

[Sh. Gulab Chand Kataria]

are already reeling under poverty and price-rise. The Government is saying that it is trying to raise the income to present a socialistic Budget. I do not consider it to be a socialistic budget. The country has witnessed in the past 40 years the Governments record of presenting such hackneyed budgets. If you go through the Budget estimates of the past 5 years, you will find that apart from a few minor changes, merely the figures have changed. This is a budget prepared by the bureaucrats according to their whims and fancies and the political feedback they get. If we really desire that the common man should be benefited, basic changes would have to be made in the Budget. Apart from this, we will have to change our priorities.

Compared to other countries of the world India is very rich in terms of its mineral wealth which can be exploited to increase our national income. It is not fair to say that the businessmen alone are tax evaders, Government employees and the politicians also evade taxes and, therefore, occasionally raids should be carried on them also to unearth black money. This will also increase Government's income. You have chosen a very limited area on the basis of which you want to raise income. If black money is unearthed, only then our country can hope to make progress in real terms. We should try to experiment in this regard.

We have waived the loans of the farmers upto Rs. 10,000/- and for this purpose, Rs. 1000 crores have been provided. But in fact Rs. 4000 crores are needed to completely write off these loans. Now the question arises as to how many people can be covered by Rs. 1000 crores and to top it all, one line instruction has been added to it which says that first of all it will be decided whether one is in a position to repay the loan or not. This leaves the entire matter to the discretion of the bureaucrats who will decide on their own whims and fancies whether somebody's claim for the waiver of the loan is to be accepted or not. This will lead to corruption which will result in miseries to the people.

If really a helping hand is to be given to the farmers to waive their loans, upper class farmers should be excluded from its purview and attention be focussed on small farmers only and there should be strict instructions that nobody should be harassed in this regard. I would humbly submit to the hon. Finance Minister that today India is passing through a very critical socio-economic juncture and at such a time we have very high hopes from him. It may be that the hon. Minister will not be successful in fulfilling all our expectations during the present economic crisis, but still, if India is to be turned into the India of our dreams, and the gap between the rich and the poor is to be abridged, then some special measures must be taken to restructure and re-build our economy, about which others cannot even imagine.

Today we are reeling under the weight of enormous foreign debt. Leave aside the principal sum, 18 per cent of our total budget is spent on debt servicing. Foreign borrowings have hollowed our economy. So we will have to think seriously in terms of re-building our economy and turn it into strong one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before I conclude, one more point which I would like to raise is that the price of Zarda which is consumed by poor people has increased to 80 paise from 20 paise as a result of a staggering tax of 60 paise imposed on it. This is a gross injustice.

[English]

18.05 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourth Report

SHRI P.R.KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Sir, I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.
