

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rawle ji was speaking just now. I would like to comment on one thing that the great leader of our country and leader of opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and Shri Advani ji were listening very attentively to the speech of the Hon. Member of their allied party, Shiv Sena. When we go around the country, one question is raised that the symbol of lion is fixed in the office of Shri Bal Thackeray.

MR. SPEAKER : We do not have time to discuss these things.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : I would like to comment a simple thing. If someone says in his speech that 15-17 crore minority people should be expelled out of the country and if someone becomes man eater then I would like to say one thing to the leaders of the Bhartiya Janta Party...

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Bala Sahib Thackeray never said so.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : I would like to submit in the House that may be due to our mistakes the Bhartiya Janta Party's dream to come to power have been true but it will never come to power in the Centre if it makes such remarks...(Interruptions)

I would like to conclude after mentioning two points only. I would like to submit by heart that the Minorities Commission of India, the Scheduled Caste Commission of India, the Backward Classes Commission of India and the Safai Karamchari Commission of India are set up for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Central Government has served them notices to immediately shift their offices out of Delhi, whereas stress has been laid in the President's Address to pay more attention towards these classes. On the contrary these commissions have been asked to shift their offices out of the capital which is a gross injustice with these classes. I would like to urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister to pay attention towards it.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that, that order has been cancelled.

MR. SPEAKER : Alright, it is not being done. Your suggestion has been accepted. Please take your seat

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time. You should also understand that there is time constraint.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Now I will make my last point. I would like to submit that I am very much

thankful to the Hon. Prime Minister for what he has done for Punjab but if the ruling party and this country think that by waiving off the loans, peace can be restored in Punjab, then it will be a big misunderstanding.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, you are doing a great service to the nation.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : I am not delivering a communal speech. I am speaking the truth. I am speaking about the outstanding issues of Punjab. Punjab has not got the capital for 29 years. Even after the massacre of 15000 people and setting up the Commission, the culprits of the Delhi riots have been apprehended and moving freely. Not even a single person has been punished. What more big danger can be to the country than this. Therefore, my submission is that those cases should be settled immediately and the people responsible for it should be arrested. At last I would like to submit that..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, it is not going on record. You please sit down. I am not going to allow you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)**

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the Hon. Members, who have participated in the debate and given very valuable suggestions. I do not propose to take up points alongwith the names of Members who have raised them. I have culled out a few items, a few issues, on which I would like to submit to the House my views.

Sir, we have come a long way since 1991 and the conditions of 1991. I do not want to remember them nor to remind the House of them. I will only say that in this long journey of the nation, we have come to a point where we can look to the future with certain amount of confidence and optimism and that is the main thrust of the President's Address to the Members of Parliament. I would endorse that spirit. I would endorse that optimism because what has been done during the last four years does justify that optimism. Facts, figures, situation as we have seen from time to time - we have lived through these four years - all this is witness to the fact that the optimism of the President, or *Rashtrapatiji* is fully justified.

Sir, there seems to be some forgetting of what we said last year and the year before last because when we talk this year, we seem to think that we are saying something for the first time. Sir, I would like to remind the House that ever since 1991, the spirit of the Government's actions has been the same. The purpose of actions of the Government and the policies of the Government has not changed. It has been on the same lines. And from 1991 to 1992, of course, we were only

** Not Recorded.

doing fire fighting. From 1992 onwards, you will find a continuity in the programmes, in the policies, in the attitudes and in the thrust of whatever the Central Government has been doing. I started in 1991 to say that our actions have followed the basic principle of continuity with change. As our economic situation has improved, our commitment to the poor has manifested in higher outlays, and higher and higher outlays can be seen from the figures which are available to the House. Year after year, this has happened. This has been a common thread all through in the President's Addresses, Budgets and policy formulations. As a result, every year from 1992 onwards saw an increasing number of programmes being fielded. In 1992, I had clearly stated that we would not accept the proposition of unlimited capitalism and leave the poor out. Our position was stated very clearly. And in 1993, I had stated that the Budget of 1993-94 intended to give a major push to our policy of reducing poverty and increasing employment. This is what we called 'human face' from day one. We are not calling it for the first time this year. Uplift of the poor is an article of faith with us. That is why in 1994, there was a note of optimism in the President's Address and this year that optimism and self-assurance has been vindicated.

Our thrust and commitment to the basic philosophy of the Congress has continued uninterrupted. While our achievements have been significant, there are many problems which still face the country. There is no gainsaying that. And to these problems, reference has been made by the Hon. Members and I would like to respond to as many of them as I can.

Sir, the first criticism which has been levelled not only today but year after year against the new economic policy is that the policy is wrong and the policy is against the interests of the country. Sir, this criticism, I do not have to answer with any great stress and do not have to belabour the point too much because my task has been rendered easier by what has been happening during the last few years or at least a year, maybe, more than a year when successive Governments not ruled by Congress have come back to the same line; and during the last two or three days, we can see in the newspapers, a line up of Chief Ministers, 'just-elected Chief Ministers', coming for investment, from wherever it is available, making it absolutely clear that they have no hesitation in getting this investment because they know, as we know, that this investment is necessary. The only difference is that some people read the writing on the wall a little earlier; others read it a little later; but eventually all read it; and that is the great thing about this country; and I do not have to answer that point at all.

But there is one point this year, Sir, which has been stressed a little because of certain exigencies coming in the next one year, I presume; there has been a wedge being driven between the foreign investor and

the local industrialist. Now, this is something which does not exist; this discrimination does not exist; but it is sought to be portrayed like this. I would like to appeal to Hon. Members not to do this because this is not going to be in the interest of the country. We have not made any distinction, any discrimination against the local investor or local industrialist; and in fact, whatever local industry needed as protection, that has been given and that will continue to be given; but it cannot be the protection, the absolute protection to keep out everybody from outside as the protection that they have enjoyed for the last 30 or 40 years. There has to be a change and that change has come. It is possible that some Members might say that the pace of this protection or the withdrawal of this protection, lowering of this protection has been a little quicker than necessary. That is a matter of perception; and I feel that according to Government, according to all calculations made by the Government, all assessments made by the Government, this protection or this withdrawal of protection, lowering of the protection has not been to the detriment of the local industry.

There has been some criticism that the policy of encouraging foreign investment has been at the cost of domestic industry. The decision to invite foreign direct investment was on account of our need to add to resource availability, induction of modern technology and upgradation of marketing and management skills available in the country. Accordingly when any foreign company has sought fiscal tax or tariff concessions, it has been advised that proposal-specific-concessions are not part of our system. We do it across the board; there is a change in the policy; everybody falls in line with that policy. And there are an favourites played in this game. Such changes are made as part of the Budget and are applicable to all companies in a sector irrespective of whether they are Indian, joint ventures or foreign owned. We are consistently monitoring this aspect to ensure that Indian companies are not put to any disadvantage.

Some Hon. Members mentioned that the policy has encouraged the take-over of Indian industry by multinationals. This is not true. Where the Indian companies have, for instance, for reasons of infusion of capital or technology, sought to allow the foreign company to enhance their equity stake, the Government has accorded permission. However, we have made it incumbent upon Indian companies applying for such a change in equity structure to have the endorsement of their own Boards of Management or shareholders of the Indian company before Government accords such approvals. All these moves have been voluntary decisions of the company and not predatory ones or imposed by the Government.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about Maruti?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Maruti is not today's Maruti is an old case.

I am somewhat surprised to hear that domestic industry has been adversely affected by the policies. Now, I am quoting some figures. The financial results of the corporate sector do not seem to indicate this. I understand that the provisional financial results for 135 major companies for the six months period ending in September 1994 have shown high level of profits. Except for five companies, all the rest have done well and the percentage growth of profits over the previous year for many companies has been, in figures, upto triple digits - not even double digits but triple digits. As a sample, this does not reflect a domestic industry which has been hurt by the reform process.

I should also like to once again state that foreign investment has come into sectors to which we have attached importance. I would emphasize that 83 per cent of approvals accorded for foreign equity investment has been in the priority sectors with the major share being in power, oil refineries, metallurgical industries, chemicals, transportation, food processing, electronic equipment, etc. Even the balance of 17 per cent consists of the service sector (8 per cent), textiles (4 per cent), leather and rubber goods (0.8 per cent), soaps, cosmetics and vegetable oils (0.3 per cent), trading companies (0.3 per cent), fermentation industries (1.0 per cent) and miscellaneous industries (2 per cent), namely, jewellery, toys, locks, sports equipment, etc. Thus, there is clearly no distortion in the investment pattern in favour of an undesirable proliferation of consumer industries...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharia, please do not interfere.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I would wish to draw the attention of the Members to two interesting features of the foreign investment proposals approved by the Government. In the first three years of the policy, the number of projects approved for companies in which foreign equity exceeds 75 per cent were only 8.7 per cent of the total. This illustrates that investment is mainly coming with Indian partners and this would ensure that Indian companies are getting the benefit of upgraded technology, marketing and management inputs, inflow of the additional capital injection and increased employment. Similarly, if we take the total number of approvals accorded for projects with foreign equity exceeding Rs. 300 crore, these amount to only 13 out of 2526. On the other hand, those with foreign equity below Rs. 3 crore were 2006. It would be evident that the companies that are availing of the advantages of foreign investment are not big multinational giants but small and medium companies. Their partnership with emerging small and medium entrepreneurs should be encouraged rather than shunned. And this is the answer to the criticism that has been levelled in this connection, Sir.

Figures are so clear. All in all, I feel that industry has adjusted well to the changed economic environment. In 1994-95, the growth in the manufacturing sector was

9.2 per cent. It is particularly noteworthy that our capital goods sector has shown resilience and its growth in the same period has been 24.7 per cent above the previous year. Surely, this does not reflect an industrial sector under pressure from foreign capital !

In addition to this, we are in touch with the local, domestic industrial sector almost all the time, continuously. I have had interaction. I am sure other Ministers have had interaction. I am equally sure that Hon. Members of the Opposition, leaders of the Opposition, and Chief Ministers of the States other than Congress States are constantly in touch with them. We have not come across any such direct or indirect complaint that the Indian industry is suffering as a result of foreign investment coming. This has not come to my notice. But I would certainly like to know if there are any instances of this kind and if there is any such prevailing feeling that such a thing is happening, I would certainly like to know about it. I am telling you, I have not come across it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What about the Bombay Club?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is what I am saying. If there are instances, yes, we can certainly go into them. But as a policy and as a general fallout of the policy, this has not happened. That is what I would like to tell.

Sir, there has been some criticism about the WTO. This is again a matter which has been figuring in our debates...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : If Indian industry is not suffering, how come every other day, one industry is being closed down in West Bengal?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Every third day, I meet a very large, a very influential delegation of Members of Parliament particularly from West Bengal's CPI (M) or CPI, buttressed by some union leaders — their own leaders — and they come and tell me that what all we are doing is wrong. All that I have to do is to refer the matter to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Nothing else!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Are you not paying any heed to them?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Mr. Speaker Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has netted more foreign investments in the last six months than the entire Government of India has done in four years. So, his rhetoric also has very suitably changed. This change is a welcome change.

Sir, about the GATT, we have been the contracting parties right from the beginning. I remember very well when we had these discussions in Punta Del Este in Uruguay, Shri V.P. Singh who was the then Finance Minister, accompanied by Shri K.C. Pant who was then perhaps the Defence Minister and a very important delegation went from here. We have been fighting the

battle on behalf of the developing countries right through. I may also say, Sir, that in this battle, many of the other developing countries, even big developing countries, fell by the wayside. If anyone has continued the battle throughout, it is India and maybe one or two others. But many have had to yield. We have not yielded. But this is a multilateral forum. Now, in the Non-aligned, in the G-77 or in any forum of the developing countries, what we have been saying consistently and persistently is that we want a multilateral system of trade. This has been there and we have been saying this for the last 25 or 30 years.

And whenever one country seeks to dominate another through bilateral arrangements, we have been opposing it; opposing it tooth and nail. Therefore, today when we have a multilateral forum finalised, working, to say that all this is wrong, is something like putting the clock back. I am afraid, we cannot do that and we should not do that. It is not in the national interest to do that. Yes, when there is multilateral negotiations, there is always something like a 'give' and something like a 'take'. We will have to see how far our interests are being served and I am absolutely certain, Sir, that in all these long negotiations, very persistent negotiations, hard negotiations, our Government has done extremely well and, on the whole, we have come out with more gains and that is how we have become the champion of the developing countries. I do not have anything to be ashamed of it. I do not have anything to apologise for this.

Sir, I now come to some of the important matters that have been raised like the social sector. Now, again in continuation with the human face that we have been advocating, I must submit to the House that in the very first Budget presented by this Government, we had clearly stated our commitment. As I just said, for rural development more was allocated. I think these figures have been quoted by many other Members, I do not have to repeat them. What I would like to say is that every year we are yielding some new programmes for the alleviation of poverty and increase in the employment opportunities. Special programmes targeting poor and the weaker sections have been initiated in the last four years. These programmes include revamped Public Distribution System, Employment Assurance Scheme, *Mahila Samridhi Yojana*, Prime Minister's *Rozgar Yojana*, Intensive *Jawahar Rozgar Yojana* and Artisans Tool Kits Programme. Under the revamped Public Distribution System, as Hon. Members know, foodgrains are supplied at reduced price, that is reduced by about Rs. 50 per quintal less than the Central issue price. Now, on this point I would like to say—some Members have raised this point, it is a very valid point - that the market price and the RPDS prices are more or less the same. Therefore, the off-take is coming down. I agree that this has been the scene. But why is it happening; we are not very clear about it as yet. We are making studies about this and my own feeling is that we may have to raise this differential of Rs. 50 further so that in the RPDS blocks, in the shops run there by the Government, it may be possible to sell those commodities at even cheaper prices than they are selling

at the moment. But it is also possible that the diminution in the off-take has other reasons. It is possible that people go to the open market. They have more advantages in going to the open market and buying things rather than going to the fair price shops. Fair Price *shopwalas* may not be very regular and so on. There may be many many reasons. We will have to do into those reasons. But I agree that this differential of fifty rupees is not necessarily the only reason. To the extent this reason is found to be valid, I would certainly like to go into it.

In fact, Sir, our study today is centred around the poorest families and their family budgets. We are going there and from there we are building up the policy structure of what is to be done on prices; what is to be done on food subsidy. Food subsidy, as Hon. Members know, was Rs 4000 crore until last year. This year it has come to Rs. 5,200 crore. Now, it is not just a matter of raising it. The point is : Why are we raising it? What is the advantage of raising it?

It is possible that we may be raising it; but it may be going only to the FCI and their officers and their expenditure etc., and may not reach the ultimate consumer. So, now we are chasing this point from the beginning to the end. That study, that exercise has been started, Sir. I would like to know what is the percentage which the producer gets and what is the percentage which is wasted between the producer and the ultimate consumer. We have come to the figure of 61.2 per cent which is what the producer gets. I agree that the other people are getting too much and a part of what the other people are getting should go to the consumer or to the producer. In principle I agree, but how is it to be done? We have a huge organisation like the FCI. If you do not have that organisation, in a country like India, it is not possible to have food security. Because we have had four or five good seasons, are we going to gamble with our security? This would be very wrong. But, at the same time, if you have this very huge organisation, as it is today, how are you going to bring down the difference between what the producer is getting and what the consumer is getting and in between whatever is being got by the other people. This is the question we are addressing, Sir. In the next few weeks, I am sure, we will be able to find some way of getting the producer a little more, or the consumer a little more of this concession so that the middlemen it is not the middleman, just not a trader but it is an organisation whatever the 'middleman', is getting that expenditure is reduced to the minimum and the benefit goes either to the producer or to the consumer or both, if necessary.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Free movement of foodgrains is not yet being permitted in all areas.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We have experimented with free movement. It has not been found useful all over the country. We see that if you allow free movement today, some States will stand to gain; many States will stand to lose. It all depends on whether the State is a surplus State or a deficit State. This is well-

known. We have tried it for the last 20-25 years one way or the other and we have seen that there has to be some way of tracking down what is happening in the movement of foodgrains, because the whole country being one, we have to see that disparities in prices also should not be too much.

Sir, the supply of improved tool kits to rural artisans, Sir, is a very quiet programme. But this has been going on in a very successful manner with great benefit to the artisans in our villages. So far 2.46 lakh artisans, that means almost half the villages or maybe more than one third of the villages, have been covered. The artisans are happy. They are not really any longer going to the cities because their tools are better. They are able to become more productive and that kind of unbanisation has been more or less reduced. The scheme has been extended to all the districts in the country this year, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister is speaking about the rural development. He has been given wrong information regarding that all these are paper figures only. Nothing like this is going on in the villages. Please get it rectified.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Sir, after the speech of the Prime Minister is over, questions can be asked. I would request you, Sir, not to allow any interruptions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we are about it, we are interrupted but when others ask about ask something nothing happens.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have seen. I am not leaving anything to chance. I am not only supervising these things personally, I have kept this Ministry with myself with some idea, some purpose. I am myself monitoring every one of these programmes, not 100 per cent but as a sample. Tomorrow I am going to Orissa. We have had a programme of visiting villages, sitting with the District Collectors sitting with the people who are beneficiaries, finding out what is happening. and calling the bank people also in the PMRY we are involving everybody including myself. That is why I have kept this Ministry with myself. I can say with certain amount of personal knowledge—I am not saying that 100 per cent of everything that I am saying is happening—but I am at least able to see something is happening and I am able to satisfy myself that something is reaching the people which was case earlier because so many barriers were the way.

Now, I will come to Tool Kits Programme. We have now started giving power tool kits. Now, the artisans are

saying that they have electricity in the village why should they use the old tool kits which do not use power. We are now changing. In Punjab, the other day, a number of people told me that Punjab has electricity in every village; so why do you not change this? I have immediately made a commitment there publicly that wherever the tool kits do not run on electricity, will be changed and a new tool kit, power driven tool kit, which, of course, costs about Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 more than the other one, will be given. But we are prepared to do that. Wherever there is electricity in every village, any village—we are prepared to change that.

To promote self-employment amongst the educated unemployed youth—one Hon. Member was just saying that all this money is being wasted—now I would like to assure him. If he wants it, he can come with me, I will give him the list of those who have been benefited. I will give the list of what they are doing, what each one of these beneficiaries is doing. I have called for those lists, blockwise, districtwise, and villagewise, if you wish. But, of course in a country of this size 30,000 or two lakhs or three lakhs, does not make any impact, I agree. But, then, this is how you start. Maybe next year, we will go to five lakhs, after that we will go to ten lakhs. This is how every boy or girl who is a little educated, not very much educated, not highly educated but he cannot go out of the village because he has no money. Now, he is being rehabilitated in this manner. We can show you all the details, give you all the details that are needed. If there are any bogus things, I am prepared to take action. In this, the bank people, I am told, in many cases, are not cooperating to the extent they should. Now, we are pulling up the bank people. We will see to it that they cooperate and even if they have any difficulty in their actual operation, then we will see that those difficulties are removed. So, Sir, the programme is so designed that it covers all sections of the society and all areas in the country.

Last year, as the Hon. Members know, an Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme had been started to cover 345 Class-II towns and would involve urban local bodies in accordance with the Seventy-fourth Constitution (Amendment) Act, in all aspects of the scheme. A provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made and I am sure that it will take off this year in a real way, in a big way. The Eleventh Schedule of the Seventy-third Constitution (Amendment) Act relates to the Panchayats in the rural areas and it provides for 29 functions which could be entrusted to them. Now, this has to be really done to the hilt. This has been done only partly at the moment because the Panchayats are in the process of coming into existence and when they come, all these will have to be implemented and most of the programmes that we have started would be made over to the Panchayats and it would be possible for the Panchayats to ground them up, to field them wherever they want.

Sir, this year, for the first time, those who are not covered by any of these programmes are being covered. Like old people, like survivors of families whose main bread-earners have died, a provision of sustenance of pre-natal and post-natal maternity care to poorwomen for first two births, creation of a new rural infrastructural development fund, expansion of the mid-day meals scheme for school children, a group life insurance scheme of the LIC to be implemented by Panchayats in the rural areas and schemes for assistance by way of better credit for small scale industries, khadi and village industries. I am very glad to say in this connection, Sir, that under the Indira Awas Yojana, we have doubled the target; ten lakhs of houses will be built this year.

I have also now decided that the families of ex-servicemen, Sir, who belong to those villages will also be included among the beneficiaries of the Indira Awas Yojana. Yesterday, I have also decided that this benefit will be extended to the para-military forces also. Yesterday I had a very pleasant experience of some social reforms among the para-military forces. Some young men had died in action in Kashmir. Now, for their widows, just about 20 years, 22 years, 23 years old, a social organisation, among them, has managed to arrange their remarriages with young men from the same forces. I saw the them...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : May I request the Hon. Members...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am on a different point. It is not about money I am speaking.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Acharya, this is not good.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It is about transformation I am speaking and if this is appreciated, we can certainly think of how much we can take it up. That is a different matter. So, in Indira Awas Yojana, the point I am making is that all these sections are also being included.

Now, I will come to Jammu and Kashmir, Sir. This point has been raised by many Members. Sir, I would say what has been done in Jammu and Kashmir. Steps have been intensified to control militancy through sustained operations against terrorist in order to reduce the fear of the gun. The security forces have scored a number of significant successes. Secondly, a number of detainees including the prominent secessionist leaders have been released. They have not only been released but they have been allowed to come to Delhi. They have been allowed to have free discussions with many leaders of the political leaders. They have been allowed to visit some embassies etc., and this kind of general interaction is being encouraged which is taking place.

The delimitation process is underway and the work of revision of electoral rolls is also expected to be completed shortly. In the context of our efforts to revive the political process it was important that the civil administration became functional. The restoration of the morale of the local administration coupled with

disenchantment of the public with the militants has improved the overall ground situation. And I am saying this with a certain amount of responsibility. It is not just to tell the House what is not true. I am saying all this from not only reports but from very very reliable sources. I understand that there is a general improvement and people do want elections. They do want the electoral process to start. They are still afraid of the gun. That fear of the gun although much reduced still remains. This is the position, Sir.

There has been a noticeable step up in the pace of developmental activities since one year. Since one year we have been paying special attention to the developmental aspects in Jammu and Kashmir. A special plan assistance of Rs. 993 crore was given to Jammu and Kashmir in 1994-95. The schemes are being closely monitored. I have personally deputed two teams of Union Secretaries drawn from fifteen sensitive Ministries of the Government in critical areas of development. Under various Central sector programmes, an amount of Rs. 200 crore was made available during 1994-95. There has been a marked enthusiasm among the people to come forward and avail of the benefits under programmes like the IRDP, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme.

Let me mention the comparative picture of achievements with 1993-94. Whereas in 1993-94 under JRY employment provided was 25.50 lakh mandays, in 1994-95 it was 65.93 lakh mandays. Under Indira Awas Yojana whereas in 1993-94, 390 houses were built, the figure for 1994-95 is 1697 houses.

Million well scheme - 1,563 wells in 1993-94; and 3,409 wells in 1994-95. The step up which has been achieved is to be noted. Rice supplied to the States increased from 36,200 tonnes to 44,000 tonnes and wheat allotment from 20,000 tonnes to 30,000 tonnes per month.

Since the people of J and K have a preferences for coarse rice, special teams were deployed to bring this rice from Punjab, Haryana and UP to J and K. So far 45,000 tonnes of rice has been moved to the Valley since October 1994. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Have the expenditure been made on Kashmir valley only or on Jammu and Laddakh also.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The expenses have been made everywhere.

[English]

A massive programme has also begun on top priority to restore schools, bridges, hospitals, electric installations damaged by the militants. The Terrorists had damaged 450 educational institutions ranging from primary schools to colleges. There are all being repaired. This is the work that is being done.

I shall not give too many details. What I would like to submit to the House is, I have noted the opinions of all the Members on this matter. I am being very careful in submitting to the House the exact position as it is today, from all accounts, conditions are improving for the electoral process to be taken up. I am consulting with the leaders of the Opposition Parties. Right now I am engaged in that. The Government has noted the desire for more autonomy voiced in several quarters. Soon after completing the round of consultations, I will take the Parliament into confidence with clear cut proposals. This is what I propose to do in this Session and in the next few days, I would like your indulgence to give me some time to take the House into confidence.

On Defence, a mention has been made in the House of the Agni and Prithvi programmes. As Hon. Members are aware, Agni is a technology demonstrator and the project has been to our satisfaction. I visited the factory only three or four days back.

As far as Prithvi is concerned, the phase of user trials is over and subsequent activities are in hand. I would like to assure the House that there is no question of any outside pressures compelling us to delay or to compromise on our defence requirements. Whatever, we believe, needs to be done to secure the defence of the nation will be done.

Sir, about External Affairs, I would very briefly say that in the next two-three days we are going to have a Summit of the SAARC countries. I would not like to say anything about our relations separately with individual countries at this juncture when the SAARC Summit is to take place. All I would like to say is that we are trying our very best to improve relations from our side. There has not been any lapse. We would appreciate if this is properly responded to.

For the first time, we are going to have the SAPTA (South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement) being initiated this year. For ten years, we have not been able to make any headway in the SAARC meetings and SAARC Summits on the trade arrangement or trade relations between the countries. This should have been done long ago but for the reasons which are not so unknown, this has not happened.

17.00 hrs.

This year it is going to happen and I would like to submit to the House that this is a happy augury that within these seven countries some preferential trade treatments are also going to be given to one another and this will really result in what we have seen, in a combination like the ASEAN, in the last 15 to 20 years how ASEAN has gone from strength to strength. In the same manner it is possible for SAARC also to perform in the coming years.

These are what I really wanted to place before the House, Sir. If there is anything more, I am prepared to respond...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, many vital issues such as price rise, unemployment, exit policy, sick industries have been specifically raised. Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has not even referred to them. These are the issues which are vitally concerned to the people. ...*(Interruptions)* These are very important issues which have been raised by the people everyday. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : What about the Tamil Nadu situation? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal) : Please say something about the Muzzaffarnagar incident.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : These are the very important issues on which we must know the Government's mind...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Say something about the Muzzaffarnagar incident. The report of the CBI is lying pending in the Allahabad Court.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Many important issues such as TADA, unemployment, sick industries, price rise have been raised ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : It seems that there is no unemployment, there is no price rise...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SAYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Sir, one or the other new things are being said regarding Mathura and Kashi. A new Ayodhya movement is being launched. It is the duty of the Government to save there.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Law is there for that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : There is a danger of fascism in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I would like to very categorically say that TADA, which was enacted in 1986, was for a particular purpose, for a particular situation that prevailed in the country at that time. It has been used ever since by several States. Some States have not used it; some States have used it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This has been misused...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is being said by the Government that they want to bring some amendments in TADA. Everyone belonging to each party has raised the issue of TADA. What will be its form? TADA has been used in the areas where extremists are active and the people are in jail. In what form the Government wants to bring it. It should also be made clear.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : While this law was enacted in 1986 to meet a difficult situation created by terrorist activities in some parts of the country, I have no hesitation in saying that some of its provisions were misused causing avoidable hardship to some people. I am clear in my mind that the law, as it is, should not continue. After the Home Minister's consultations - the Home Ministry is just now consulting the Leaders of the Opposition on the options that are open for us, what are the options and which option is the best according to them - he will come to a conclusion. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We have given our opinion... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Now you please sit down. You are not the whole House.

After the Home Minister's consultations, Sir, the Government will immediately come up with the necessary legislation... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. When I am standing, you should take your seat.

It is true that many Members have raised many important issues. But to each of these issues, it is very difficult to reply on the floor of the House in the available time. Now these issues are collected at one place and the spirit of the enquiry has been responded to. I would allow one or two Members to raise very important issues, not issues which can be raised in the shape of a question to the Government, but very important issues which cannot be raised in the shape of a question and I am sure the Hon. Prime Minister will reply to that. I would request the Members to ask the question and I will leave the discretion with me to allow or disallow or ask the Prime Minister of reply to those questions.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had mentioned the Lucknow visit of the Hon. President of Iran in my speech. He was our Hon. guest. Everyone is agreed with it that our relations with Iran should be strong but whatever happened during his Lucknow visit and a particular party tried to avail petty gains of his visit, tried to incite communalism and he was invited to interfere in the internal affairs of our country. Does the Hon. Prime Minister has the report of the incident of Lucknow.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I would like to submit this much only that some persons may have done something but visiting dignitaries have not interfered in our internal affairs and it appears from whatever he has said that he did not want to say anything which he did not liked. Whatever he said, give strength to our policy.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I am not blaming the Hon. President of Iran. Perhaps the Hon. Prime Minister could not understand to what I said or may be. I could not make him understand... (Interruptions).. I am criticising, those who tried to hag the Hon. President of Iran in our internal affairs. Whether the Prime Minister is aware of the fact that when the President of Iran went to Imambara from Amansi Airport the national flag of our country was not there? The leaders of the Congress who were present on the stage at Lucknow, were not allowed to speak. It was said before the President of Iran that the minorities are in danger in the country and only their Government and their party, towards which I am pointing can save the minorities. Who the President of Iran taken to Lucknow for this purpose only? I am the elected representative of Lucknow but I was not invited to that programme. Will the visits of the foreign guests be misused in this say?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We do not agree to that at all. But, please tell how the leader of a party can be stopped to boast about his party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think I will allow the Members to put their questions and I think it will be more convenient for the Hon. Prime Minister to reply to them at one time. Otherwise, there would be so many questions and so many replies.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful for the opportunity given to me. There are so many issues on which he has not touched. We are upset.

But so far as price rise is concerned, this is not a matter concerning only the people who are sitting here but the whole country is affected rather. This concern has been expressed by all the Congress Members. Maybe, because of the whip, they have not said here but outside they are saying. Therefore, this is a matter on which not even a reference has been made and not even a whisper has been made by the Hon. Prime Minister. I would like to know what is the Government's perception and what are the Government's policies on this.

The other thing is revival of sick industries. It is very good to say that all the West Bengal MPs or Trade Unions are going there because we are very keen that these should be revived. Sir, out of the list of companies that has been prepared by this Government when it came into power, many of the companies which should be wound up or were in bad shape, have been revived by their own efforts. They are making profit now. So far as the other units are concerned, we are repeatedly

saying that most of them can be revived but really no serious action has been taken. In Government companies, even wages and salaries have not been paid.

MR. SPEAKER : Somnathji, the Prime Minister has to go to the other House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am only indicating that these can be easily revived.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Even individual cases which I am receiving from them, I am sending them to the Departments. I am personally taking some interest for getting them revived...*(Interruptions)*

It is not that they are being lost on the Government, it is not like that. These are individual cases. Some cases are good cases, some cases are gone cases.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is not considered. I have given this list. We have been assured unit by review by Mr. Prime Minister, the Finance Minister says so and Shrimati Krishna Sahi says so, but it is not being done.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is why our question is; What is the Government's reply to it?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : To this, my reply has already been given.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why do you not set a time limit or appoint a task force?

MR. SPEAKER : Very briefly, Shri Sharad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that the visit of the Hon. President of Iran has been fruitful for our country. His statements were balanced. During that period, the Finance Secretary of America had also been here. He had said that if he knew that the President of Iran was likely to come there, he would have rescheduled his programme. I think that his remark is sad in this regard. The Government's stand on it should be made clear.

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : Sir, regarding the situation in Tamil Nadu, are you going to recall the Governor or not? Are you going to solve this crisis?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. That is not possible.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : We are not satisfied with the attitude of the Government. We are walking out.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Tamil nadu is a part of India.

17.13 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.G. Narayanan and some other Hon. Member left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister on some important issues in his speech but it is sad that he did not utter anything on the eradication of corruption. The Hon. Prime Minister had said some months back in the House that he would inform the House about the Bofors after monitoring. The Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla had called on the leaders of opposition and assured them that the papers relating to Bofors would be shown soon. The people of this country are worried about the corruptions and Bofors for many years. I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister, when the information regarding it would be furnished?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think I should first of all thank the Members for the excellent cooperation they have given today and I am sure that they would like to respect the feelings of the Members in the other House also where the Prime Minister is expected. So, I would respect the Prime Minister to briefly respond to one or two points which are made now and I think the House will agree that he should be allowed to go to the other House. We can take up the rest of the business here.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : You do not have any feelings in your heart. Nothing is being said about Uttaranchal and on the report regarding it. Nothing is being said about the Muzzaffarnagar incident...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Maj. Gen. Khanduri this is not a Question Answer Hour.

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : I have mentioned it in my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : You may be right. You might have raised it. He is not expected to reply to all questions. Reorganisation of the States is not a small matter on which he can respond immediately. You should understand it.

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : Please give me one minute. I am not talking of the reorganisation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am very sorry. Although we referred to it with all seriousness yet it seems that the Hon. Prime Minister has no time to deal with it. We are going to the people. There is no point in continuing here. Therefore, in protest, we are walking out.

17.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other Hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Nothing has been said about corruption and social justice. We walk out in its protest.

17.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sharad Yadav and some other Hon. Members left the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The workers have not been paid wages for months together...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

17.18 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other Hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree to it that the reply to all the questions and issues cannot be given in such sort of discussion but there are some issues which are agitating the minds of the people. These have been mentioned in the discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : As you say?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : There is the issue of Uttranchal. We are not discussing about the reorganisation of the State. The CBI has presented its report to the Allahabad High Court regarding the treatment the Uttranchal activists were given at Muzzaffarnagar and the women were raped there. The Hon. Prime Minister is extending support to that Government. You might be remembering that a number of complaints were received on that day regarding the Panchayat elections. How the democracy was mocked at there Rahi ji, who is present here, had staged a hunger strike on it. The Hon. Prime Minister made him break his hunger strike.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Then how are you saying that we are extending support to that Government.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Congress Party is playing a double game. Rahi ji goes on strike and the Hon. Prime Minister saves the Government. After all Article 356 is there?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is called battle of wits.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like to submit that the Hon. Prime Minister should give the

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reply. The Government should make its stand clear on the incidents of rape and the bungling in the Panchayat elections.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, on that day are have the Home Ministry's Demand. I shall request the Home Minister to say something.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has been said? What is going on between you and the Hon. Prime Minister? What you have said?

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to speak on price-rise?

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Only one small point, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now now, please. Otherwise I have to allow all others.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Shahabuddin Ji, it is not going on record. Please sit down. When you have a point, I give you the time. But this time I do not think you have the time for making a point.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I have been at some pains to explain how we want to minimise, it not eliminate, the difference between the price we pay to the farmer and the price which the consumer has to pay. This I have tried to explain. There are no ready answers to this. We cannot say that we will not pay the farmer fair prices. We have to. But, at the same time, out of that, about thirty-eight per cent or thirty-seven per cent is going in the middle, on the way to the consumer. That is all can be really diminished. We are going into that.

In regard to oil, I am sorry to say that it has been now put on the OGL. Oil prices are stabilising.

In regard to pulses, I am sorry, our country is not self-sufficient in pulses, and in other countries from where we get pulses, the prices ruling today are higher than what they are in India. That is something which the Government cannot help. So, we will have to make do with whatever situation there is today, until the situation in the other countries improves or the prices come down. So, in the case of each commodity, there is a particular way of controlling or bringing the prices down, or keeping them down and not allowing them to go up. So, in each of these commodities, the Government is trying to do whatever can be done. I can explain commodity-wise what is being done. But what all I want to say is,

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ultimately the producer also has to be given a fair price, and that is the basis on which all other things are calculated. We cannot go on increasing subsidies beyond a point. So, how much can we do is the question. It is a question of what we can afford to do. This is how it is. The price situation is not in the hands of one person, not in the hands of one agency that just at the push of a button it can be controlled or brought down.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Hon. Members who had raised the issue have left the House. The Hon. Prime Minister is giving reply after their departure. Does he want that we should also leave the House, only then he will reply to our questions? What are you doing? Mr. Speaker, Sir, ask him to give the reply Regarding Uttranchal, the Government...

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Those who have gone have not given me the notice that they are about to leave.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, I had requested you to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been better if the Hon. Prime Minister had said something about the Uttranchal. The Hon. Home Minister says that the discussion is going on with the activists but the Hon. Prime Minister does not say something?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am saying.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What would be the fate of the report of the CBI regarding rape incidents?

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I think something would have to be left for the day on which we take up the Demands of the Home Ministry. I shall request the Home Minister to say something about Uttaranchal on that day.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply given by the Hon. Prime Minister.

17.24 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and some other Hon. Members left the House.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister has not mentioned anything about Central assistance to the "One Kg. rice

for Rs. two" programme in Andhra Pradesh. In protest against the anti-poor policies of this Government we are walking out.

17.25 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde and some other Hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know apart Bombay from the Hon. Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not expect him to do that in the House. It is not fair.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know about the NTC Mills, whether they are paying or not...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI MOHAN RAWLE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon Prime Minister has not said anything about the problems of Bombay. I walk out of the House in the protest.

[English]

17.26 hrs.

At this Stage, Shri Mohan Rawale left the House

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by Member 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 put separately?

I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House because nobody has asked for the amendments to be put separately.

Amendment Numbers 1 to 38, 51 to 65, 103 to 125, 311 to 365, 373 to 388, 433 to 607, 700 to 716, 799 to 834, 846 to 874, 887 to 894, 899 to 912, 927 to 931, 942, 943, 992 to 995, 1052 to 1066 and 1084 to 1097 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the main Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :

"That the members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to

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deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 13th February, 1995'

The motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Topdar may raise his point now. The concerned Minister will sit in the House.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, the employees of the Jute Corporation of India are on hunger strike from 25th of this month. They are demanding that the activities be resumed by the J.C.I. instead of the Government order to reduce the strength and to abolish the J.C.I. organisation altogether. Without discussion in any forum, the Government has unilaterally decided to demolish this organisation. This will have a severe impact on the jute industry as well as the cultivators whose number is no less than 12 lakhs in West Bengal, Orissa and Assam. The Textile Minister is here. I, therefore, request him to kindly respond to these points.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, there is a serious situation in the office of Atomic Energy Commission, Bombay. There has been a hunger strike since 21st of April and the situation has further been deteriorated. The workers have been demanding for the allotment of quarters. There are 250 quarters which are lying vacant. In spite of that these quarters are not being allotted. They had to resort to this hunger strike. Yesterday the authorities of Atomic Energy Commission, Bombay have closed down the office from 2 O'clock and there is a tension there.

I urge upon the Minister of Science and Technology to intervene in the matter immediately so that the situation is eased out and not deteriorated further and the lives of employees, who are on indefinite hunger strike, are saved.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world labour report, 1995 has been published in Delhi day before yesterday. Do you know that the international labour organisation works for the welfare of the labourers and the Director of the ILO after taking the national renewal fund in doing the structural changes, the World Labour Report, 1995 is about it and it has been stated in it that the main function of the National Renewal Fund is to retrain the works. The Central Government has not done so and after the implementation of the new economic policy only 500 labourers and employees have been given the training. It has also been complained in the World Labour Report that :

[English]

The report predicted the collapse of the welfare social security system if the old workers were pressurised into the early retirement to make the way for the young unemployed. The report highlights the

need for a massive thrust on retraining the workers to deal with the problem of actual potential of unemployment resulting in the structural adjustments. The retraining along with the labour market measures would be a powerful instrument in enabling the workers-who were displaced from their former jobs - to return to their employment.

[Translation]

My submission is that after implementing the new economic policy and making the promise to do the welfare of the labourers it has backed out of its promise. On account of it the international labour organisation had to make remarks against the Central Government. Therefore my submission is that the Government should impact large scale training to the workers and should continue the welfare system further as per the suggestions given by the I.L.O. in its 1995 report. The Government had made a promise keeping in view the national renewal fund, but the same has not been fulfilled and the ILO has made a complaints. Therefore my submission is that keeping in view that complaint the employees and the labourers should be trained.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera) : Mr. Speaker Sir, the question of the Dalit Christians have been raised continuously in this House for many days and the Government has given assurance time and again. When the National Front was in power, we had also raised the issue. The Dalit Sikhs have been given reservation and the Dalit Baudhs have also been given reservation. The number of the Dalit Christians is much but they have not got any facility as yet. The Hon. Minister of State of Welfare is present here. Sitaramji has also said time and again that the issue of the Dalit Christians will be taken seriously and they will also be given the status of the Scheduled Castes but I am sorry to say that till date they have not been given this status. They are staging a dharna. The Government has ready Bill for 200 tribes. People of all castes including the tribes are staging a dharna. I would like to know from the Government if it contemplates to bring a Bill during this session for the tribes or other castes like the Dalit Christians or the Dhawang issue to give them the status of the Scheduled Caste? We urge upon the Government to bring the Bill in this Session. We would support it therefore the Government should get it passed. Today, I met the Hon. Minister in this regard and we had raised this issue before him. The Hon. Minister is present here. If he throws some light on it, I will feel obliged.

[English]

SHRI PETER G. MARBIANG (Shillong) : Sir, on twentieth of this month, at about 1.30 p.m. in the afternoon, a cyclonic storm hit East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills in Meghalaya and damaged about 20 villages. Sir, about 10 persons were killed in this cyclonic storm, the worst of its kind, and more than a hundred dwelling houses were destroyed and about 20-25 school buildings also were damaged by this cyclonic storm.