

ourselves to enter the twenty first century, but we are going to look modern, we are going to look stronger. And all our party's contributions to the nation building are a part of history. I must congratulate our new and young Prime Minister who at the time of the tragedy and assassination, stood like a rock between a country shattering into pieces and a country coming back to senses of solidarity. That was the time when Delhi could have burnt and full credit must go to the new, young but dynamic Prime Minister who made Delhi see sense and create an atmosphere of peace, friendship and brotherhood. And that is where we started our elections. Lot of ballyhoo is being made about rigging, money and muscle and of power. I am very sure my hon. friends, my hon. elders on the other side also know that there is something like people's power : People power they were praising sky high in 1977, and now they forget about the power of the people in 1984. I have nothing much to say except that we must stand together not only for the unity and integrity of the country but also for the security of the country. It is not only the security of the territory, it is not only the security of men and material but even for the security of information to which our Prime Minister is most sensitive and most alert. We will have to have a complete sense of alertness in whatever dealings with documents and men we have to do at the highest level of the Government of India. And it is a matter of great pride that no hush hush has been made of this scandal on which the Prime Minister made a statement on the floor of the House and which was further clarified by the honourable Home Minister.

So far as our aims and our ambitions for the coming five years are concerned, I, with your permission, Sir, wish to lay emphasis on only on three points. We are talking a lot about 16.00 hrs.

unemployment, about the frustration of the young people. I think what we require from the educational and youth welfare activities is the projection of an

atmosphere, where we can help the young people in identifying themselves. Today there is complete lack of identity for young men and women. It is not only education, which will make our young people happy, vigorous and nationalistic; it will have to be something beyond the degree; it will have to be something more than the job of LDC or sub-inspector. I suggest that we must have an identity of the people, we must make our young people synchronise their aims and objectives with the development of the country, particularly in the rural areas. We have got today in our country a young Prime Minister. I am very sure, under his stewardship, we will go further and the frustration of the young people will be tackled successfully.

In the end, I only wish to say that the Government stands to be given all the congratulations for coming out with very practical and with very ambitious nation-building plans. I only hope that; so far as rural areas are concerned, more priority will be given to the schemes, like drinking water and electricity and whatever we can do by way of developing the identity of the young people.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to first thank the President for his Address. I thank all the Members that participated in this debate for their contribution. Unfortunately, I was not able to spend as much time as I would have liked to here, in this House listening to the debate, because of certain issues that came up, just, during these days, and I know you will understand. But I have heard many of the speeches in my room on the loud-speaker, and I have been given notes of most of the others.

Our friends, sitting across from me, have spent most of their time dwelling on the past five years. They forget

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that we went to the polls with the record of the past five years, and our work in those five years has been endorsed by the people of this country, overwhelmingly endorsed by the people of this country. I will not waste my time on the past, like my friends in the Opposition we look towards the future instead.

Some issues have been raised about the elections and all sorts of wild charges have been made. It is customary after elections to make such charges, because they make a very good excuse.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How can we make them before the elections ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I do not wish to make a charge against you. The people know what charges there are. That is why we are here and you are there.

Like my friend has said, it is not money power, muscle power or any other power that counts; it is the voter that counts in an election. When we see such a large discrepancy in the number of people sitting on this side and that side, it can only mean that.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : What about the percentage ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will come to the percentage also; don't worry.

SHRI AMAL DATTA ; Next time don't use money power.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Dattaji, I will answer your question. I have heard what you said.

The question is, who is in touch with the pulse of the people.

In 1977 we were not in touch with the pulse of the people and we were

removed; in 1980 and in 1984, you were not in touch with the people and you were removed. You have to accept this fact. You can say what you like about percentages. You are talking about 50 percent and 49 percent; may I remind you, Sir, that your party got 5.8 percent ? It may be just a question of a decimal point that you did not notice between 5 and 8.

You must remember that although you pretend to speak as the voice of the people, you pretend to be the saviour of the nation, the fact is that the voice of the people speaks from this side of the House.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Bara-mulla) : Also from this side.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That percentage has been established barely two weeks ago.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Percentage is the same.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The issues in this election were very clear and right through the elections my friends kept saying the Congress is not talking about issues. But the fact was that we were talking about the issues which were important to the nation and they were talking about the issues which the nation did not think were important. We had one issue in front of us—India's unity, integrity, India's nationalism—and this is what has been won in this election.

Much as my friends in the Opposition would like to believe that they are the consciencekeepers of this nation.

This election has elected the Congress to be the conscience keepers of the nation.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbub nagar) : Sir, we want to listen to the Prime Minister. But we are being disturbed by table-thumping.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. Be a good Parliamentarian.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I think we will excuse him. He has just come from a House and we know how that House functions. So, we will give him time to learn and learn to behave in a proper House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I had been there for 16 years and I do not have to learn anything more here.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Would you like to say anything more ? Thank you.

During the past few days we have had one of the most serious cases of espionage being uncovered in India. I cannot say very much about this because investigations are still in progress and anything I say might jeopardise further investigations. The Members from both sides of this House must understand that here we need the help of everyone. This is not a Congress versus Opposition event. This is not something that either of us should try and get political credit for. It is something that affects the whole nation. It has been uncovered because we have wanted to investigate, specific areas where thing did not look right and we have taken action wherever it was necessary. I would like to clarify that although a very senior member of my Staff has resigned, there is nothing against individual. It is in the highest propriety of the civil service that he has taken this decision. I would like to say that we are going into this in great depth, into every aspect of what has happened, how it happened, the possible damage that has occurred and when I am in a position to let you know more, I will keep you fully informed.

We have problems in Punjab and in Assam, we are looking towards solving those problems and we are hopeful that we will be able to come in front of you with some news—well, not in this Session, but I hope we will make progress in this and I do look

friends in the Opposition whether they are in this House or other parties in the Opposition who are not in the House, in solving this particular problem.

Sir, the problems of the minorities in India have to be given special thought. They erupt in tension, they erupt in riots, but when we really look at it, it almost invariably goes back to economic disparity and it is this root that we must get to and our Government will be doing its best to try and start from the beginning and end this problem once and for all for a proper united India.

In a few days we are having a Summit of six nations in Delhi. This is another step in the direction of peace, in the direction of disarmament and we look forward to help relieve tensions in the world. India has been a strong supporter of the non-aligned movement, we are founder members and our policy towards this movement has not changed. We will, in fact, be taking more interest, developing more contacts, and try to improve South-South relations, South-South exchanges and see that the Third World can help itself because we have seen that where there has not been enough imagination and we have succumbed to foreign thought, it has ended to disaster, it has not ended in development. We will, in a similar way, look towards the South Asian region for better cooperation with our neighbours, better cooperation within the sub-continent.

We have been having some differences with Pakistan. On his last visit to India I had a meeting with their President, Shri Zia, and he was very cordial, very helpful and he talked very positively. I was very hopeful, I still am very hopeful, but unfortunately in the intervening period some of the actions by the bureaucracy, by the other members of the Pakistan Government have not been conducive to better relations between the two countries and we look forward to a positive

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The House has been very alive to what has been happening in Sri Lanka. We are dismayed at the way the All Party Conference ended, we are dismayed that a political solution does not seem around the corner and we are unhappy about the way the security forces have been deployed and used. We look forward to a high level communication with Sri Lanka and we will do whatever we can to help solve the problems. We have to help them because we have a very large number of refugees. And we would like conditions to be such that they can return to their homes. Later, in this year, Sir, I will be visiting the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. and I will keep the House in touch with my deliberations there. We look forward to many more exchanges with other countries. We look forward to better friendship with all countries in the world.

In his speech, the President has talked about the future talks that are in front of us. Sir, this Government is committed to a clean public life. And we have started taking measures towards this end. We are committed towards electoral reforms. We will have discussions with all sections of this House on electoral reforms and we do hope to get full cooperation from you. Because if electoral reforms are going to take 10 years of deliberations, then they are not going to be worth the discussions. So, we would like to be quick—not hurried but quick—and come to a conclusion so that the next elections could be fought under whatever reforms that we agree to.

During the past few days, we have been having talks with the Opposition, and amongst ourselves on the Anti-Defection Bill. We feel that for a cleaner public life, this is essential. What we have to see, Sir, is that there are no loopholes left which allow defections under any name, under any other method to take place. We had some talks with the Opposition. Some Parties want stronger Bill. Some Parties are in favour of a softer Bill. I hope we can close this gap and come to a reasonable conclusion because in

any such legislation, we are really groping. It is something new that we are putting in. There are no precedents we can look at and it is for us to show the way. But that also means that we must be a little more objective, we must show a little more strength and be able to come out and have the guts to do it. That will not be lacking from our side, Sir.

India's economy, Sir, is very largely that of farmers. We will be doing many things for the farmers in the coming years. We have to see that our agricultural output increases substantially. We have to see that the inputs to the farmers have proper prices. We have to see that the procurement prices are correct. It is only then that we will be able to get the growth that we are wanting. We will look towards this end and I hope we will see a sharp increase in our agricultural production.

We will be looking, like the President said, Sir, at the textile industry. Over the years, the textile industry has deteriorated very substantially and when I talk about the textile industry, I include the handlooms, the weavers, from the lowest level to the highest mechanised level of industry. We have to develop a new policy which does not throw anybody out of a job but we must remember that our textile policy is not targeted at producing jobs but at producing cloth, and producing cloth at rates which are acceptable to the poor people, to the masses, in our country. We will try and achieve this.

We are looking at a new industrial policy. We have to realise that India in the past 35 years has progressed tremendously in spite of everything our friends across the room say. We have made tremendous progress and now we must look ahead to a bright future. If our industry is to progress, if our industry is to keep up with the industry in the rest of the world, it must operate under similar conditions. We will look towards this end. We have to see towards employment. Industry is not

necessarily the best place for employment. Sometimes it is the most inefficient place for employment. We have to look how we can increase employment even more than industry can give us. I am not advocating closing down industry or a radical change in all the industries that we have.

What I am saying is that our education policy, our industrial policy and our trade policy must be such that it looks ahead to taking India into the future with the rest of the world. We cannot pretend to be equal to other countries when we are operating systems which are 10 years or 20 years out of date. The world today is moving very fast and, towards this end, we will introduce a new education policy which will be targeted at a more modern type of employment. We will have a new industrial policy which will generate this employment and we will have to have a trade policy which dovetails with this. We will be trying to do this by the next session.

One of the most difficult points to handle has always been the judicial system. The judicial system is there to give justice and, if justice is delayed, justice is denied. We will look into this to see how quicker and speedier justice can be given at all levels.

While every section of our society has been progressing, we find that one section which cuts across all religious, caste and regional barriers gets left behind. That is why we have taken up special programmes for women. We will see that special programmes for the social, economic and cultural development of women are made and put in front of you. We have already announced that we will be giving free education to girls up to the secondary level.

AN HON. MEMBER : You provide hostels also for them.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I wish we could afford to do that. That is some-

thing I would like to talk about when the education policy comes up.

In this work for women, we would like that voluntary organisations are specially involved and they take a major role.

This election really showed the world the power of youth of India and that is why there is such an age difference between the two sides of the House. We will be looking into very special programmes for the youth, for the employment of the youth and for the involvement of the youth in building this great nation of ours.

Vast areas in our country are devoid of forestation, are waste lands. We are going to develop these and we are going to set up a Waste Land Development Board to look into this. This will be not aimed just at forestry but, it will be designed in such a manner that the produce from this reclaimed land is given back to the people who are living in the neighbourhood. It will be for the benefit of the local people.

We are also looking at cleaning up the air and the water in our country. We have seen recent tragic accident in Bhopal where many people died and many many more may be injured or are maimed. I am told that some effects of this terrible tragedy might not even be known for another six months. We are looking at the location policy for such factories and we are looking at how we can stop any factories polluting our rivers and our air. Our rivers have become extremely polluted. The first river that we are attempting to clean up is the Ganges. I will not say purify, because nobody can purify the Ganga. But we will try to clean it. We have...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : It is a Herculean task.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is a Herculean task. Yes. But we have already identified the areas and we feel that we are up to it.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : You also clean the Augean stables.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is why, you are there and we are here ! We have set up the Central Ganga Authority to clean the Ganga and, as my friend is so interested in the Ganga, out of the pollution in the Ganga, only 20% of the pollution is chemical pollution and 80% is sewage and other excreta and we will be able to clean this up with a time-bound programme.

From this Government, you will see results.

This Government is looking deeply into our cultural heritage. Not only looking into our cultural heritage, to preserve it, to save it but, we are also going to look ahead into how to develop the culture of every region, of every group, in our country. We will be taking this up as a major programme.

To do all these things, we will need a fast administration, a clean administration, a responsive administration and we will be giving you this.

To take India ahead, we have to look towards the optimum utilisation of our resources. Our biggest resource is the human resource and we will look towards how to develop this. We will develop our natural resources and we will utilise our industrial and capital resources to the best benefit.

To do this, we will need technology. We will need a new education and we will need to look after the health of our people so that they are up to this. But, most of all, it will need managerial skill and it will need political will and we will give you both. But whenever one tightens one's belt to move ahead faster, one does feel the pinch. And this pinch is going to come in discipline. We will have to have discipline. We will have to respect institutions, and we will have to think, again, about not our freedom but the country's freedom.

Sir, in the coming years, we will build a united, secular, free India where a person's worth is not measured by his caste, creed, region or religion. We will build an India which is dynamic, an India which can move ahead with the rest of the world.

Once again, I thank all the Members who have participated and I commend the President's Address for adoption.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a number of amendments which have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. If the House agrees, I shall put all the amendments together to the vote of the House...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If all the amendments are put together, it would mean a 'collective massacre' !

MR. SPEAKER : I now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

Amendments 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 deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 17th January, 1985.' "

The motion was adopted,

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18 34 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, January 23, 1985/Magha 3, 1906 (Saka).