

[English]

- (viii) **Need to give financial assistance to Assam for ensuring regular supply of electricity to the areas in Lakhimpur Parliamentary Constituency.**

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur): Lakhimpur parliamentary constituency consists of nine Assembly constituencies. It is a matter of great regret that total electricity failure predominates this area, day and night. Due to total electricity failure, till today, there has been no scope for establishment of even a small scale industry. The tea gardens also suffer due to non-availability of electricity. The student community also faces great difficulty in pursuing their regular studies, especially during examination. Due to electricity failure, a number of deaths have occurred during the time of operations in Lakhimpur Civil Hospital. Theft is predominant due to electricity failure. So, I request the Central Government to investigate into the causes and financially help the State Government to make immediate improvements in the supply of electricity, particularly in Lakhimpur parliamentary constituency.

12.20 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House now will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri B.R. Bhagat and seconded by Shri Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi on the 24th February, 1988:—

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

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in the 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 22nd February, 1988."

Shri R.L. Bhatia.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: (Amritsar): I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The other day, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, Shri Amal Datta and Shri Bhattam said that 85 per cent time of this House was wasted by discussing other things and the Budget was not discussed properly; 85 per cent of the Budget was passed by Vote on Account. That is true because our friends in the opposite start discussions on subjects which are less important or which are important from their point of view; and the result is that the valuable time of the House is wasted and important discussions do not take place.

During the last session, Mr. Speaker, you know that most of the time was taken for a discussion on Bofors and all that; and the result was that the Punjab issue was not taken into consideration in the proper sense that it required, drought was not taken into consideration from that angle. So, the national and important issues were not taken into consideration because we insisted that less important issue should be taken up.

Every day, after the Question Hour, after 12 noon you know that they stress on small, small things. Shri Amal Datta said that the planning in this country was arbitrary and was not functioning the way it should have been done; it is under the Executive and it is not playing its role properly. It is not arbitrary because the planning Minister always discusses the planning with the State Chief Ministers. They come with their plans and discuss them with the Planning Minister and then wherever they agree that particular programme starts, So, they cannot call it arbitrary.