When the B. J. P. leader Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyay was assassinated, we protested peacefully to express our grief, but so far as burning of hotels in Tamil Nadu and in my own constituency is concerned, it was the handiwork of Congress workers. Therefore, I would like to point out that such incidents which took place in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere find no mention in the President's Address which is very distressing. Besides, the Government has neither appointed any Supreme Court Judge to go into this matter nor any report has so far been received from any inquiry committee so as to enable the affected parties get justice. Not only that, even the Police office in whose presence the dacoity was committed, has not so far been suspended. No action has been taken against him. Therefore, I express my resentment over the failure to mention this thing in the President's Address.

At the same time, there is no mention about the unemployed people in the President's Address. The number of unemployed people registered with the employment exchange in the country is 32.077 millions. Previously when the Congress Party was in power, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana was announced and it was said that an alloca-

tion of Rs. 2100 crore would be made under this scheme to provide employment to educated unemployed. Another scheme to provide jobs to the urban unemployed people was announced with an outlay of Rs. 467.14 crore. But no loan under this scheme has so far been given to any Corporation in Andhra Pradesh including the Hyderabad Corporation. Therefore, I would like to say that this announcement was made only to get publicity. I have got the figures with me. An allocation of Rs. 2567 crore was made under the Self Employment Scheme for the unemployed youth, but this amount was grossly misused. I demand that a committee should be appointed to look into it. Coming to sky-rocketting prices, I would say that the Congress Party had promised in its election manifesto to bring down the prices of essential commodities to the 1990 level. The item that were included in their manifesto under the list of essential commodities were diesel, kerosene, salt, edible oils, bicycles, scooters, dhotis, sarees, newsprint, post card and inland letter. But I am distressed to point out that kerosene is not available in villages and supply of electricity is very erratic. The price of kerosene has risen by 22.4 per cent. The wholesale price index has registered an increase of 24.2 per cent during the period April, 1990 to April 1991. Salt is an ordinary commodity. It used to be distributed free, but its price also has risen by 12.7 per cent. Similarly the prices of edible oils, have registered an increase of 16.7 per cent and that of cotton sarees by 9 per cent. The prices of post card and envelopes which are used common man have gone up by 33.3 per cent. No concrete suggestion has been given in this regard in the President's Address.

Friends, some of my colleagues have referred to communalism. The issue of communalism and Ramjanamboomi-Babri Masjid is being debated here. Yesterday, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was saying something. He said that minorities are not being given their due share. I want to ask him as to who is the Election Commissioner, Shri Seshan ? Who is the President ? To what community the Captain of the Indian Cricket Team, Ajharuddin

belongs to ? Was not Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed the President of the country ? I want to say that a race has begun between the national front and the Congress Party to the voters belonging to the minorities. By doing so, they want to create a fear psychosis in the minds of the minorities in the countries. They had been doing so in the past also. I am from Hyderabad. Riots took place recently in old city of Hyderabad. Atrocities were committed there on Hindus.

[English]

Thirty four persons were murdered in cold blood.

[Translation]

Nobody talks of minorities there. No political party is ready to talk about 25 lakh refugees who have been forced to leave Kashmir are now living on the foot paths of Delhi. What type of communalism it is ?

[English]

Minorities are minorities whether they are Hindus or Muslims. (Interruptions)

(Translation)

The Hon Prime Minister spoke about the Industrial policy and a lot has been said about industrialisation in the country here in the House. In my constituency Secunderabad there is an IDPI factory which has been suffering a loss of Rs 50 crore every year. There are about 5000 employees in that factory. The position today is that for last two months the management does not even have enough funds to pay salary to its employees. If the Government is suffering a loss of Rs 50 crore from one factory alone it can be well imagined the amount of loss it must be suffering in respect of the rest of the Public Sector Undertaking. That must be to the tune of thousands of crores. Crores of rupees are being wasted on this account and desired results are not being achieved. There is no accountability. Therefore there is a need to have a fresh look at the Industrial Policy in this context. Even after spending crores of rupees

drinking water is not available in the villages of the country. You can find many such villages in Rayalseema and Telangana regions where drinking water is not available. People are dying because chlorine treated water is not available. I am distressed to say that about 480 people have died in Andhra Pradesh because of drinking polluted water and most of them are women. But nobody has bothered to pay attention to it. A very untoward situation in the State has been created because of water and air pollution. But there is no mention of it in the President's Address. (Interruptions) The same is the position in regard to elections. The news papers have discussed a lot about the way elections were held in Bihar. You must have also read about it. I would not like to repeat here as to what happened in Bihar during the elections. There was large scale rigging and use of muscle power in the State. Innocent people were not allowed to cast their votes. I have read in the newspapers that this was done in UP also particularly in the Chief Ministers constituency where he entered the polling booths with a revolver. He had said that he would not allow holding of elections for the next six years. Similarly every body is aware of the way Shri Ishwar Chudhary was assassinated in Bihar. He was a candidate of the BJP. A report making startling revelations has been received but I do not feel it necessary to make a special mention of it here. There has been more than 90 per cent polling in 180 polling booths in 4 dantibil Constituency in Andhra Pradesh. In some of them there has been even 106 to 107 per cent polling. A photograph published in the local daily 'Endu' shows a four year old boy casting his vote. In another photograph eight year old boys have been shown standing in a queue to cast votes. There has been large scale rigging and we registered our complaint with the Election Commission in this regard but in vain. Election has not been conducted anywhere. Even though more than 90 per cent votes had been cast in more than 180 polling booths a certain person was declared elected without looking into the complaints. What type of justice is this ? It is a matter of great regret that the

Election Commission did not take any action. I demand that these incidents should be investigated. (*Interruptions*)

Yes, a certain person was declared elected as M. P. That is what I said. Therefore, keeping these things in view.. (*Interruptions*) What can I do if you did not hear me intently ? A four year old boy cast a vote in my State. By and large, I want to point out that no proper attention has been paid to people's problems and the primary necessities of people in the Presidents' Address. That is why we are finding it difficult to instill confidence in the people. I, therefore, oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved in the House.

(*English*)

SHRI P. C. CHACO (Trichur) : Hon. Chair Person. I stand before this august House to support the motion of thanks to the Address of His Excellency the President, moved by Shri Buta Singh and seconded by my young friend, Shri Chennithala. Madam, I do it with great pleasure because the citizens—the electorate—of this country expect that every member of this House, whether he belongs to this party or that party, should be grateful to the President of India for his Address because he has kept the democratic process of the country on the move.

Madam, in the last few days, we have seen in this House a Government which against all heavy odds is trying to go ahead to fulfil the aspirations of the country. However, tough is the never difficult is the politically, the it is well ve also Dpo- qjut

at this juncture because everybody agrees on one point that this country is facing a crisis of unprecedented magnitude. On this aspect, there is no difference of opinion at all. The economic aspects have been analysed in great detail on every count and everybody agrees that our economic situation is very serious. The balance of payments situation is so grave that our foreign exchange reserves are not adequate to sustain us even for a few months. Madam, when the situation is so serious, any responsible political party, irrespective of its ideological moorings, is bound to support the Government.

The very foundation of our democratic system is being attacked. People, in their wisdom, have asked the Congress Party to lead the country out of this crisis. That is why the Congress Party is now in power. The CPM leader Shri Soumnath Chatterjee was questioning the authority of the Prime Minister and the ruling party. He asked "What is your authority to bring changes and to rule the country and to take decisions ?"

Madam, may I remind my senior friend that after 50 years of Marxist-Leninist experiments, the Marxist Party has got a strength of only 30 members in this House and they have no authority whatsoever to point an accusing finger at the Congress Party. I may tell him that we have eight times more authority than the CPM. The Marxists should understand. It is hightime that they search their heart and soul with all sincerity. As our hon. Prime Minister has mentioned, we have reached a situation where it is time for all of us to sit together and discuss and find a way out. Some people may be thinking in their hearts of hearts as to what exactly is the discussion. Sir, we have nothing to hide.

19.00 hrs.

We have made, the Congress Party has made, an open offer to everybody that this government is for consensus. We want to on the basis of consensus. Each and the BJP and other Opposition reminding us that we are not majority so we should take

NNNN, 1/18.55/17.7.91/GK

✓ Shri P.C. Chacko (Trichur): Hon. Chair Person, I stand before this august House to support the motion of thanks to the Address of His Excellency the President, moved by Shri Buta Singh and seconded by my young friend, Shri Chennithala. Madam, I do it with great pleasure because the citizens - the electorate - of this country expect that every member of this House, whether he belongs to this party or that party, should be grateful to the President of India for his Address because he has kept the democratic process of the country on the move.

✓ Madam, in the last few days, we have seen in this House a Government which against all heavy odds is trying to go ahead to fulfil the aspirations of the people of this country. However tough is the task ahead, however difficult is the situation politically and economically, the determination of the Government is well expressed in this House. And we have also seen the Opposition. Veterans of the Opposition Parties, people like Shri Indrajit Gupta could not conceal their confusion and they were admitting that they were opposing this Government merely for the sake of opposition. It is unfortunate that we have now landed in such a sad plight. I wish that the veteran and experienced leaders of the opposition should give this

10000.1/19.00/17.7.91/RK

1905 hrs

(Shri P.C. Chacko contd.)

1823

We have made , the Congress Party has made, an open offer to everybody that this Government is for consensus. We want to work on the basis of consensus. Each and every time BJP and other Opposition parties are reminding us that we are not a party with majority so we should take care and always remember this point. Madam, we are aware of our difficulties and our draw backs. Congress Party has offered to discuss, with every party in the Opposition, the matter not for any political gain and not for any support. On each and every issue they ask us as to why we want their support. If nobody is interested to support this Government, we are not asking for support. But people of this country want this Government to go on; they want this system to go on. I would like to request everybody to once again think about their decision and to shed their inhibitions.

I welcome the Statement made by Shri Advani that anti-Congressism must go.....

Ir.Chairman (Shrimati Malini HDhattacharya): You may please continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

19.02
hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Thursday, July 18, 1991/Asadha 27, 1913 (Saka)

JULY 17, 1991

case and always remember this point Madam, we are aware of our difficulties and our draw backs Congress Party has offered to discuss, with every party in the Opposition, the matter; not for any political gain and not for any support. On each and every issue they ask us as to why, we want their support. If nobody is interested to support this Government, we are not asking for support. But people of this country want this Government to go on they want this system to go on I would like to request everybody to once again think about their decision and to shed their inhibitions.

I welcome the Statement made with regard to that anti-Congressism and so on.

MR CHAIRMAN You may please continue tomorrow.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

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