

ing reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2256/92]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not propose to take up now the item no. 9, Statement by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs about next week's business because there are so many submissions. It will be taken up after the Private Members' business is over because it will take some time.

Now the Prime Minister will reply to the No Confidence Motion.

14.10 hrs.

MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - *CONTD.*

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the end of every debate it is customary to thank the hon. Members who participated in the debate and gave very valuable suggestions. It is, more or less, the first sentence with which the person replying to the debate starts his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): If you do not want to thank, it is O.K.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I did not mean this. Please listen to me first.

[English]

In this case, Sir, I do not know how to thank the hon. Members of the Opposition

who have participated in something like a sterile debate which could, perhaps, be considered a debate for a debate. They have every right to do so and I do not deny that.

During the last one year, we have discussed many issues in this House and in the other House. Many clarifications have been given and many questions have been raised and if I say that the debate which we had, on the No Confidence Motion, was just a rehash of what has been said, what has been replied to in great detail - except that this comes under a new caption - I think I would not be far wrong. So, that is the content of the debate.

Sir, I would very humbly like to claim that during the last one year this country has not attracted any extraordinary national or international headlines for negative happenings — for killings, for blindings, for rapes or for tensions in the society. Whatever problems we have come up against, we have promptly tried to attend to them and, therefore, the thrust of the new Government has been emphasis on economic programmes, keeping issues of tension in a low profile, greater attention to people's problems and further emphasis on development aspects. I have said time and again that this is not the time for this country to deviate from the path of development, to deviate from the path of national unity, integrity and stability. That luxury we cannot afford.

I am grateful to the other parties who, by and large, agreed with this approach and we have had a fairly successful consensus method working during the last one year. Despite this No-Confidence Motion and what will happen on it, I would certainly expect this method to continue and the same amount of cooperation and appreciation of the real problems of the country in the future also and that is the only way of conducting the affairs of this country.

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Sir, during the debate many other Ministers have intervened, many matters have been clarified and I am afraid I will not be able to add to what they have already said on their respective subjects. I shall only refer in a general way to the direction in which the Government has been moving and why it has been moving in that direction. I think I need hardly add anything to that.

The last year _ last two or three years in fact, have seen recessionary trends all over the world. This is borne out by several reports, several facts and figures including the World Economic Survey of the United Nations. So, the economic situation which my Government inherited came in a particularly difficult era in the history of the world economy and particularly after the dismemberment of the former Soviet Union, the systemic changes in the Eastern Europe when investment of a massive magnitude was needed in all these countries and India was more or less competing with all these countries. This situation needs to be noted specially because in the light of this, if we have been able to attract not only attention but a good deal of investment, it is something which cannot be scoffed at.

The World Economic Survey in regard to India has said this and I quote:

"The economic reform launched by India in 1991 was a landmark in the remarkable change in policy orientation that has swept across the continents of Latin America, Africa and Asia in recent years. The wave of liberalisation reflects a genuine recognition of the need to mobilise and enable the economic talents of the people and to make the State more efficient and less oppressive. Governments had been overwhelmed by the external debt burdens and the reduction on net financial transfers in the first half of the 1980s. This is for the world and for India, in

particular, both historical and temporary experience suggest that the State has indispensable functions in defining legal framework, providing infrastructure, establishing monetary and financial stability, ensuring education and health, maintaining an acceptable distribution of income and social justice, safeguarding the environment and providing a vision of the future role of the country in the world economy."

This, I submit, is precisely what the Government of India has taken upon itself to do, while other functions which it was performing spreading its limited money too wide and too thin, all these areas have been given over or made over to those who can bring investment and supplement those areas.

Sir, I have said many times that in the Eighth Five Year Plan what we really wanted and still want is a massive augmentation of the outlays for rural development. With great difficulty, with all the goodwill in the world, the Planning Commission was able to allot Rs. 14,000 crores for rural development. Of course, there are other areas in which rural development also comes in and the villages and the people of the villages do get benefit, but at the last meeting, in the recent meeting, it so occurred to us that Rs. 14,000 crores would not suffice, it would not really meet the needs of the people as we want to and so we raised it to Rs. 30,000 crores. But raising it from Rs. 14,000 crores to Rs. 30,000 crores is a big jump and I would still like to say that considering the backlog of development of the rural areas in the country which has been accumulating Plan after Plan, I would be happy when we would go to some figure like Rs. 50,000 crores in the Eighth Plan. But, how will that happen? How is it possible if very large investments like Rs. 3,000 crores, Rs. 4,000 crores, Rs. 5,000 crores on each project are eaten up by the infrastructural sectors like power, telecommunications, oil etc.? Budgetary support has to be given to all these sectors which is totally inevitable.

There is no question of our not having a power sector, there is no question of our not having an oil sector and there is no question of our not having all the infrastructure sectors.

Sir, we know that from the First Five Year Plan onwards, these sectors have consumed larger portion of the Plan outlays. This is a well-known fact. What has suffered? The areas that have suffered are those of human resource development. Today, illiteracy is at a level which is unacceptable; if the health standards of the people are at a level which is unacceptable, it is because of the fact that much of the outlays have been taken up by the infrastructure sector. If we want this fifty thousand or forty thousand or whatever to come to the Human Resource Development, to the rural sector where all these are needed, I submit that the only way to bring this about is to make a change over in the infrastructural investment sector which we are trying to do with some success, about which one need not be too discouraged. We have sent a team specially to negotiate power projects. I am glad to say that they have been able to come back even after the first visit with a sizeable number of power projects properly examined, negotiated. The paperwork is going on. Clearance etc., would need some more time. But the figure which they have quoted is about 15,000 crores which to my mind is going to release about Rs. 30,000 crores or Rs. 35,000 crores. Now if this kind of substitution takes place, this money perhaps we could find for the rural sector, for the sector in order to help the sections of people who have been deprived so far. This is the only way of bringing the entire country up, not section-wise but starting with the base of the pyramid. I do not know of any other way. This is what we have decided and in order to do that, there has to be something like a bypass operation—not just asking to trickle down, expecting the classical trickle down theory to work. We have to pass on this money—these 30,000

or 40,000. whatever it may be—straight to the base of the pyramid, not passing through the other channels that we know of. This is the only way we can get this done.

So, both the aspects have been taken care of.

The liberalisation programme that we have started is not the one which was started in many other countries. It has a speciality of its own. It takes care of the areas where liberalisation would bring in dividends. It also takes care of the areas which perhaps would suffer as a result of liberalisation being concentrated in one area. Our villages and the illiteracy there or the lack of educational facilities, lack of skills on the part of the boys and girls in the villages would leave them far behind when compared to their counterparts, their brothers and sisters in towns where they have better educational facilities. So, investing only in the towns, investing only in the industries would mean that those who are around the towns would get better facilities while the rural areas would be left behind.

So, we have to have a massive programme for the rural areas whereby the skills of the rural population—whether adult or child or boys or girls—those skills are brought up in such a way that they do not have to migrate to the cities and they also have a job which they can do, a gainful job which they can do. Rs. 30,000 crores what would it mean in terms of mandays? It would mean a lot. Rs. 30,000 crores in terms of mandays would mean a lot. But it is not just in mandays that we are measuring. We want infrastructure in the villages also. We want all facilities to be created in the villages also. Therefore, these 30,000 crores, and, more if possible, would have to be very well spent, spent with certain amount of imagination so as to see that the rural population really makes progress so as to minimise or at least reduce the disparity between the rural and

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the urban population. This is one of the very important objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan, I would like to submit. It is possible that we will not be able to go all the way during these five years because the disparity is so much. But we will be able to go part of the way and I have no doubt that this is going to happen. We have taken steps. Some Plans like the JRY have been severely criticised all over the country where they have not worked well. But, at the same time, they have been hailed in those parts of the country where they have worked well. We have a Planning Commission report on the JRY, on the working of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which has brought out some very discouraging features of the Yojana because it says that it can give only a few days' rozgar to people, not more, because the money was limited and the methodology also was such that it did not really reach the people whom it should have reached. For the first time again, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is being linked in the 1,711 blocks taken for the revamp of the public distribution system. The Yojana is being linked with the public distribution system. In other words, wages in those areas of whatever work is taken, will be paid at least partially in kind, in foodgrains. Now this really ensures that the money goes to the persons for valid purposes and money is not eaten by middlemen. So, this tie-up, I am sure, will improve both the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the public distribution system which is now for the first time reaching the village and a determined effort is being made to see that it reaches the village and when it reaches the village, it goes to those who do the work in the Yojana. This linkage is important and is being attempted. I have myself been to some places, one place in Madhya Pradesh, one in Rajasthan, where the reports had been that it is not working satisfactorily. I went there. I talked to people. There is no use of simply criticising what is happening for so many years. If things have

been going wrong, we have to correct them. So, I have seen to it that at least at the official level, there is a determined effort to link these together. We will be monitoring, we are monitoring. Still we are not fully satisfied. But that is the only way of going on improving this linkage and serving the rural people.

On investment, the situation, as I said, is encouraging on the whole. As compared to 100 million dollars of equity investment on an average during the last five years, this year alone we have had a foreign equity of over 900 million dollars. This has already been cleared by the Government. It is more than nine times, about ten times. It think it is a good progress, putting it mildly and it could be more in the coming years.

The spread of the source countries is widely dispersed, including almost all the major capital exporting countries. My first visit to Germany convinced me that while we can get something from these countries, we have not been able to convince them that their money would be safe or their investment would be safe. There had been still some questions lurking in their minds and, as I visited country after country after country, between Germany where my first visit took place, and Japan where the latest visit took place, I can say with no fear of contradiction that the amount of confidence in investing in India has been growing apace. I am quite sure that now we can safely assume that investment decisions are taken in those countries subject to their own limitations. I am not saying that it is possible for them to invest endlessly. It is not that. I mean, their conditions also have their own limitations.

About Japan, we came to know that they had limitations. During the visit and even before the visit, we were warned that there are limitations in the Japanese economy which would affect the capacity or the possibility of Japanese investment immedi-

ately. Now, I am glad to say that in spite of those limitations, what we found in Japan was quite encouraging. Instead of our calling people who wanted to invest we had the pleasant surprise of their calling on me and offering investment. So, I am very much heartened by this visit and I hope all steps will be taken as follow-up.

Now, Jaswant Singhji said something about Coca Cola. I might inform him overall more than 80 percent of foreign investment proposals are in the identified list of high priority industries contained in the Industrial Policy. He seems to have picked up something from the remaining 20 percent. But I would respectfully submit to him that I do agree that there is a 20 percent list. Now, I cannot equate 80 with 100. So, the 80 percent also is there which contains investment promises and investment prospects, clearances to some extent, to the extent of 80 percent...*(Interruptions)*

Government has taken particular steps to encourage investment in important infrastructural areas like hydrocarbons, telecommunications and power. In power, Sir, we are in the process of discussing 21 major power projects for clearance with both Indian and foreign companies. Those were the companies, those were the projects Jaswant Singhji perhaps referred to. I would like to submit to him that each one of those projects is being processed, processed with expedition. It is not like projects which could be cleared very easily or very quickly. The decisions to be taken, the technical and other details to be worked out do take, on an average, a year or a year and a half and if these are taking sometime, we should not either be discouraged or surprised. But, I am sure, after having asked the Power Ministry that all the projects are likely to go through and get clearance.

In Telecommunications, we have cleared proposals from leading telecom

companies for manufacture of the latest telecom equipment. This is expected to double the production capacity of telecom switching equipment in the country. Proposals are also being considered in the area of value-added services to enhance the efficiency and quality of telecom services.

Proposals for two Oil Refineries on the East and West Coast of the country have already been cleared. The entire foreign exchange cost of these refineries will be met by the private sector companies which otherwise would have had to be met by the ONGC...in other words by the Government. Now, these are some of the savings which we are trying to effect in areas where independent investment is coming, independent of the Government and to that extent Government funds are saved and could be diverted to more important areas of Human Resource Development, as I have just pointed out.

Coming to local investment, investment within the country...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, in the internal investment, the picture is equally encouraging and we have got more than 6000 investment decisions having been made this year in compared to half of that last year. So, the situation in local investment, investment within the country also is quite good. This is the economic picture. All details have been dealt with by the Finance Minister yesterday, I am sure. I only wanted to add this just to show that these investments are not idle investments, they are not just because we are enamoured of those investments coming from abroad or other sources. We do want them, want them badly because we want our own money to be released for purposes which will not attract any investment from abroad. Nobody is going to run the schools in India, nobody is going to run the primary health centres of India, nobody is going to run the vaccination pro-

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grammes in India. These are the programmes that have been crying for money and we have not been able to find that money. Hopefully, with the other areas relieved from heavy investment, it will be possible, not only possible, I think, it will be certain, that we will be able to attend to these areas much more than before.

Coming to public distribution system to which I have made a reference just now, the blocks, I have talked about, are getting extra foodgrain allotments and that is one of the reasons why the reference made by Shri Jaswant Singhji to lower stocks, stocks going down that has been responsible for that, we have made greater allotments, higher allotments to these areas.

And this year's prospect, as we all know, needs to be watched. But whatever happens, we would like to stick to those higher allotments to the rural areas in these blocks and there is no intention of reducing them.

Now I come to the important areas which perhaps, the occasional remarks of the Members seem to indicate they are more interested in it. About Assam, no one can say that Assam now is not a lot better than what it was two years ago or a year and a half ago. ULFA has taken certain decisions. There have been two lines of thinking within ULFA. Those who wanted to have talks with the Government, a delegation from that section came and met me. We have gone ahead with discussions. Some arms have been surrendered. There is another section which is against this. There is a sort of running dialogue between them going on and we hope that in the near future it will be possible for us to have meaningful talks with the whole of the ULFA in order to solve that vexed question which has been there for many years.

Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the provisions of the Assam Accord. Economic development of Assam in pursuance of the provisions of the Assam Accord and otherwise has also received continued and utmost attention. In terms of the Accord, an oil refinery is being set up at Numaligarh and an IIT is also being established near Guwahati.

I laid the foundation stone to these institutions, the other day, when I visited Assam. And also a long railway line which is being converted from metre gauge to broad gauge and which has given lot of hope and lot of happiness to the people around. I have had occasion to talk to the people and I saw how happy they felt at these projects coming up. That is about Assam.

About Kashmir, Jaswant Singhji has tried to point out that there have been contradictory statements or different statements from different persons, different Ministers. I would like to point out that in my Press Conference, I had summed up the whole thing by saying that we do want Kashmir to come back to normal. And I would say normal only when a democratic Government is functioning there. Now this is an egg-and-chicken situation. We want normalcy for elections to take place. But until elections take place real normalcy will not come. So, we have to play it very carefully. We have been successful in creating certain conditions of peace, when compared to the last one year. And we are in a position to say that in the foreseeable future conditions will further be created to enable elections to take place in Kashmir. One complaint that has come to me from some critics is that elections have not been fair in Kashmir. We will have fair election; we always had fair elections. I told them that I do not agree with that statement and we will have elections. (*Interruptions*) I do not know what the commotion is about?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): It is about Punjab.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am talking of Kashmir. I will come to Punjab. There is no need for you to suppose that I will skip Punjab.

So, I do not agree that elections have been anything but fair. But I have said that elections will take place as soon as conditions conducive to elections are created. I do not think there is any contradiction in what the Home Minister said, what I said or what any other person said. The fact of the matter is, tomorrow, if you want me to hold elections, it is not possible. But elections have to take place there and we have to create conditions conducive to elections. This is the whole picture and taken as a whole, I think this position does not have any internal contradictions.

Sir, about Punjab, I am really very amused when people talk lightly of the elections there. Why it should be so? I do not know. Because when we went in for elections, I only wanted a State Government in Punjab. I made it absolutely clear that I want a State Government because I cannot talk to the Governor, all the time, to solve the questions of Punjab. I wanted a State Government. As a Congress President, I could have asked for a Congress Government. I did not; I deliberately did not, because I thought that in the situation of Punjab, we should not, perhaps, talk in terms of parties. I wanted a State Government. I went on the Door-darshan and said this. In spite of that, some parties chose not to participate. It was not my fault.

But in any case if they had participated I would have been happy. The percentage of voting would have been much higher and whichever government had come as a result of that, we would have dealt with that State

Government equally effectively and that would have been a better situation. But if elections have taken place and a party government has come there, we have to deal with that government and I can say that the Government of Punjab is more zealous about the rights of Punjab; what is to be done in Punjab; they are not really acting like just Congress; it is not like that. Beant Singhji comes to me with certain suggestions which are very difficult in themselves. Still we are examining them. We cannot reject them because when it comes from a State Government, one has to go into the history, into the background, into the feasibility, etc of those proposals. I assure the House that this is being done. I am not talking of a package because my package is the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. Now whatever is being discussed, it is within that Accord. Therefore I do not have to have a separate package. The package is already there. This I have made clear many times.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What about its implementation?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is what I am saying. It is not easy to implement any one portion of the Accord. The Accord has to come in totality and that is what we are grappling with at the moment. It is not possible for me to give details right now. I may be excused because once I say something, then it will become a point of debate, a public debate if you wish, and then it becomes impossible to take the next step. I can only assure the House that we are assiduously following discussions, continuing discussions and examination of all the questions involved. I am quite sure that with so much of effort going into it, the results should be satisfactory. That is my hope; that is my confidence.

The flood-lighting and the fencing on the Punjab sector of Indo-Pakistan border to check the movement of terrorists and smug-

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glers have been completed. This is one important matter that has been coming up in the House. We have now to go to the other sector of the border. I am not quite aware of what is being done on that. But I am sure, from the Punjab we will go on to the other border. Unless the whole border is flood-lit it will not be possible to effectively stop incursion from across the border. This is the present situation in Punjab.

On External Affairs I really do not know if there has been anything very seriously said. But I would like to take the House into confidence that there has been no 'U' turn in our foreign policy. In fact we have stuck to our policy as very few countries have. Those who were having different systems working for decades and decades: what is the turn they have taken; how many degrees is the angle of turn they have taken; and what we have done; please make a comparison. Because the change is not a change in one country, it is a change in the whole world. What is the degree of change? I cannot see any change in my policy. I am still a non-aligned country: as non-aligned as I ever was. I continue to be non-aligned whether there are two blocs, three blocs or only one bloc. Because I equate non-alignment with my right to take a decision according to my rights, according to my likes and stick to that decision. I am doing that. I have not swerved from that till this moment. Whosoever wanted me to change certain policy decisions, etc. I have politely told them that this is not possible. First there is a little more pressure. You withstand the pressure and then say, "Yes, yes, we understand your position". This is how, it has ended now. I am happy about this. We change when we want to change. We do not change at the behest of others. This is the policy and this continues to be the policy and we are non-aligned. In fact, it is the Non-Aligned Movement that has to find a new and relevant role for itself. The exercise

was started at Belgrade. Unfortunately, because of the conditions within Yugoslavia, the Non-Aligned Movement and the activities of the Movement could not go very much further during the last three years. I had a talk with the President of Indonesia, the Chairman-to-be. We met in Rio and we had a fairly long discussion on what is to be done. Their Foreign Minister came here who is preparing the new document. We are taking a full hand in preparing the document; we are assisting them - the Chairman - as we always do. And I am sure that we will be able to delineate the new role of the Non-Aligned Movement, pursuant to what had been done in Belgrade and I think we will be able to give the finishing touches to it because between Belgrade and Jakarta so much has happened in the whole world.

After the dissolution, after the dismemberment of the former Soviet Union, we have had diplomatic relations established at the earliest. We have not lost any time in doing it because if we were dealing with one country, Soviet Union, - it was not really one Soviet Union in one area, we were dealing with a country - which, in its economic and other relations with us, was spread over 15 States. Something which we wanted came from Ukraine; something we were dealing with, came from Kazakhstan; something which we wanted came from some other States. But we were dealing only with the Soviet Union. Today we have to deal with all these areas from where we still have to get those things and I might assure the House that within the shortest possible time, with the least delay, with the least possible delay, we have been able to establish contacts, not only diplomatic contacts, but contacts of a bilateral nature which were on-going when the dissolution took place. It has taken some time on the other hand; on the other side also they need some time to acclimatise themselves, to acquaint themselves with the new situation.

Therefore, we have been in a much better position than we would have been if we had not taken immediate steps. Now, the Presidents of all these, four or five of these Republics have visited India. They have told me by the way, each one of them told me that his country, his Government stands by secularism; his country, his Government is against fundamentalism. Now, the kind of struggle that they are having to wage in those countries in the new circumstances, is well-known to all of us. So, they have something to compare notes with India and this is the most important part of it. They have said that, with India, they would like to continuously discuss these matters because a new situation has developed there, whereas they want to be totally secular as they have always been, they are finding it a little less easy to do so in the changed circumstances.

So, there is much that is common between them and us. And we are pursuing your talks with them. We will continue to have some institutionalised structure whereby this exchange of views and experiences becomes easy.

Now about joint naval exercises, I think, this has appeared so many times. We have not had so many exercises as debates on exercises. I think, we find it useful to have exercises. We have had exercises with many other countries. I do not think there is anything to explain why we had exercises with the United States. If our Navy finds it useful, I think, it is good to do it. There are, of course, Members who would not agree. There is hardly anything I can do to make them agree. So, we just leave it at that.

About our neighbours, I do feel that relations with our neighbours have improved. We have problems even with Pakistan. Mr. Jaswant Singh wanted to know, after having met so many times the Prime Minister of Pakistan, what is the outcome. It is very difficult to measure the outcome. We are

neighbours and we will continue to be neighbours. There will be ups and downs. There will be some misfeasance and malfeasance. From across the border, what is being done, we all know. Whenever we meet, we start with that topic impressing on them that they should stop this activity. Well, sometimes we are told that they have already stopped it. Sometimes we are told that they have never started it. Sometimes we are told, "We will stop it." All kinds of different signals come. But, in any case, we have to continue to have dialogue with them. We can postpone. We can protest. We can signify our disapproval of some acts done by them. All this is valid. All this is allowed. All this should be done. But today, it is not we but many other countries who have come to the same conclusion that State-sponsored terrorism by Pakistan is a fact.

[*Translation*]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We are hearing but Shri Shankaranand is not hearing. He is sleeping.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I will not get audience like you, but to him I can tell anytime.

[*English*]

Sir, today at least it will not be possible for Pakistan-for the Prime Minister of Pakistan-to say...

[*Translation*]

SHRINITISHKUMAR (Barh): You speak a bit aloud, this Government is not going to fall.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: How this Government can fall. You people will keep this Government in power.

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[*English*]

So, whenever we meet, we have to compare notes and we also have to understand. At his very first meeting with the Prime Minister of Pakistan, I think, Mr. Chandra Shekhar would have come to understand that every Prime Minister has his own limitations within his own country. We do not make a speech about these limitations. We understand it. Once we understand these limitations, we also understand the limitations on the effectiveness of the dialogue or the conclusive nature of the dialogue that we have with them.

So, with all these things in view, since I am going to meet him again - number of times I have already met plus one - I would not like to say anything but this effort will have to continue. The Secretary level talks which we had suspended will be resumed after the dates are fixed by diplomatic channels and we will continue this. Ultimately, Sir, I have a feeling that we will have to treat Pakistan with the amount of friendship, tolerance and firmness, a combination which is not always easy to prepare and to think of but a combination, nevertheless, which is perpetually going to be necessary. And that is what I would like to submit to the House.

[*Translation*]

AN HON. MEMBER: Please say something about Israel.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: What is to be said, I have already spoken about Israel.

[*English*]

I think I have already replied to this. About Israel, the Israel diplomatic relations have been established with Israel as a result

of which we are very much into the Middle East process now. This I could say without any fear of contradiction. And as a result of this, the Middle East process has a very good Indian component of participation today. It remains to be seen how the process goes on. But whatever happens in that process, India is going to play a role which is useful and perhaps, we will contribute to the process really achieving results more than any other country, if I may say so. So, this is about Israel. About other bilateral relations with Israel, I am not sure whether that much has been done but that is a matter of time and we will take up those issues as we go along... (*Interruptions*)... Now, Sir, about the subject matter which is really rousing passions for the last two or three or four days, I would like to very briefly submit to the House. Sir, you may recall that in the NIC meeting held on 2nd November, 1991, the Chief Minister of UP had given the following assurances:

- (1) All efforts will be made to find an amicable resolution of the issue
- (2) Pending a final solution, the Government of UP will hold itself fully responsible for the protection of the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid Structure.
- (3) Orders of the Court in regard to the land acquisition proceedings will be fully implemented, and
- (4) Judgment of the Allahabad High Court, in the cases pending before it, will not be violated.

Now, these were the four assurances given. All the members of the NIC and the whole world knows about them. This was on the 2nd of November. Evidently, the efforts

should have started at No. (1), that is, "All efforts will be made to find an amicable resolution of the issue." We have hardly had any time to even begin, leave alone complete the task at No. 1 and in December itself, developments had taken place which could adversely affect the security of the RJB structure.

15 hrs.

Road barricades, iron pipe barricading, rolls, barbed wire, etc. which were there around the structure, have been removed and perhaps the security climate of the structure, thereby, got adversely affected. This is the observation of every one.

In February 1992, the State authorities commenced the construction of a wall enclosing a large area around the RJB, including the land acquired in October 1991. After the construction of the wall had begun, the Central Government had requested the State Government to indicate the development plans in the vicinity of the Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid structure, particularly on the land acquired in October 1991 and the area falling within the wall under construction, because the acquisition itself was subject to certain public purposes. Reply giving the details of these plans has not been received from the State Government till date.

In March 1992, the State Government leased out approximately 42 acres of land in the vicinity of the RJB Complex to the Ram Janam Bhoomi Nyas for implementation of the Ram Katha Park project out of the Nyas funds. In March 1992, again, the State authorities undertook the demolition of additional structures in the RJB Complex such as Sankat Mochan Temple, major portion of Sakshi Gopal Temple, Sumitra Bhavan, Lomas Ashram Gopal Bhawan and shops. Along with the demolition, extensive digging and levelling operations were also commenced. I am giving all these details

because the atmosphere of security which had come as a result of the Chief Minister's assurances given on the 2nd of November, got shaken. What was the intention, we cannot say. But the result has been that that atmosphere has got shaken. These levelling and digging operations have led to apprehensions in the minds of many people, and caused concern about their possible effect on the strength and safety of the RJB structure. Fear has also been expressed that the collection of water during the rains in the dug up ground could seep to the foundation of the structure and weaken it.

The Central Government has, on many occasions, expressed the view that a negotiated solution of the RJB dispute should be found. If, however, such a solution cannot be reached, the Government favours a solution by court's verdict.

On July 15, just about two days back, the Allahabad High Court has passed an order prohibiting any construction on the land acquired by the U.P. Government last year. Now, the Home Minister has been literally harassed, hour after hour, in Parliament and outside, as to what he is doing when the order is being violated and why it has not been implemented. Now, the latest information which the Minister of State for Home Affairs has given to this House is that the concerned officers are given orders. I am putting it in my words. The State Government has passed orders to the officials concerned to take steps in compliance of the High Court's orders. Now, at this moment, what all I can say is, I await further reports on the actual compliance of the orders.

Now, some very interesting information has been passed on to me here, after I came here, that the orders were to be sent by fax, but suddenly, between Lucknow and Faizabad, the fax machine broke down. (*Interruptions*) It is possible. Anything can go out of order. But then, as a follow up, or as a

[Sh. P.V. Narasimha Rao]

remedial measure to this failure, a special messenger has been despatched to Faizabad. That is, human machine has now substituted the tax machine.

Now, about the spill over of the last Session. I would like to say a few words about the spill over about which points have been made. I do not consider them very foradible but then I have to give the information.

Sir, on the Bofors case itself, when I had spoken on this matter last in this House, I had stated categorically that investigation would be pursued diligently and without lot-or-hindrance in order to unearth the truth. All steps were taken to persuade the Swiss authorities to pursue the case. The cantonal court at Geneva heard the case on the 12th of June, 1992. The decision of the court was reserved. After the hearing the court has recessed on vacation. The decision is, therefore, expected in August when the vacation ends. Until we get a favourable decision from the court and until we get to know the names of the recipients of the pay-offs, it is not possible for the CBI to investigate further. At present this is the position there.

The High Court of Delhi also is likely to take up hearing from the 25th - If I am not mistaken and I have been told that, subject to correction, it is going to be continuous and on a daily basis. If it is so, then we could expect the decision of the Delhi High Court also to come as quickly as possible.

Sir, about... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):
Who is the lawyer?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have got three papers on this. I have read only one out of them.

Sir, the news item on Bofors pay offs, in the issue dated 10.7.92 of Indian Express, has been brought to my notice. The investigations carried out by the CBI so far have not revealed any information which may authenticate the issues raised in the news item. As the CBI is not a party in the proceedings in the cantonal court in Geneva, as per Swiss laws, it has no information about any such account as mentioned in the newspaper having been frozen by the Swiss authorities. The cantonal court of Geneva is likely to pronounce its judgment, as I just submitted, by next month and if the documents are made available, further investigation about the probable recipients will be conducted. At present no comments on the information contained in the news item can be made. But further action would be taken depending on the outcome of the proceedings in the Geneva cantonal court.

Then, Sir, about Mr. Solanki. I have already stated that as advised by the CBI, there is no possibility for our CBI to take up any investigation in Geneva about the identity of a person. The investigation of the CBI starts and ends with Mr. Solanki. They went to Mr. Solanki; they asked him and he said he is in no position to identify the person. This is the position. (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUDHIR RAY (Burdwan): I think Mr. Solanki can identify himself

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Well, Sir, this is the position.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): How did he give the summary of the letter to the Swiss Minister?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is a question of a person giving the letter not the summary.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How Mr. Solanki had the summary when he did not know the content of it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Today, itself before coming here, I again spoke to Solanki ji.

If he is in any position at all, even now, to recollect the complexion or any clues by which... (*Interruptions*) On behalf of the Parliament, Sir, I impressed on him (*Interruptions*) - on behalf of all the hon. Members, on behalf of all of you, I pleaded with him - if he could recollect anything that could give a clue, he said it is just not possible for him to recollect anything. So, there is nothing I can do about it. That is all.

Sir, I think, I have dealt with all the matters that have figured in the House. There is anything which needs further to be explained or any answer to be given, I am prepared to give it. But only thing is that we will not go into inessentials, other Ministers have spoken and I think the debate has been fairly comprehensive.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Scam?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: About Scam, Sir, I think, the Finance Minister has already given a reply. Now, it is in the J.P.C.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH): Would you appoint an opposition member as a Chairman of JPC?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Do not be so indignant. It is in your hands, so do not ask me.

[*English*]

I am not able to hear with so many speaking at a time. I would like to submit with

all despatch, steps have been taken right from the beginning, right from the moment, it came to our notice, the Government's notice, culminating in the J.P.C. Now, this is where we are at the moment and if the J.P.C. is able to go further into the matter (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIGEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister has said something about the accounts and Mr. Solanki. I will not make any comment on that because it would then become a question-answer session. It is a separate issue for discussion. But I hold that Prime Minister is responsible for conducting CBI enquiry. Justice Wariava has made a written observation saying that CBI is shielding the guilty people in its enquiry into Bank and stock scam and is in search of scapegoats. He has used very harsh language in his written observation. Prime Minister has just now analysed this big bungling of thirty thousand crores of rupees. Mr. Prime Minister, misappropriation of interest only in this Bank scam is to the tune of rupees forty thousand crores and you have been talking of thirty thousand crores for the last fourteen-fifteen months. Mr. Prime Minister, you had set up a one member special court and when the judge raises such a question, would you instruct CBI and all other concerned agencies to give a clear reply to this question.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I would do it immediately. I have noted all that the hon. member has said and I would give all necessary instructions to them in this regard.

SHRI RUPCHANDPAL (Hooghly): One of the Ministers of the Cabinet has resigned. We want to know something from the hon. Prime Minister in relation to Scam.