

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on TV. I am asking the TV people not to record this.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Let them not record. But, I will request the hon. Prime Minister to give some message to our women on this International Women's Day in this House and felicitate them on behalf of the Members of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Thank you.

Now, the hon. Prime Minister.

12.02 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - (Contd.)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members, who have participated in this Debate and given us the benefit of their observations, suggestions and also criticism.

Sir, if we look at the last three Addresses of the President, we can see the change from year to year which represents the overall situation in the country as it existed at the time he gave the particular Address.

In 1992, the President began by addressing the question of economic reforms because that was uppermost in the nation's agenda. In 1993, the focus was on the survival of India as a nation and the survival of its secular character. This year, Rashtrapatiji has spoken of a note of optimism; an optimism he has elaborated as one of accelerating our

pace of economic growth strengthened by the reassuring verdict of the people in favour of reforms and against the forces of communalism.

This is a very clear picture, comparative picture, of the three past years when the President addressed us and I would say that today we have this note of optimism and we have to build on this optimism because conditions are ripe, conditions are congenial for building up on this optimism.

I would, however, touch upon a few aspects which have been raised by some hon. Members although I must say that taking the Debate as a whole what is really warranted from me is a short reply and not to elaborate because the President's Address in whatever it has said has been extremely lucid and one does not have much to add to what he has said.

On the questions regarding the internal security, internal law and order, some points have been raised.

I would rather start with them and dispose them of before going on to the economic issues.

Sir, the RJB issue really is in the Supreme Court. There have been objections raised from several quarters right from the beginning that the reference should be under one article, not under the other. Now, all that has passed. Today, the Supreme Court is seized of the matter and the hearings are going on. I would appeal to the House, I would appeal to the hon. Members not to, really, be agitated by this question any more, because once the Supreme Court gives its opinion, as the President has said action would be initiated on the lines of the opinion or in the light of the opinion given by the

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Supreme Court. Whatever legal and other niceties could be raised, have been raised, but now we are at a stage where action can follow as quickly as possible and therefore, we should, really, be ready for the Supreme Court's opinion, expected as early as possible and look forward to taking action. On that, of course, we will again come to the House, take the opinion of the hon. Members and have a consensus on what to do and how to take action. So, this is the stage at which we find ourselves today and I would, once again, appeal to the House to understand this and take it as the present stage from which we have to go forward.

Sir, about Kashmir there are two or three complications which need to be disentangled. The first very clear thing, clear fact we know is that from Pakistan incessantly, endlessly, without intermission terrorism is being exported into the Valley. We have been dealing with this with utmost patience and firmness combined; where firmness is needed firmness is being shown, but where patience could be better we have also shown patience as was evident in the Hazaratbal matter. This has to be tackled on many fronts. The latest which, I think, we have thought of is, apart from what all is being done there is a need to intensify the development effort in the State. I shall come back to the House with more details on some other occasion, but suffice it to say at this moment that the front, the developmental front has to be concentrated upon. We are doing a lot of developmental work there, but that needs to be augmented, to be given some concentrated attention. The aspect involving the people is being looked into. The aspect of better coordination has been looked into and I am glad to say that the coordination today is much better and much more effective than it was a few months earlier.

Sir, we have a problem with Pakistan. The problem is that they have a compulsion, an internal compulsion to harp and keep on harping on the Kashmir question and harp on human rights. One fails to understand how of all the countries Pakistan is the champion of human rights and India, with all our traditions, our laws, our record in the human rights sphere, is being put in the dock.

This is absolutely incomprehensible. But this is what is happening. We have to face it. We have nothing to hide. Our record is clear. Wherever there are excesses, the President has very clearly stated that we will take action. But to say that we are only violating human rights all the time is an exaggeration which borders on untruth. We would like to refute it and we would like to say that we will deal with the Kashmir question both on the front of terrorists whose human rights are not sacrosanct if they really want to kill people right and left. It has to be firmness to put down terrorism, to preserve and protect the territorial integrity of the country and nothing is going to come in the way of the Government of India, of the people of India in achieving this. Subject to this, of course, we have nothing to hide.

Lots of people are coming into Kashmir. They are giving their recommendations; they are giving their suggestions; they are giving their opinions and will continue to welcome people to come and see Kashmir. After all, Kashmir has been one of our best tourist areas. Today because of what Pakistan has done, the situation has worsened to such an extent that the people of Kashmir are suffering. All the income of the people of Kashmir was mostly dependent on tourism. All that is no more now. This suffering has to be put an end to and this can happen only when what is happening

by way of export of terrorism from Pakistan ceases. We are determined to see that it ceases.

Now something is being said about what is happening in Geneva, Sir, the Human Rights Commission is seized of the matter, I would not like to anticipate what is going to happen there. But we have convinced, we have tried to convince all our friends that Pakistan's propaganda against India on human rights is totally uncalled for. In fact, one could ask what Pakistan's *locus standi* is in respect of Kashmir, except that of an aggressor. That is the only *locus standi*. Beyond that, there is nothing. We have to tell the world many things that have been forgotten. The basic case on Kashmir, India's basic case on Kashmir has probably taken a back seat and all these peripheral issues, in fact, irrelevant issues like human right issues etc., are coming to the fore. It is time that we go into the basics, tell the world what exactly is the Kashmir question and how they have to look at it, if they have to do justice or if they have to take the right view.

This is what needs to be done now. Since we have passed a unanimous resolution rightly, validly as an act of patriotism in this House, I would like both the Houses of Parliament to go into this question in greater detail. Many of our Members could take part, they could study and the world should know—apart from the Resolution that we have passed—what the Parliament thinks about the Kashmir question in all its details. I think, this is very necessary. I find when I go out, the real basis etc., of the Kashmir question has been totally sidelined, either forgotten or deliberately sidelined. Whichever is the case, we have to bring it back into focus. It is not in the focus, at the moment.

The determination of the nation has been fully reflected in the resolution of the Parliament. I have no need to add anything to that except to say that this Government will carry out the Parliament in letter and spirit and this is the undertaking of the Government of India to the Parliament.

Coming to the demand for new States which has been gathering some momentum for some time, I would like to say that the time and the situation do not warrant the carving out of new States. We have to make arrangements within the present set up in order to see that backward areas in States are looked after better. We had the Jharkahnd Bill. We were not quite satisfied with it. We asked for some amendments to be made in it, I think it will be possible to find a solution by which that backward but very rich area gets its dues in development, in investment and in the general programmes of the States. So is the case with may be other areas, the Uttrakhand and the other areas from where similar demands have come. I would like to respectfully submit that this is no time for us to open the Pandora's Box for new States to be created. Our ingenuity has to be extended to the fullest extent to find solutions to the problems of the backward pockets.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): It has not happened for the last so many years. You are just trying to postpone the problem.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am making a statement because a demand has been made, speeches have been made and the point has been raised. So, I think I must respond to this. This is what I am doing and I would say that short of

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carving out new States, we will have to find solutions to the imbalance that exists in almost all States and particularly States whose formation was a result of historical circumstances. We can go into all those things. Things have been done on those lines. Councils have been formed. They are working well and there is no reason why we should be diffident about doing these things effectively. That is one thing which I would like to submit to the House.

In the North-East, problems are rather complex, Shri Jaswant Singhji asked the other day, how do you reconcile the two statements where the President says that North-East is peaceful land and there is imposition of President's rule in one of the States. I think they are not only reconcilable but that is the real situation. Today, in a part of Meghalaya the elections are taking place. In another State, there is a clash between two tribes. Now both are happening. But on the whole, what the President says is correct. Except Manipur where now things are fast returning to normal after the imposition of President's rule, the North-East is peaceful. But North-East bristles with problems, problems of development, problems of distance and problems of access. Even Indian Airlines suspended flights to the North-East. I do not know for what reasons. Now we have got them restored with some difficulty. The problems of the North-East are really difficult.

And I would say that we are paying special attention. I am glad that one of the States which had not been represented all these forty years has now got a Minister of States in the Council of Minister. The other Ministers also, they are looking into the problems. But, I think, the North-East is an area which needs special attention with another additional complication that

it has become a haven of smuggling, haven of arms transfers which are being reflected in local feuds. So, it is not just a question of law and order. It is a social question to some extent; it is a question where large monies are concerned and it happens to be the border of three countries. Some of the areas are tri-junctions. So, it needs much greater attention and I am glad to say that we have been paying greater attention going into all those questions dealing with different aspects of the questions. *(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARTI
(Khajuraho): What about the problem of infiltration in the North-East ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is one of the problems. What I am saying is that the border is so porous that any one can commit a crime in India and go into the other country; commit a crime there and come back into India and so on. That is why the porosity of the border is the main cause. There was a time when some sanitised area was considered. But I am sure that is working as it had to work, We will have to go into it and we are going into it.

Now, on the whole, the situation in the country has stabilised so to give a lot of confidence to people from outside and within the country that economic activity can now be accelerated. There will be no problem about further investment, additional investment and things will be stable; things will be peaceful. This is the hope that has been created and that is why what the President has said, what the Rashtrapathi ji has said is a note of optimism. This is one of the factors which has generated a note of optimism.

Coming to the economic policy, lots of things have been said. In fact, there have been many suggestions; many de-

mands of a local nature. I would, with your permission, with the permission of the House, like to deal with them in writing; send individual replies to all the Members who have said something about their constituencies, States etc. because we do not have to devote the time of the House for these individual matters. But I am only giving a few important policy statements, policy issues to the House.

What is the picture that is emerging in the country? On the one side, we are having the massive induction of outlays, investment in the infrastructure sector. This is happening. This is well known. The sectors that are being given additional investment are fuel, oil-refineries, power, food-processing, chemicals, electrical equipment, electronics, metallurgical industries, transportation, hotels and tourism, industrial and agricultural machinery.

These are the priority areas. Never before in any other previous plans did we have a shot in the arm to these areas of development as we are having today. I am not saying that it is enough. Much more needs to be done because once you start on this road, there is really no end. You will have to go on doing more and more.

On the other side, I am glad to say that on the rural sector, on the rural development sector—this is what I would request hon. Members to appreciate— from the Seventh Plan outlay of Rs.7000 crore, we have jumped to Rs. 30000 crore in the Eighth Plan. This again has never happened in the past. So, there is a determination on the part of the Government to balance this out. We cannot wait until industries come and the benefits trickle down to the villages. They will never trickle down to the villages. Industries

mostly will remain where they are. Rural industrialisation of that kind is going to take a long time. Of course, the small-scale industries are doing very well in the new set up. We have enabled them to become more efficient. But that is not enough. So, Rs. 30000 crore are being spent. I am glad to say that this is not on paper. Now taking the total of what has been spent on rural development—I want to give this picture clearly to the House so that later on there is no misunderstanding—in the first year of the plan it was Rs. 3,100 crore; in the second year it was Rs. 5,010 crore and in the third year, it is Rs. 7010 crore. So, out of Rs. 30000 crore, within three years, we have now reached Rs. 15,110 crore. In the next two years, the Planning Commission has already accepted that it will replenish, it will complete Rs. 30000 crore. We are already at Rs. 7000 crore this year, Rs. 500 crore more in the next year, then another Rs. 500 crore in the next year, Rs. 7,500 crore and Rs. 7,500 crore makes the full allotment of Rs. 30000 crore. In the next plan... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): What are you doing about the increasing prices? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:
Please listen... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA
(Bankura): What is its impact on rural poverty?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :
That also is being looked into. The impact on rural poverty, the impact on rural un-

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employment has been studied by independent groups. I can come to the House with details. But right now, I would say that so much money being injected into the rural economy cannot go waste. There are benefits accruing, they have accrued. There is no point in denying that. Of course, there may be some wastage here and there. But rural areas have benefited. For instance, the artisans in the rural areas, more than two lakh artisans have been given improved tools. Now what is the impact of that? The artisans are not, by and large, going to the towns in search of employment. This is not my statement; this is the statement of an independent body which has gone into it. I can produce all the details. But I am just saying that when you are injecting investment for development into the rural areas, it is wrong to say that the rural areas do not respond. That would be an insult to our people. They are taking the benefit, they are responding to the benefit. I do not know if the particular experience of Members in those areas is not good. We will go into that, if again there are such individual cases. But generally the benefit is going to the people directly. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Prime Minister, you are not being given correct informations.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: O.K. I will take correct informations from you. You may provide correct informations to me.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Only recently,

Shri Rameshwar Thakur said that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is not utilising the funds to the maximum extent.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I am only speaking of the general trend of the investment in the rural areas. In the next plan, the picture that emerges is like this. We have had some discussion with the Planning Commission. The rural areas would have to get at least three times more than what they got in the Eighth Plan. So, in the Ninth Plan, for rural development Rs. 90,000 crore have to be given and nothing less. I am not saying that even that is going to be enough. But it has to be so.

Six percent of the GDP on education has been committed. What does that mean? You are at 3.7 percent today. In the Ninth Plan, it has to be somewhere between 3.7 and 5 percent.

[Translation]

Ninth Plan is being referred to because it is proposed to be done by the end of the century.

[English]

By the end of the century this has been a national commitment and we have to go, at least, to five percent of the GDP in the Ninth Plan. And in the Tenth Plan, we go straight on to the six percent target. So, the way we are projecting development plans, particularly in the rural areas is so clear that we will reach our targets and there will be no problem about the rural areas suffering in any way. And once this is inducted in a big way, you will have the rural areas booming with activity, busy with activity — economic activity and other activities. Education will improve

and then you will have a picture which is totally different from what we have today. So, this is the economic picture that is emerging and is bound to emerge on the lines which I have just suggested. This is the general theme. *(Interruptions)*

About investment from outside the Government, the word 'Foreign' somehow seems to evoke certain pictures, certain concepts. What I would say is, outside the Government whatever investment is coming, whether from within the country or from outside the country, from NRIs, that is increasing quite steadily and we expect that we would get more investment from outside than we had anticipated and that would be in substitution of what the Government would have otherwise had to invest. *(Interruptions)*

On the power sector, Sir, the Planning Commission finally said, they cannot go beyond 30,000 MWs. The requirement was more than 48,000 MWs. Where is the rest going to come from? You do not have resources; you cannot wait another five years, We are trying our very best to get this investment from outside the Government. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack):
Is it by paying double the cost?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:
What we are paying, we will come to that. Every problem, every project, you can discuss here. The question is: Can you wait another five or ten years for 18,000 MWs?

Is it possible? If you are thinking of industrialisation, can you do without power? Coming to terms and conditions, you can always have terms and conditions laid before Parliament, on the Table of the House. I am prepared for that.

So Sir, at the end of some months of hard bargaining we now able to say that it is not 30,000, it is going to be about 36,000 MWs which we will have in this as of today. We are still negotiating with many more investors and it is possible that the 18000 MWs gap which had been left unbridged by the Planning Commission in sheer helplessness may be completed. This is what is being done in all the fields where our own resources are inadequate and we cannot wait for another five years or indefinitely to get resources and do these things in the next plans. This is how this substitution process of which I have been taking time and again is taking place. I have given only one concrete example in the power sector.

Now it has been said, of course I can never expect this slogan to be stopped because it is a slogan coming in handy that we are doing things at the instance of somebody else. I have not got any suggestion from any international agency, financial agency, asking me to put Rs.30,000 crore in the rural sector or whatever I have been doing. Whatever the Government has been doing is totally ours. We have taken the exigencies of the country, the needs of the country into account and we have planned this. We have put this as the project. It is for Members to suggest amendments. May be, we can improve many things if only a constructive attitude is taken by Members. Let us discuss where the thing is wrong. Just do not say you are doing it because somebody else asked you do do it. That is not correct. Factually it is wrong and then as an argument, it has absolutely no base. How does it matter what I am doing, at whose instance I am doing? I am doing this. It is on the Table. Please say whether it is good or bad. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Like obtaining a majority; the method is immaterial. As your Finance Minister said in his Budget speech; we have obtained the majority; that is the end of the road.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Somnath Babu, at some point of time I think we have to become a little more serious.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Seriousness is not the one way traffic. Mr. Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: About the Uruguay Round, particularly the Dunkel proposals, it has become a horse which is almost dead. But everyone is flogging it still. We are going to discuss it again. We discussed it last time, we are going to discuss it again; there is no problem. I would like to say, pending discussion, that I have gone into every aspect of the Dunkel proposals, particularly on the agricultural side. On the agricultural side all kinds of things are being said, all kinds of cock and bull stories are coming. I would like to reiterate on this occasion that on the agricultural side we have nothing to lose. We are having much to gain, opportunities will come our way. The export of agricultural commodities from India will get a shot in the arm.

Therefore, I do not find anywhere the farmer, the Indian farmer, suffering. We will discuss that. *(Interruptions)* We will discuss that, please have some patience. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to ask only one thing from you. While

you are going to have a debate on Dunkel Proposals in a day or two, Japan has put off holding a debate on it by a year. Why have Japanese Government and their people done so?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: This is what I am saying. We do not imitate Japan or any other country to do a certain work. We do it keeping in view our circumstances. This is what I was saying. Why do you refer to their stand?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Are we in a better position and are we stronger than Japan?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is not that. We will take decisions in view of our circumstances. You tell us whether it is right or wrong. We will have a discussion on that. But do not refer to what Japan or China has done. Every country has its own problems with their own solutions. On one hand, you accuse us of doing things at the instance of other countries and on the other hand, you compare us with Japan and ask why do we not follow them. What is this? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I get a feeling that by interrupting, you are not paying enough attention to what the Prime Minister is saying.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: They know, Sir, that what I am saying is true. They cannot say that it is true, what is their difficulty; what can we do? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I want to ask this question. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. This is un-called for. You will please refrain from doing that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: There are three schemes.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: On economic issues, you are going to hear the Prime Minister; and you have the opportunity of discussing the same when you discuss the Budget in general. Now, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please discuss it when the Budget is discussed.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Whatever is being said by you will be telecast but this is against the interests of farmers and this is what we want to discuss but it will not be telecast... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: So what, if it will not be telecast. This is not the question as to what was telecast first. It is going to be the subject matter of a very comprehensive debate. It is going to be a subject of discussion even at the

village level and at the level of masses in the street. We are quite prepared for that. You have made an issue of a non-issue.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You must let every Panchayat have a copy of Dunkel Proposals, only then we will have a proper debate.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The only blunder they have committed is, Sir, they have created an issue where there is none. That is the only thing.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It will become clear in the elections.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is no point in sustaining it now. Nothing is achieved by indulging in such frivolous talks.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not expected of a Prime Minister. People have got objection against Dunkel Draft; it is not *maskarapan*. The Prime Minister does not know the implication. He should talk in a good way. That is my plea. *(Interruptions)* Yes. I can say that. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I admit that people are having objections; and the objections will be met. But the kind of comments that we are hearing are totally meaningless; comments which have nothing to do with common sense even, are made. This is what I am saying. If you have no objections, generally what

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is done is, you try to pooh-pooh the matter; you try to ridicule the matter. There is no difficulty about seed multiplication.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The farmers are not going to have a right to seed-multiplication.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is no problem.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Prime Minister, hon. Commerce Minister has said that its commercial scope will be in jeopardy and the farmer will be debarred of his right of seed multiplication.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Our effort will be to bring this national legislation in this session itself.

[English]

If possible, I would like to bring it in this session, Sir, what is this? We have the sovereignty to make our own legislation.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Prime Minister, you have correctly said it yourself that the Government would present its point of view on Dunkel Proposals when the same come up for discussion. However your objection that Dunkel critics are ridiculing it and are saying things which do not concern them is absolutely wrong as today the Prime Minister repeated the something while talking of 'Maskharapan' is the context of farmers or Dunkel... (Interruptions)... I would say that what the Commerce Min-

ister, has said... (Interruptions)... is definitely a serious matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: You are trying to give a twist to what I have said. I am saying that nothing can be achieved by ridiculing... (Interruptions)...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Do not ridicule (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Ridiculing would not help. One has to ponder over it seriously.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Please do not ridicule the opponent. (Interruptions) Please do not ridicule those who are trying to articulate what their views are.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am not ridiculing at all. I am only saying, by way of criticism, anything serious can be brought. We can discuss it. Ridiculing is no way of making an argument. This is what I am saying. Whether anybody does it, that is not the way of making an argument. That is not the way of solving a problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nitish Kumar, I am taking your name. You understand the meaning of it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Again, the allocation for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been steadily increased year after year. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TARACHAND KHANDELWAL (Chandni Chowk): Sir, please enlighten us on drug patent. The whole country harbour serious doubts about it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are having a wonderful session on President's Address. You have made very good points. Hon. Prime Minister is responding to some of the points. Again, you will have the opportunity of discussing the economic issues while discussing the budget.

We have also agreed to have a discussion on the Dunkel proposals. It is in the fitness of the things that the hon. Prime Minister's points should be projected to the House and to the people in a proper, uninterrupted manner. In an intelligent, ingenious and in a very eloquent manner also, at a proper time, that can be raised. Let us not please cloud the debate just by Interruption.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This applies to Mr. Mrutyunjaya Nayak also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Rashtrapatiji has made a special reference to three schemes which were announced in 1993 and which started on the 2nd of October, 1993. I am very glad that even after the President's Address was given to us, there has been almost improvement by the day in all these three schemes. For instance, the President's Address says that under the employment scheme, 2,000 people have been given

loans so far. Between the day the Address was made and today, the latest position is that in all, 6,000 people have got it. The banks are proving to be a little difficult because they have their difficulties. We are looking into all those difficulties and solving them. And there will be some kind of exponential growth in this particular programmes once the bank problems are looked into.

About the programme exclusively meant for women, I am glad to say that about five lakhs of women in this country have already opened their accounts. From five lakh women, deposits worth Rs. 6-7 crores have been collected already. This is catching on. In Jammu & Kashmir—everybody says, no development is taking place in Jammu & Kashmir—the latest report is that within the last few days after it was introduced there, more than 1,000 women have entered this scheme.

So, by and by, the entire women folk are getting into the scheme and I am glad that at the end of one year, they will be earning 25 percent interest in what they have put in the deposit and that will be a good thing for the women of India because we are engaged in a programme of empowering women.

About Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections schemes, the banks and financial corporations, the President has given full details and these corporations have been able to help the people concerned to a large extent. So, I do not have to really add anything as the figures are there. For instance, the Backward Class Finance Corporation has assisted 80,768 people so far. The authorised share capital, as the hon. Members know, is Rs. 200 crore. So this programme is going ahead

[Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao]

steadily. Now, Sir, in the next five years, we would move towards abolishing child labour in industries like carpet as also other hazardous industries. I am only giving the important decisions and suggestions.

Now, about the educational plan, I have already submitted. At the same time, there is a proposal that we should levy educational cess. Now, this is nothing new, Mr. Speaker. We had District Boards functioning in the old British days and in those days, educational cess was being levied in municipalities and in District Boards in many States. I cannot say of the whole of India. But in the States which I know, this was being done. Somehow this was given up. The expectation was that everything should come from the exchequer. Now, the suggestion, is all educationists have agreed and Chief Ministers have agreed to levy this in their States and we will start it. In fact, we wanted, perhaps, the President himself to mention this but we were not ready. So, I think we are getting all the details now. If educational cess is properly levied, to that extent, the educational outlays will also get some augmentation and that is what I would like to inform the House.

Lastly, a few things about external affairs. Some comments have been made about the US and our relations with the US. I would like to say that our relations with the US in the economic, cultural and other fields have been close, good and progressing well. Certain statements emanating from Washington have created certain misgivings and that is why, the President, in his Address, has made a very pregnant and meaningful statement. "We look forward to working with the United States towards mutual understanding including on those issues on which such understanding needs en-

hancement". I think nothing more needs to be said on this because the President agrees that there are areas in which understanding is lacking. Regarding understanding, who has not understood whom is a question. That itself is a question. This will reflect the vibrant, democratic and secular ideals of our two countries.

I think this contains the essence of what we stand for. The Home Minister has already informed the House about our position and I think there is no need to add anything.

On the question of India and China boundary, about further progress on the Peace and Traquillity Agreement, I would like to report to the House that the discussion on that are going on and they are at an advanced stage. The idea is that in some areas where we are having an eyeball to eyeball confrontation, as a beginning, we want to see that that confrontation is removed to the extent necessary. Now, we are at that stage. May be, in a very short time, we will be able to make a breakthrough on that.

These are the important developments since the President's Address. The President has already included the rest in his Address and I do not have to repeat those things.

One point about our fishermen being fired upon has been raised by certain hon. Members, I share their concern. We have taken this up strongly with the Sri Lankan Government with a view to formulating effective measures to prevent such incidents of Sri Lanka firing on our fishermen. A team of our officers has gone to Sri Lanka to look into concrete steps in this regard. I would like to inform the House that this is the latest position.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
What would you like to say about deep-fishing.

SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO: I am replying to the points raised.

[*English*]

Sir, this is all I have to say. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Order please. I will allow two or three questions. I will allow one after the other and all the questions will be replied. Mr. Paswan please.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has not said even a single word or electoral reforms. Has the Government taken any decision in respect of issuing identity cards? In fact the entire process of elections is going to be stalled on that ground.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be very brief.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): The land-reform is an important issue for the poor, but the hon. Prime Minister has not said anything in this regard. The third issue that I want to stress is regarding employment because the problem of unemployment is constantly increasing. We had launched certain projects for the people of SC and ST. But if

the files from the Ministry of Welfare are sent for, it will become clear that all of these projects have been scrapped.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a regular speech. I will disallow you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have completed Sir. You have asked me to sit down and I am sitting down.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Mr. Somnathji please.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: There are certain issues which are disturbing us very much. As regards the 'sick' units, the hon. Prime Minister has not even uttered that expression! A serious situation is arising. Units are being closed. NTC workers will not get their pay from 1st of April. And there are more than 1,60,000 workers. Is there any attempt to revive those units? The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have repeatedly assured a unit-by-unit review. Unfortunately, that has not been done at any acceptable level. Therefore, I expect the hon. Finance Minister to think of those people of our country, who are already on streets today, or are going to be on the streets. They are to be sent out without any consideration.

13.00 hrs.

Sir, my second point is about the follow-up of the JPC Report apart from the Bofors issue. I had earlier referred to the hon. Prime Minister's commitment on the floor of the House that he will look into it day-to-day and will also let us know as to what action had been taken. Sir, we do not know what has happened.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, my third point is about the Dunkel Draft. There is a clear threat now even from the USA about taking recourse to Super 301 against us just like they had threatened Japan. We were definitely told on the floor of this House that there is no question of any country taking recourse to their own laws like that. It is because it is a question of multilateral solutions. The USA, at the topmost level, are sniping at our country and trying to create difficulties for our country. What is the Prime Minister's response to this issue?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to mention very briefly three points. I will attempt not to repeat what has been said.

Firstly, there has come into existence an unseemly controversy relating to Identity Cards and Electoral Reforms. We would have benefited had the hon. Prime Minister shared with us his thinking in respect of both, multi-purpose Identity Cards and Electoral Reforms... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We do need a full discussion... (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We do need a full discussion and if the hon. Prime Minister says that we will have a full discussion... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, not only full discussion, I would submit that I would like to have full discussion and consultation with the Leaders of Opposition. I would like to do anything unilaterally. We will go into it. We have had a meeting with the Chief Ministers. The Home Minister had a meeting with the

Chief Ministers. They have given certain suggestions. We would like to ask Members of the House, Leaders of the House and we will not take any hasty decision. Sir, it will have to be a considered decision.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg your pardon. There are two other issues which I wish to remind the hon. Prime Minister. He had assured this House that in respect of further action relating to the Bofors matter, he will pursue it himself on a day-to-day basis. When the House was agitating about Bofors papers, hon. the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs informed us and gave us an interim situation as to what had happened about Bofors. We were also then assured on that occasion that during the reply to the debate on the President's Address, the Prime Minister will take the House into confidence... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I am able to.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: ...and he will inform the House as to what is the status of the entire matter and where does it rest in Geneva.

Thirdly, I heard something on the question of a very major inquiry that you, Mr. Prime Minister, yourself had commended, that is, the inquiry relating to the Banking and Securities transactions. We had a debate. But where does the Government stand on; the follow-up action on the JPC Report?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not interrupt him.

I just wanted to get information on a point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will spread over.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: But, then everybody will like to ask.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I would like to remind him of a promise he had made here. He had given an assurance in this House in the month of August or September, 1991 that a special discussion will be held on poverty in the country. This assurance was repeated in 1992. Now we are in the year 1994 and the real figures relating to poverty are being cancelled and the wrong ones are being shown. I would like to know whether the Government is going to fulfil that assurance at least during this year, if not during this year session itself. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): The Government had given word twice to set up a Minorities Finance and Development Corporation. What progress has been made in this regard? Will it be set up this year?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These are not the questions. There are thousands and thousands of problems, questions and policy ramifications. On each and every point there cannot be a response from the Prime Minister. Let us please understand this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): I would like to ask one question. About the power sector, the Prime Minister has mentioned. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it when the debate on the Budget is taken up...

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, you just try to hear my question...

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: You hear my question. The Orissa State Electricity Board had a problem... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please sit down now. This is becoming too much. I am not allowing you, please.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not expect the Prime Minister to reply to this question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): The hon. Prime Minister has said that we can take a lot of advantage from the agricultural sector. Due to the continuing step-motherly treatment being given to the agriculture sector, how can we get exportable surplus to get the advantage?

Several demands of the small scale industry are not met. Your own announcement that the Inspector *raj* will be done away with has not taken any shape. Kindly clarify it.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: About the electoral reforms, Identity Cards and several other allied matters, as I said, I would certainly like to consult leaders of parties; and whatever we all decide should be done, will be done. The Government has no particular bias or anything on any of these matters.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: When does the Government propose to hold a meeting in this regard?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Of course, we will certainly hold a meeting very shortly.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: He is worried over the findings of the election commission.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the way?

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: That it no problem. About land reforms, I have been reporting to the house. We have been reporting to the National Development Council also from time to time the progress of the land distribution that has been done. Now, the latest figures, I am sorry, I am not aware, but the progress in the first two years was quite; it was commended by the NDC that a lot of progress has been made.

If hon. Members want the latest position, I can get it and tell them.

Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan says that something was done by them on SC & ST and we have shelved it. I don't think we have shelved anything that has been

coming; we are actually adding new programmes to what was going on. So, I don't think that that is so. But if he tells me that certain programmes were started and they were left half-way, I can certainly look into them.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You please look into it only.

[Translation]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yes, we will look into it.

[English]

About sick industry, is it possible for me in this intervention to say anything about the sick industry?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What about the policy?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The policy exactly is the same as has been coming. BIFR is there. We have to take industry by industry, unit by unit what can we bring round what can we not bring round. If you say that until then....

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is not so, the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

Kindly look into it? Who will look into it on behalf of the Government is my trouble. We cannot go to anybody. Nobody is looking into this. I went to the Finance Minister. He said, "At my level, I will do it."

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Everybody is looking into it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I will feel happy if he does it, but he is too busy with Dunkel and all that. Where is the time? Who is doing it? Which Minister is doing it? Which officer is doing it? Kindly tell us about it. Kindly also clarify about BIFR. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The Industry Ministry incharge of it and I am the Industry Minister. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Since you have not divested from it, then you have to meet us every time.

MR. SPEAKER: You got the answer.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: When will you have a discussion on this.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Have I not ever met you? I mean this is very unfair (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You give your response. Don't say, I refer to so and so. About the JPC Report, I think the Finance Minister would be able to tell the latest position. Would you like to say or would you like to make a statement?

MR. SPEAKER: May be at the time of debate.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: About Bofors the interim report which Shri Shukla gave, it still remains interim because I do not think anything has been received. I can report to the House from time to time, there is no difficulty about that. We had to receive some papers;

those papers, I understand, are yet to be received. That is all.

About Dunkel, of course, as I said...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: About 301!

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are talking of a multilateral forum which we have all preferred, we have worked for the last more than seven, eight years. We have come to a particular stage. Now we have fought very hard to improve the report, improve the provisions and terms of the report to our advantage. That is a process that is going on. Now if any country has any other ideas I do not think I have to answer for those ideas.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What will be your response if they do it later?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Please do not ask hypothetical question.

MR. SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by the Members to the Motion of Thanks.

Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon. Member want any particular amendment to be moved?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: No, Sir, we would like a few amendments to be put separately as per the list prepared by us.

May I make a clarification that these relate to US intervention in Jammu & Kashmir, GATT/Dunkel, Unemployment, Price Rise, SC, ST and Women, Black Money, Privatisation and States' Rights?