

Prime Minister that our area is facing situation worse than the tribal areas. Therefore, wheat should be provided to us at Rs. 1.55 per kg. from February, 88 to September, 89. Had it been done, it would have provided a lot of relief. The amount provided as drought-relief is inadequate for providing employment to even 10 lakh people whereas we have to cover 30 lakh people. At some places even a single person in a family of ten has not been able to get a job. We want two persons to get job in every family, but this has not been possible due to lack of funds.

As far as drinking water is concerned, Indira Gandhi Canal Project should be completed as early as possible. Schemes for supply of water to Jodhpur, Jaisalmer cities is based on the Indira Gandhi Canal Project. Similar schemes for the urban areas should also be formulated. Because there lies the solution to our problem of irrigation and drinking water. Rs. 105 crores have been provided for the construction of Indira Gandhi Canal. It can be completed within ten years if sum of Rs. 200 crores is allotted to it every year. After the completion of this project, afforestation will take place, irrigation facilities would be available and a permanent solution to the drinking water problem would be found. Then the drought will have very little effect. Therefore, it should be done on priority basis. We are emphasising for the material components for those projects which are going on under the drought relief. Today, the roads are being constructed but not the gravel roads. Whatever, road or dam we may construct, it cannot be useful without the help of material component. Therefore, the material components are must for the construction of useful projects. This must be arranged.

I also want to say something about the nation. Some of our friends were saying that military was deployed in Tripura at the time of elections. The then Tripura Government neither opposed it at the time of deployment

nor during the elections. But they began to question the deployment of army the moment the election results started going against them. Why the C.P.I. (M) Government did not oppose it at the time of impartial elections? Therefore, what I want to say is that wherever our party wants to held impartial elections, the State Government creates obstacles in its way and does not want the elections to be held impartially. I know that there was no foul play either in the polling or in the counting. Therefore, it is useless to raise hue and cry over it.

Whatever decision our Government has taken on the issue of Sri Lanka, that is in the interest of the security and the honour of our country. This has increased our prestige in the world. I am sure that our Tamil brethren would cooperate in it to safeguard their own interests. The Indo-Sri Lanka pact is in the interest of both the countries. With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks moved on Hon. President's Address.

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15.01 hrs.

[English]

STATEMENT RE: SUCCESSFUL TEST  
FIRING OF "PRITHVI", INDIA'S TACTI-  
CAL SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE

[English]

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI):** I am very glad to inform the House of an important technological achievement of Indian scientists and technologists. It is a notable milestone in our programme to achieve self-reliance in areas of high technology and of considerable significance to our defence preparedness.

The first ever test firing of "Prithvi", India's tactical surface-to-surface missile,

[Sh. Rajiv Gandhi] took place at 11.23 in the forenoon today. The House will be glad to know that it was successful, meeting all the specifications. With this successful test firing India joins the select group of 4 nations which have developed this class of surface-to-surface missiles. This missile is based totally on indigenous design and development efforts of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. I would like to stress again that no foreign know-how or collaboration is involved.

"Prithvi" has a range capability of 250 km with different types of large payload warheads which can inflict heavy damage on adversary targets. Compared to other missiles of this class, it has the best warhead-to-weight ratio. Very advanced inertial navigation and guidance systems incorporating on-board computers operating with realtime software are used in the system. After a number of necessary test launches, we plan to induct "Prithvi" in numbers into our Defence Forces.

On behalf of the House, I would like to place on record our congratulations and warm greetings to all the scientists, engineers, technicians and workers of the Defence Research and Development Organisation who have worked tirelessly and with dedication over the years in designing and developing "Prithvi". The nation is justly proud of them.

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15.02 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE  
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS — CONTD.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the

President I have certain inhibitions. When there was a controversy regarding the implementation of Article 78 of the Constitution our Speaker had given the ruling that there should be no reference to the President of India at all in this House. I was thinking to myself whether it was perfectly in order if anyone tries to criticise the speech of the President because it will mean the criticism of the President of India inside the House and whether it would conflict with the ruling that is given by the Speaker. But I presume amplitude of the ruling will not be so wide and there will be occasions on which we will have to refer the President and, therefore, I will take the liberty of criticising certain aspects of the speech of the President. In fact, it is not criticising the President because the speech is drafted by the Government. In fact, from the style of the speech it can very well be seen.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): I thought Prof. Dandavate would have a good word to say about the missile.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: I am coming to that. I don't want to mix up President with the scientific progress.

SHRI K.C. PANT: I thought it may have gone over your head.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Generally, missile goes overhead. It has not gone over my head. Sir, I am coming to that aspect.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Let us have good words from you about the missile.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Why about missile, about you also, I can, as an exception, have good words today. In fact, I