

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the first week of Monsoon Session, 1992, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India viz. the Constitution (Seventy-Second Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Insertion of new part IX and addition of Eleventh schedule)."

MR SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the first week of Monsoon Session, 1992 the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India viz. the (Insertion of new part IX and addition of Eleventh Scheduled).

The motion was adopted.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) I wanted to protest. But out of deference to the hon. Members and Chairman, I did not protest.

MR SPEAKER: I think, we will take calling attention after Lunch.

13.28 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch
till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at thirty-seven minutes past Fourteen of
the Clock.*

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Strike by Share Brokers

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Calling Attention. Shri George Fernandes.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

"Situation arising out of the strike by share brokers resulting in closure of Stock Exchanges over the implementation of the provisions of Securities and Exchange Board of India Act and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto".

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Ordinance was promulgated by the President on 30th January, 1992. The ordinance provided for the establishment of a Board to protect the interests of investors in securities, to promote development of the securities market and to regulate it. The Securities and Exchange Board of India Ordinance has since been replaced by an Act of Parliament during the current Session. The SEBI has been established on 21st February, 1992 under Section 3 (1) of the Act.

The powers and functions of the SEBI include registering and regulating the working of stock brokers, sub-brokers and other intermediaries who may be associated with securities market in any manner. Section 12 (1) of the SEBI Act provides that no stock-broker, sub-broker etc. shall buy, sell or deal in securities except under, and in accordance with the conditions of a certificate of registration obtained from the SEBI in

accordance with the rules made under the Act, The proviso to the Section provides that a person buying or selling securities or otherwise dealing with the securities market as a stock broker, sub-broker etc. and such other intermediary who may be associated with securities market immediately before the establishment of the Board for which no registration certificate was necessary prior to such establishment, may..... continue to do so for a period of three months from such establishment or, if he has made an application for such registration within the said period of three months, till the disposal of such application. The SEBI Board was constituted on February 21, 1992. The three month period expires on May 21, 1992. Section 12 (2) provides that every application for registration shall be in such manner and on payment of such fees as may be determined by regulations. Section 12 (3) provides that the Board may, by order, suspend or cancel a certificate of registration in such manner as may be determined by regulations. However, no order under this sub-section shall be made unless the person concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity of being heard. Section 20 (1) provides that any person aggrieved by an order made under the Act or the rules or regulations made thereunder may prefer an appeal to the Central Government within such time as may be prescribed.

SEBI issued a letter dated 10th April, 1992 to Stock Exchanges advising them to supply to their members a copy of the application form for registration which was enclosed with the letter and to forward the application forms alongwith cheques/ Demand Drafts for the fees so as to reach SEBI by 20th May, 1992 in order to enable it to process the applications under the Act. The United States of America, Japan, Australia, Korea, Taiwan and Singapore have similar provisions for registration of brokers.

The members of the Calcutta Stock Exchange stopped trading on April 15, 1992 and of the other exchanges from April 16, 1992 in protest without informing or discussing the matter with the Government or SEBI.

Subsequently the brokers expressed their concern about the levy of fees to be paid with the application. Taking note of the brokers concern, SEBI substantially reduced the one-time registration fee to 1/100th of 1% of the turnover of the individual brokers to be paid annually for a period of 5 years. The fees work out to Rs. 1000 per Rs. 1 crore turnover of the brokers. SEBI issued a press statement on this reduction of fees on Sunday April 19, 1992. SEBI has taken a flexible approach towards the fees at the same time ensuring that it performs the duty cast on it under the law. The registration fees will be required to be paid by the brokers on the grant of a certificate of registration by the Board under the rules and regulations framed under the Act and need not be remitted along with the application.

The Presidents and representatives of 15 Stock Exchanges had met in Bombay on 2.4.92 to consider the letter from SEBI on registration. Subsequently, they submitted a representation each to the Finance Minister and to Chairman, SEBI. The main point in the representation is that there is no need for registration of members of Stock Exchanges with SEBI. Members of most of the Stock Exchanges in the country had refrained from trading as protest against the letter issued by SEBI from 16th April to 24th April, 1992. Trading resumed in most of the Exchanges on 27th April, 92 and in all the Stock Exchanges on 28th April, 1992.

Section 28 of the SEBI Act provides that if the Central Government is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient to do so in public interest, it may, exempt any person or class of persons buying or selling securities or otherwise dealing with the securities market from the operation of the provisions of section 12 (1).

A writ petition has been filed before the Calcutta High Court challenging *inter-alia* the validity of the letter dated 10.4.92 issued by SEBI to Stock Exchanges on registration of their members. The petition has been admitted by the High Court and accordingly the orders of the court are awaited in the matter.

[Sh. Manmohan Singh]

The brokers are important intermediaries in the primary and secondary markets and are expected to render services to individual and institutional investors. Exemption from the requirement of registration by the brokers, as requested by them, will considerably diminish the role of the statutory authority in meeting its objectives of ensuring the healthy growth of the capital market and also in ensuring that brokers provide adequate services to the small investors.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday the Speaker had stated that the points I wanted to raise during the discussion on the Appropriation Bill yesterday would be discussed in the Calling Attention Motion today. Therefore, I hoped that the statement of the hon. Minister of Finance would not be restricted only to the strike that was called off two days back, but also to the strike and the matter related not only to State Bank of India, but to the entire banking system that has come to light. Besides, as a result of the market crash in the last two days loss of about Rs. 60,000 crores has been suffered and the index fell down by 570 points. When index grosses 222, 223, it means that if the market of capitalist Stock Exchange has Rs. 3,20,000 crores, then Rs. 60,000 crores have been lost by the people. Only the future will tell as to what fate these people will meet. The hon. Minister has much more knowledge than we have that a large number of people of lower sections closed down their business or shops in the hope that the investment of money in the share market will grow at a faster pace as it is the best means to earn huge profits. Thus the money of these lower class and middle lower class people was also included in the loss of Rupees sixty thousand crores.

The very first sentence of the statement made by the Minister indicates as to how much disturbed the Government is due to the activities of SEBI. The Government promulgated this ordinance in a hurry and it was reasonable to be so on the part of the Government. As soon as the session began, the Bill was passed and steps were also

taken under the Bill immediately. But as soon as the Government took measures, stock brokers also adopted various strategies to challenge the Government. After keeping the stock exchange closed for 10-15 days, they were able to achieve what they desired. I have a few objections in regard to your statement. Firstly, the Government should not have reduced the registration fee under the pressure of the stock brokers. We would accept the capability of the Government only if they find out a way to stick to the decision that was taken earlier. Just as the Government say that it can challenge even America, then while dealing with the stock brokers'....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER. The word "...." should be expunged.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I will use the word thief if the word.... is not suitable. In the market they are called big bull. Newspapers have been daily referring them as "big bulls".

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: For 'Big Bull' he is using....

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: It is a parliamentary expression.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONIYOSH MOHAN DEV): ... is scoundral.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: They are scoundrals. I am prepared to call them worse names.

[Translation]

Secondly I have an objection about what you have said in the statement:

[English]

"SEBI has taken a flexible approach towards the fees at the same time

ensuring that it performs the duty cast on it...."

[Translation]

Here the Government should adopt more stringent measures rather than being flexible. I have an objection in regard to the point made by the Government that since the matter was pending the Calcutta High Court, hence the Government could not take any action. But filing a case in the court does not bind the hands of the Government or that of the Parliament. The Parliament has passed the law and the Government should implement it, courts should not be allowed to create hindrance in any way. Above all, despite a long statement the Government have not disclosed as to what action will be taken in regard to the brokers. Do the Government have no responsibility? The Government have provided not much more information in the statement than what other people have. Therefore my submission is that the responsibility of implementing the law passed by this august House lies on the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I understand the problems of the hon. Minister of Finance. The main problem before him is that the economic policy of the Government is fully responsible for the present situation of the stock exchange. This is the root cause. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister of Finance and his colleagues want to prove to the world that the country is making progress. But when the industries are on the verge of closure, labourers are being rendered jobless, prices are rising and poverty is increasing, then in what sense is development taking place? Progress is taking place in Stock Exchanges. It has been reported in the World Press that India has shown to the world as to how rapidly the stock exchanges India are developing. People in India have also been shown that our country is making rapid progress though nobody is ready to agree that stock exchange speculations have been playing vital role in the development of India. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government are to blame for giving recognition to the black money inside the

country and being brought here from abroad. This has been done during the last eight months in the first Budget as also in the second Budget presented in the House. This practice itself has created an atmosphere in which earning money is the primary concern, no matter it is by means of theft, dacoity in broad day light or any other misdeed. Because today the Government itself makes advertisements to convert the black money into white by putting hoardings. Large amount of such money has been invested in the stock market. The money brought by NRIs and kept in the Banks was also invested in the stock market.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not true that the Government did not provide the information to the Economic Intelligence Agency. Are there no big smugglers in Dubai - I do not want to mention the names in the House - who have invested their money in Bombay stock exchange and are engaged in speculation and gambling? What action have the Government taken in this regard? Which Department of the Government has taken action about it? We would like to get a concrete answer to this question. My submission is that the hon. Prime Minister should not kindly seek time as he did in regard to the Bofors issue but he should give a proper reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I disagree that the boom in the stock exchange has any connection to the development of the country. I would like to explain it to you. In January, 1991 the present Government was not in power. At that time the index stood 1000 points it does not matter that. The present Government was formed in June-July, 1991, but it did not make my difference you yourself make a statement in and outside the House that the country has been ruined and it has gone bankrupt but by the end of the year, index reaches at 1900 points. Which important incident took place in the economy of the country except that the Government made an announcement to convert the black money into white, for which law was enacted that helped the index to use from 1000 points to 1900 points Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, new

[Sh. George Fernandes]

Budget points was to be presented on January 30, 1992 and the index increased by 400 points to touch 2300 points. The trend of rise in the share market and the economic development of the country have no connection whatsoever. I would like to give an example. The rate of the share of ACC in 1991 was Rs. 500/- which reached Rs. 4000/- by the end of the year. What happened in the cement industry or to the ACC management that the rate of the share jumped from Rs. 400/- to Rs. 5000/-. But this trend does not stop. The ACC share which was of the value of Rs. 400/- a few days ago reached Rs. 10,500/- a few days back. What development took place that the rate increased so much. And why only the example of ACC, there are many companies which are ruining in loss and there are a number of companies which have already been closed down.

[English]

Forget the companies that are under the BIFR. Forget the companies that there in the sick list waiting for loans from the Government, from the exchequer, from the people of India so that these fat barons, these companies can lead their five-star existence. Forget about them.

[Translation]

Even the shares of those companies which are lying closed are being purchased and sold in the market. The company scindia steamship and Navigation has long been closed while its share of Rs. ten which had a market value of Rs. 9.50P is now being sold at a rate of Rs. 172/- each. Share of Majda Industries which was initially as low as Rs. 5.75 had gone as high as Rs. 1650/-. How much dividend has been declared by this company? What is the financial position of this company? But it is owned by a big bull. These people have deceived the middle class people of India who do not know even A, B, C, of stock exchange by manipulating the Stock exchange and raising the SENSEX. Thus people have been deprived of Rs. 60,000 in two day. I have quoted only two examples.

There are many more, but I do not want to quote all of them as I do not want to take much time of the House. There are many factories which are lying closed and where our friends run trade union activities, but the market value of these closed factories or companies have fictitiously been increased by 100 times to 200 times. People were being befooled and Government went on watching all this game.... (Interruptions) It would be insulting for the House to refer to the name of big bull, here in the House, Government is free to refer to his name, but I would not like to do it myself. In my opinion Government is responsible for this. Government can not run away from its responsibility by stating that it is all a stock exchange game. Your department and Finance Ministry know as to how SENSEX is manipulated. How many stocks determine SENSEX? I can tell you about the whole game played between Feb 28 and April 2. On Feb 28, SENSEX was at 2759. On April 2, it rose to 4387. It increased by 1500 points. How did come this increase. Out of the total rise of 1500 points only four companies were responsible for increase of 1000 points. All this game is played by brokers. TISCO, ACC, ITC and Reliance are the four companies involved. These are not big bulls. They only use these big bulls and the big bulls strike deals with them in return.

15.00 hrs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rise in the market value of the shares of these four companies resulted in the increase in SENSEX by 1500 points and the rise in the share value of all other companies together contributed only 500 point rise in SENSEX and in this way people became fool. If you raise the value of an Acc share from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 10500/- and promote the companies which do not even declare dividends and the companies which maintain their reputation by all means then you would be putting the whole country in trouble. I hold Government responsible for not taking any action, despite everything being in its knowledge.

I do not want to refer to the name of Shri Nani Palkhiwala, but after the presentation of Budget, he makes a statement every year

We do not agree to his views. Our views are different from his views. He is the supporter of your policies. He supports each and every policy of Government. (*Interruptions*) He had never been our supporter. Do not say anything, if you do not know. Mr. Speaker, does not allow to raise any privilege motion. So please do not raise any such issue. When immediately after the presentation of Budget SENSEX reached 3200 Mark Nani Palkiwala went to big cities of the country and made speeches. He made earnest appeal to check this trend of the stock exchange otherwise it will result in loss. Situations is not such.... then why do you put so much stem or heat into the stock exchange. You should stop it. But you did not take any immediate action but decide to pay a visit to Bombay. But before you reached Bombay, the Governor of RBI Shri Venkatraman issued a statement that the trend should be checked and the SENSEX should be brought down. His statement comes on 10th March in the wake of SENSEX reaching 3500 point mark. In his speech he stresses upon the need to check out flow of money from different banks and financial institutions. At this point of time SENSEX falls down by 400 points. Then the Finance Minister meets the brokers and he makes a speech on 27th of March.

[*English*]

MR. MANMOHAN SINGH: When? I have never been to any stock-broker.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES. Then why did you send a request? All right, I withdraw my words, if you say that you had not gone? But you must ask your Minister of State.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWARTHAKUR): Some people had come to pay a visit to us in Delhi, but neither the Finance Minister nor I had gone to meet them.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: All right, they had come to meet you.

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I have not met any broker either in Delhi or outside Delhi.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: All right, I take my words back. But the Minister of State tries to advise them. He tells them that the SENSEX has increased considerably. But on 27th March.... (*Interruptions*) Before the commencement of Tirupati Sessions, the SENSEX which was at 3796 on 27th March touches as high as 4285 mark on 31st March. It takes place even after a word of advice given by the State Minister to the brokers. Everything moves in the opposite direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all I want to submit in this regard is that ten brokers have been involved in this whole game. You know all of them, by you, I mean Government and not you as a person. Government has full information about them. Government knows their names, their identities and their business and the type of statements made by them? They telephone the ministers and asks them as to how many shares do they want in their name. If they do not want to invest their money, the profit of accrued on them would be sent to them. Such ministers are also there who say no to them....

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: You should not make such wild charges. I have never invested a single penny in the stock market.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I know that. That was the point, I wanted to make. Yes, there are such minister also who do not entertain the big bulls and tells them to be out. But I am not worried about such ministers. But I have received the information. It means there are such ministers. But there may be

[Sh. George Fernandes]

such ministers who like these big bulls and I am ready to give proof in support of my contention. If you want, the proof is ONGC. A discussion has been going on in this House as well as in the other House on ONGC contracts which is known as SAW pipes. SAW pipes has got the contract recently. The discussion is going on on their way of functioning. This matter has been taken to the Prime Minister also. Seventy MPs have written a letter to P.M. in this regard. Now the connection between these two have to be found out by you. I am not blaming anybody. I am only trying to tell that there is a big bull with the name SAW pipes. He is the second biggest bull in the whole country. He had issued a statement in January that he had gone through the profiles of SAW pipes visited its factories, identified its assets. Its share had a face value of Rs. 70 each. He purchased all the shares from the market. Today the market value of that share is Rs. 960/- He says with pride that it is going to get the contract certainly and in the coming year of 1993 it is going to do a business of 900 crore rupees. You should investigate the whole matter. There are many things that I can say about it, but I would not

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
Please tell

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES It is not possible for me to give detail right now, since at 3.00 o'clock Private Members Business will be taken up and Mr. Deputy Speaker has rung the bell. The matter does not end here. I referred to the big bulls only. Whose money was used in this game? Two types of money has been used. First of all, I would like to say that the securities worth Rs. 2 lakh crores belong to the Government of India. These securities have been captured by 8 big bulls. The biggest bull among them makes a claim over securities worth Rs. 70,000 crore. Number one, the big bull, who makes a claim over securities worth Rs. 70 thousand crore misused this security money and number two, he not only misused the State Bank of India but also the other banks. This game is not being played for last 3 months but for last

two years. The officers of the State Bank of India and your Ministry could not detect it. Had there not been this crash or this issue raised in the House for last 3 days, many things could not have come to the fore. Therefore, with due regards, I would like to submit that the Hon. Minister has great love for these banks. That is why when I raised the issue in regard to the Banks in the House and involvement of high officials of these banks in looting Rs. 2 thousand crore in a year, he made interruptions several times. But he should not underestimate my love for him. Nobody can save these institutions of the hon. Minister leaves their management in the hands of thieves. Excepting for a few people, all the big people involved in it should have been in jail. They spend Rs. 10 to 20 thousand in a day in five star hotels and spend lavishly when they invite their friends. It is an excess with the country. Today there was a demand to arrest these guilty people. Please arrest them. We will extend our full support to you in this cause. I may be one of your bitter enemies but in this respect the whole House will support you. In the present circumstances, the Government can do a lot to set many things right.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what the SBI and other banks have done. The bank officers have prepared false Bankers receipts.

[English]

Bankers receipts was prepared. 5 per cent commission was paid for preparing these false bankers receipts and taking risk but they took the risk.

[Translation]

Please have it probed as to how much money of the banks was invested in the stock exchange. As a result of this, the rate of interest of the call money went up to 105 per cent. Three months ago there was no taker for the call money. It generally went up by 40-50-60 per cent. But 5-6 days ago it shot up to 105 per cent, because all the banks run on deficit. There was no cash. Since their money was in bad debt, the banks themselves took loan as call money at the rate of 105 per cent.

interest. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to take action on the following hints.

- (1) Please inform all the small investors of the country that this stock exchange is nothing but a 'Satta Bazar'. The Middle class, the lower middle class and the poor employees should not fall a prey of this 'satta' business.
- (2) Please file F. I. Rs against the big bulls and other bulls about whom the Government has information. Please do not confine it to the bulls only and implicate the officers of those banks which are involved in it and have orders issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for their arrest so that the matter could be investigated.
- (3) Please issue orders asking all the officers of financial institutions, the Reserve Bank of India, L.I.C., Mutual Funds and banks for furnishing a statement, with details of money amassed by them in their own name, in the name of their family members and friends - from stock market during the last two years. Please compel them to furnish this information in a statement to the Government.
- (4) It is learnt that the Government is trying to decode the computers of the big bulls. I came to know that Shri Raj of Income Tax Department from Madras has come to Delhi and is engaged in decoding computers. If this work has not been done please decode them immediately or take necessary steps in this regard.

English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: You are not helping the process by saying this.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: (5) Please issue orders to all the officers of financial institutions that they should not involve themselves in any illegal activity of the stock exchange.

[English]

They should not play on the stock market.

[Translation]

I shall place the information on next debate as to how and how many persons invested money of their companies and institutions on it.

(6) Please warn the brokers who possess huge sums of money at present. They can utilise it as they wish. I take it seriously when I say that they even telephone the Ministers and ask how much money should be deposited in their names.

I am not making any allegation against anybody, but if you want to collect information, ask your Ministers and high officials as to the extent upto which they are involved in it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rupchand Pal. We have got only fifteen minutes at our disposal. Because at 3.30 p.m. we shall have to take up the Private Members' Business.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I am very conscious of the time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: In addition to this, you have to save five minutes for introduction of Finance Bill. It is also very important.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister, in his statement, has not touched the points given in my notice.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack). Sir, on this issue, we are prepared to listen. We are interested to participate in this discussion, but the members who have given their names, are allowed to participate in this discussion, that is all right. But, the time should be given to the Members whose names are there. If necessary, we are prepared to sit even after 6 O'clock. We are interested to listen to all the points that have been raised by Shri George Fernandes and other hon. Members. We want to listen to the Finance Minister very carefully.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Mr. Jena, you are always very careful.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL. The points made by me in my notice have not been covered in the statement by the hon. Finance Minister. My notice was, "Reported financing by SBI and other banks for speculative activities in the stock market."

Yet another scam has surfaced while this House has not yet completed its discussion with regard to Bofors, with regard to ABB. No satisfactory reply has come from the Government. Unprecedented massive fraud of a dimension which has never happened in independent India has come to light - Rs. 600 crores were given by SBI for speculative purposes to Mr. Harshad Mehta. I am taking the name because my notice was specifically related to this Harshad phenomenon.

This is not the first time that SBI is involved in fraud. From the days of Nagarwala are you remember, many such grave irregularities have come before us, and here we find that a big bull has been allowed to use Government security in a very very dubious manner and to just cause boom to the share market as a result of which, as has been stated by the hon. colleague of mine, unprecedented decline has also taken place causing distress to thousands and thousands of small investors. It has also been mentioned that this big bull has been associated with Mazda, and he has also given the figure to show how a share of the value of Rs. 5.75 per

unit has reached the figure of Rs. 1,6000 in the chart.

Two questions arise. I am not going into them. But, then, it may be a good thing that there is a decline; but, at the same time, it will cause distress to the small investors; and the Government has failed miserably to protect the interest of the investors in general and particularly the small investors, because, they had been, in spite of their knowledge, sitting upon it and allowing them to do all these things. That is a charge.

Till today, as you know, it has come out in the Press that one CBI enquiry has also been started; and it has also come out in the Press that the RBI is looking into the irregularities not only of SBI but also other banks, and to my knowledge, there are foreign banks also involved in a big way in this ugly game, in the share market.

I am not taking much time, because there are other speakers also who want to speak. May I know how is it that in spite of all these things, the big bull has not yet been arrested? No FIR has yet been lodged. Not only SBI, but many other bank officials have been involved the responsibility is to be fixed to my knowledge. But, there are many other officials who have been involved in all these irregularities and manipulations for all these years. My question is: is the Government prepared to institute an enquiry commission to go into depth of these operations made by all these banks in all these months in the past?

I understand that during the decoding of the computer possessed by Mr. Harshad Mehta a lot of information has come. Is the Government prepared to lay on the Table of the House the whole information that has come as a result of decoding of the computer possessed by Mr. Harshad Mehta?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD). Sir, I submit that we may continue with this after six o'clock.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): It is not possible for me to speak after six O' clock. I will speak now.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Are all of your Members prepared for this?

[English]

Before we start the Private members' Business we have another ten minutes. I submit that the Finance Minister would like to go ahead with his Finance Bill for ten minutes.

It may take only five or six minutes. Yesterday we said that the Home Minister would make a statement on the bomb blasts. That statement may be made and then we can go ahead with the Private Members' Business.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. Now, Shri Manmohan Singh.

15.21 hrs

FINANCE BILL, 1992*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the central Government for the financial year 1992-93, be taken into consideration".

While presenting the Budget in this august House on 29th February, 1992, I had explained the salient features of the proposals contained in the Bill.

I feel gratified by the amount of interest, discussion and debate that the Budget has generated. During the general discussions on the Budget, Hon. Members from both

Houses made many useful suggestions with regard to some provisions contained in the Finance Bill. Many hon. members of Parliament have also written to me about their suggestions. A large number of suggestions have also been received from members of the public, trade unions, chambers of commerce, professional bodies and voluntary organisations. I am indeed grateful to all of them for their valuable suggestions. I would like to assure hon. Members that we have very carefully considered all the points which have been made with reference to the Finance Bill. In response to the various suggestions made, I now propose to move certain amendments to the Bill. I seek the indulgence of the hon. Members to explain some of these amendments. I had occasion to announce some changes at the time of replying to the general discussions on the Budget.

In my Budget speech, I had mentioned that, with the increase in the exemption limit and the reduction in income tax rates, many of the income tax concessions were no longer justified. I had, therefore, announced the withdrawal of deductions under Section 80 L, 80 CCA and 80 CCB of the Income-tax Act. A large number of representations have been received indicating that the withdrawal of Section 80 L will cause hardship, especially to pensioners and taxpayers in the lower income group who have invested their savings in specified financial assets. Several members of this august House both from the Treasury Benches and from the Opposition have urged reconsideration of the decision to withdraw concessions under Section 80 L. In deference to their sentiments and in recognition of the need to protect to the maximum extent possible the interest of taxpayers in lower income groups, I now propose, as an interim measure, to restore the deduction under Section 80 L with a monetary ceiling of Rs. 7,000. Taking into account the increase of Rs. 6000 in the exemption limit as originally proposed in the Finance Bill, the amendment I now propose with regard to Section 8 should take care of most of the complaints I have received from tax payers in the lower income groups.

*Moved with recommendation of the President.