

[Dr. Chandra Sekhar Tripathi]

ing all these difficulties when they sell their sugarcane, the mill owners do not pay the price of their produce in time. It is often seen that the mill owners do not pay the price of sugarcane even after two years and the farmers are forced to sell their sugarcane slips to the middlemen for the maintenance of their families. In this way lakhs of farmers are exploited every year by these brokers and capitalists.

In view of the poverty of the farmers and the difficulties being faced by them, I would like to request the Central Government to make statutory arrangements immediately for ensuring prompt payment of price of their sugarcanes sold to mills so that the farmers may get themselves rid of unnecessary troubles, exploitation and inconveniences.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : The following subject may please be included in next week's agenda.

Bombay appears to be rich city and whosoever visits it forms the opinion after visiting Bombay. It is true that certain localities like Port area, Cuff Parade, Malabar Hills where very rich people stay gives this impression ; but it is not the true picture of Bombay. Out of one crore population, about fifty five lakhs are staying in hutments, fifteen lakhs in old dilapidated buildings and a few lakhs are earning a pitiable wage below Rs. 500. All these hutments can be reconstructed by giving loans to the habitants. Repair of old buildings in Central Bombay is a big task. In these buildings poor textile workers have been staying for generations. Subsidies should be given for the reconstruction of their houses. Union Government has given only one hundred crores for five years for the purpose and it is not sufficient for development of Bombay.

People of Bombay are contributing about Rs. 2500 crores to Union Government every year by paying taxes. Recent rise in Railway Budget and Postal and Telecommunication rates will put a further burden on the people of Bombay and will contribute maximum amount to the coun-

try. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to give at least rupees five hundred crores for development of Bombay.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : I have noted the submissions by the Hon. Members and we will consider them.

12.22 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE BILL TO CONSOLIDATE AND AMEND THE LAW RELATING TO RAILWAYS

[English]

Motion re : Appointment of a Member to the Committee

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker) : I beg to move the following :

"That this House do appoint Shri Jagdish Awasthi to the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Railways, vice Shri Jaideep Singh died."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do appoint Shri Jagdish Awasthi to the Joint Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Railways, vice Shri Jaideep Singh died."

The motion was adopted.

12.23 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of

the motion of thanks on the President's Address. Dr. Phulrenu Guha to speak.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) :
Sir, I rise to support the motion of thanks on the President's Address. The address of the President is the critical analysis and review of the achievements of the country during the year 1987-88. It gives a programme of the current year. The progress of the country depends upon the competence of its leadership. It is clear from the President's address that the country has made tremendous progress. When India became free even a needle was not manufactured. But now, India has become a big industrial nation. Of course, more modernisation has to be undertaken and new technologies are to be developed with the help of the scientific knowledge. This is absolutely necessary to increase production in the fields of agriculture, industry and all other fronts. This would help in the economic growth of the country

Due importance has been given to proper utilisation of the resources. The country is passing through the worst drought and flood. But the Government has been able to provide relief to crores of people who are affected because India has achieved self-sufficiency in the food front.

The President referred to the removal of regional imbalances. It should be noted that there is imbalance in different parts of the same State also. I would like to request the Government to have a proper programme and steps must be formulated and implemented properly.

More stress has been laid on the programme to remove poverty. To fulfil this objective, funds provided by the Centre for IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and the various other programmes are not being properly utilised in some States.

Sir, strict and stern measures should be taken to plug the loopholes and to check malpractices. Central agency should be appointed to monitor and submit reports from time to time. We must make proper scientific utilisation of water so that farmers get assured irrigation and floods are prevented. It is a good thing that for the first time we have recognised talent without degree. The policy on education

pledges equality of education for all. By opening Navodaya schools Government has given an opportunity to poor people. This system provide equal opportunity to the poor people to give better education to their children. There are a number of laws to improve the condition of women but unfortunately laws are not implemented properly on many occasions. Women are suffering like anything and their status has not improved much. There should be coordination, cooperation and constant fight for removal of illiteracy among women. Working women do not receive proper justice so far as remuneration and other facilities are concerned. It is very unfortunate that it is reported that a gang rape of women has taken place in Bihar. If it is true then strong action should be taken against those people.

The population problem is very grave in our country. It must be dealt with effectively otherwise it will eat away the fruits of our development. It is a national problem and all political parties must cooperate in this programme.

India is a country in the world where there is a synthesis of democratic socialism and secular values. Unfortunately, unity and integrity of the country is at stake. It is imperative that all political parties must rise above the political considerations and join the effort of Government in the interest of the nation

The President in his Address has rightly reminded us that we must not be guided by partisan interests, sectarian interests or interests of taking electoral advantages. It is not the saying of Opposition but three Cabinet Ministers of West Bengal publicly admitted reign of terror in West Bengal. They also declared that there would be mass rigging in the panchayat elections. The Chief Minister has said that there is a political crisis in the State but I would like to point out that it is a Constitutional crisis also. I request the Government to inquire in this matter.

The Presidential Address inspires hope and courage in the minds of people. It has emphasised national values and the need to reach the country's main goal. It reveals the determination of the Government to

[Dr. Phalrenu Guha]

curb terrorism. We must be careful that message of communalism is coming from the outside world. The inspiration for communalism is coming from across the borders because these people do not want strong India. We must guard against this evil. We must inculcate secularism in the minds of our people. My submission would be that we must have a national outlook. The time has come to have a projective outlook so that this Republic can be strengthened. Thank you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJI (Bolpur): Sir, I stand here to oppose the Motion of Thanks for the President's Address. Our President is a good man. But as a prisoner of the present situation, he has been made to deliver a speech which has no credibility so far as the common people are concerned. The Address has neither any direction nor it makes any projection which would be for the benefit of the teeming millions of this country.

Our young Prime Minister had stated when he took over the charge, that compared to his mother, his Government would work faster. No doubt this Government is working at a very fast pace in disintegrating the country, indulging in rise of prices with the help of the administered prices being raised, in creating chasm between the people and in denigrating and subverting the democratic processes in this country.

Our Constitution-makers rejected the proposal of unitary system of Government. It opted for what is called a quasi-federal system. But even that quasi-federal system is under attack because of the actions taken by the Central Government. I cannot but strongly protest against the deliberate, calculated and also conspiratorial attempt made to subvert the Constitution during the election at Tripura. This is for the first time that the army was deployed just on the eve of election taking the plea of sudden increase in certain incidents in the border areas of a State. The whole State was declared as disturbed area. Without even any consultation, with far less concurrence, of the State Government, 8,000 armed men were flown into the State. The entire local administration was

supplanted. This is a dangerous phenomenon. It a dangerous portent for the future. For the first time in this country, it has happened. The army which should be utilised only for the purpose of protecting our country from foreign attacks, are now being utilised for the narrow political and partisan considerations of the party in power. We saw the unique phenomena of large number of Union Ministers stationing in the State—a tiny State for that matter—not only for their political campaign, which they are entitled to undertake, but really to interfere with the local administration. The local officers were sent for by these Union Ministers and orders were given to them. This is nothing but a very serious and dangerous move that was made by the Central Government for the purpose of taking over the administration of a small State.

When there are serious charges of incompetence, indecision and instability over and above charges of all pervading corruption in the administration, we find an attitude of arrogance, an attitude of intolerance and an attitude of indifference to the maintenance of the valuable and important constitutional and political norms in this country. What we should now concentrate more is on a cooperative venture between the Centre and States for the advancement of the people of this country. The Centre under the leadership of the Prime Minister, so far as the Ruling Party is concerned, is more interested in somehow taking over the administration of a State by whatever means including the deployment of the Army. That shows that the Government or the Centre has not reconciled itself to a federal set-up properly administered when there is a possibility of different political parties ruling the States. Sir, it seems now the sycophancy and gimmickry are more important and that is coveted more than shunned. The result is narrow minded and short-sighted partisan approach to matters of vital national interest which is weakening the very fabric of the nation and its economy. I am strongly protesting against the attempt made through the President by the Government not to advert to the important aspects in the Address given by the President. What has happened in Meghalaya and what

is happening there? The anti-defection law is being made a mockery in another small State openly. Horse trading is going on and having obtained only 33 per cent of the votes in the last election in Meghalaya, this Government was set up and then the whole music started in trying to bolster up this minority Government with the help of MLAs from different political parties. These are matters which are polluting our political set-up in this country, the democratic norms and the Constitutional provision and the Constitutional set-up of the country. The way the Governors have been appointed—I know that it will be said that the Sarkaria Commission's Report has not yet been accepted but apart from the Sarkaria Commission's Report, it is a matter of vital importance that the State Governments concerned should be consulted before a Governor is appointed and when clearly political appointees are sent to the States ruled by different political parties, the intention is not for a proper administration or to help the Government and the State but with the help of Governors somehow create difficulties, as we find in some of the Southern States which are not ruled by the Congress. As the time is short, I want to mention three very important aspects.

There is no reference in the President's Address about the serious situation which has developed because of the sickness of industries. There is only one sentence in the whole Address which says in Paragraph 40 as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction, set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1987 became operational last May.' It does not advert to the fact that 1,40,000 industries, small, medium and big are lying closed and crores of employees who had jobs are now on the streets. Not one word has been said about unemployment, a very serious situation where the young people of this country, young women of this country have no hope for the future. It is that not only they are not getting jobs, but those who had jobs are losing them and even Government Undertakings, the stationery office in Calcutta which was a departmental outfit of the Central Government has been closed down rendering 1200 people, for no fault of theirs, jobless. The Government will be spending nearly Rs. 150 crores more after winding up this

office at Calcutta which has resulted in misery to 1200 people. They have decided to close down four printing presses which will render 7000 people jobless and those are Government presses. They have finally decided not to continue to administer the Bengal Potteries, one of the finest undertakings in this country, so far as quality of its products is concerned, and it has rendered 4750 people unemployed, those people who had jobs. Not one word has been mentioned in the whole Address and my hon. friends on the other side are applauding the speech.

Apart from denigration of the public sector, yesterday we have seen how ceremoniously one of the public sector units is being made over to friends of the hon. Minister sitting there, namely Mr Bajaj and the workers are being left in the lurch.

The State projects which have been pending before the Central Government for their sanction are not being given clearance for years. The Haldia Petro-Chemical complex is waiting for the final approval, although the economics of it and the viability of it have been established, but it is just waiting for the final sanction of the Central Government.

Then the Bakreswara Thermal Power Project. I wish Mrs Guha had mentioned these things. This project is necessary for the advancement of West Bengal and is needed badly for providing electricity, but no action is being taken. For years it has been pending and now when the Soviet Russia had agreed to participate and the State Government is the other party to participate—it would be a joint sector project between the Soviet Russia and the West Bengal Government—suddenly a new idea has cropped in that it should be with the NTPC.

These are very serious matters and I am very sorry to say that not a single reference has been made to the basic problems which are affecting the people of this country. You may have won a victory of sorts in Tripura, though not the majority vote, but you have very seriously subverted and decimated our constitutional set up. You may have smug satisfaction, but the way the people are being treated in this

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

country and the federal structure in this country is being put under attack, the way there is the problem of unemployment, the price rise and the denigration of public sector, those have not been touched at all in the Address. Therefore, I cannot but dissociate myself from the motion of thanks and I oppose the same.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was listening very attentively to the speech of hon. Chatterji Sahab. There is a proverb in English—

[English]

“Everything looks yellow to the jaundiced eye”.

[Translation]

and one of our friends said—

[English]

“Everything looks red to the damaged eye” (*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

They are making such submissions to undermine our development and enhancement of the prestige of our country in the world which we have achieved during the last three years. In fact, they are jealous of our achievement and that is why they are saying that our country is disintegrating. Had the Government of Rajiv Gandhi or of the Congress Party not been there in the country, disintegration of the country would have been possible. This is our Government and we have maintained the integrity of the country fully intact. What happened in Tripura? We may be wrong but the people or the Prees of this country can not be wrong. The public of Tripura were feeling suffocated under the Leftist Government. By throwing away the Leftist Government, they now heaved the sigh of relief. You can see how much people rejoiced over the victory of Congress there.

All newspapers and magazines cannot be wrong. Is there any justification for pre and after election violence engineered by you? (*Interruptions*). Leave aside what happened in Tripura, what not happened during the Panchayat election in West Bengal. The first time in the history of this country a provincial Government... (*Interruptions*.)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, the President of the State Congress had complained of rigging in certain centres and these are the centres where the Congress candidates have won.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : He should also say that the three Ministers of the Government of West Bengal publicly accused the Government of West Bengal of rigging.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is the difficulty, Sir, This young Minister for Home Affairs is busy in destroying others home than protecting and that is why he does not know that they said that whatever criticism was there it was not of the Government but of certain political parties. He should differentiate between the political parties and Government. They do not know the difference and that is the bane of the problems of this country. They have equated the Government to the political party. I would like to know what was he doing in Tripura? Why did he send for officers there? What job had he got there? He had no authority to send for the officers there. This is absolutely improper. And now these young people are going to rule us.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Rajhans, you please continue.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Whatever happened in Tripura or in West Bengal, the three Ministers of Government of West Bengal have stated that there has been rigging in elections. This

is highly dangerous for our democracy. If this thing is not checked right now, then democracy will get destroyed. These things cannot be checked merely by making a bundles of allegations but the problem is to be viewed in the right perspective. Yesterday, Shri Indrajit Gupta alleged that our foreign policy has failed... (~~Interna-~~
~~tions~~) Our Non-Alignment Policy has been highly successful as compared to the foreign policy of any other country of the world. Why do these people grudge at our efforts to improve relations with America? In international relations, there is no permanent enemy or friend, only the interests of the country are permanent. I have stated earlier also in this august House that we will appeal to the people of America to understand truth and have respect for our democratic values. Nobody should grudge if we work to achieve this goal. Our leftist friends should not graduate over our signing of agreement with America in the interests of the country. I want to state that people should not be jealous of the progress of the country. If the Indian Peace Keeping Force had not been sent to Sri Lanka, then the forces of some other country would have come there and that would have been a permanent headache for us. Recent new development in Afghanistan is an outcome of our efforts. The hope of peace returning in Afghanistan can well be attributed to our efforts. Our relations with neighbours are very cordial. We are trying to improve the relations with Pakistan which are right now a bit strained. We have progressed on all fronts, be it foreign policy or economic policy. Of course, it is a fact that country has not experienced such a severe drought for the last hundred years. It is also important to note that for the last one hundred and fifty years such devastating floods have not been seen in Bihar, West Bengal and North Eastern States as witnessed this year. As many as 6 to 8 crore people have been affected by the floods. Therefore, the Government is requested to provide relief in the form of foodgrains or in any other forms whatsoever to both the drought and the flood affected areas on equal footing. As far as

I understand the Government at Delhi has not fully appreciated the problems of flood affected areas. The situation was quite grave, crores of people were in need of food grains, their houses, land, foodgrains, clothes all had been destroyed and they had been rendered homeless overnight. So, the Government at Delhi is requested to pay full attention to the problems of flood affected people as these are in no way less grave than the problems of drought affected people.

I would like to state a few more things. Recently, I visited China. There I saw the successful implementation of Family Planning Programme. We are doing everything in our country but we are not paying as much attention to Family Planning Programme as we should have. Fresh thinking needs to be done on this. More and more incentives should be given to people adopting family planning measures. Those in service should be given 3 to 4 increments and provided with housing facility. In the end, I would like to state that the things mentioned in the Address by the President are all praiseworthy. The country is progressing. The opposition should co-operate with the Government

[English]

SHRI P.K. THUNGON (Arunachal West) - Sir, I would like to join my colleagues in supporting the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Our President was kind enough to mention what has been done right from the time of independence movement uptill now in this independent country. He has been pleased to mention about upholding of ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our Constitution and also about religious and cultural rights of the various sections of our country.

As you are aware, Arunachal Pradesh— from where I come—was granted a full-fledged Statehood only last year. In the State of Arunachal Pradesh Bill, there are certain lacunae which still persist and are required to be amended. I would urge the Government, through you, that the Amendments should be brought within this Session itself—the Amendments which I

[Shri P.K. Thungon]

had on earlier occasions mentioned on the floor of this august House. The Amendments are about increase of seat of the Members in the Legislative Assembly from 40 to 60 and also regarding the names of various tribes which have been mentioned in the list of the Act. And also some constitutional safeguards have to be given for the protection of social and religious practices of Arunachal Pradesh, customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to our customary law, ownership and transfer of land and its resources. Special powers have been given to the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, and the people of Arunachal Pradesh strongly feel that this is a denial of the rights of the people, and that there is a kind of suspicion on the capabilities of the people. Therefore, this provision needs to be deleted. Unless these amendments are effected, there is a kind of feeling in the minds of the people in Arunachal Pradesh that there is only a kind of white-washing made, and the real rights of democracy and secularism and whatever have been enshrined and mentioned by the President, are not fully given there. That is why I feel very strongly, because Arunachal Pradesh is a very sensitive area, and the people there should not be given a handle to become something, whereby peace and tranquility in that State might be jeopardized.

The President was kind enough to mention about our relations with China. In this regard, I feel it very strongly that in Arunachal Pradesh, a few of our posts are still occupied by China. We should do our best to ask them to get away from there. We should not leave any stone unturned—may be diplomatically or through negotiations—and if necessary we shall have to use all kinds of efforts and force, so that they vacate our territory. This will go a long way in re-establishing the confidence of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

You might have come across a statement by a spokes-woman recently, that they again have claimed as if Arunachal Pradesh was a part of China. I would like strongly to refute this, because the people of Arunachal Pradesh have come to know,

most of the people in Arunachal Pradesh have come to know about China only in 1962, when there was Chinese aggression. If Arunachal Pradesh were Chinese territory, our people should have known much earlier. This kind of a claim from their side is absolutely baseless, and the people of Arunachal Pradesh are determined to do whatever is necessary, whatever sacrifice is required, and the people of Arunachal Pradesh are prepared to offer whatever kind of sacrifice is required, to protect themselves and to prove themselves as a part and parcel, and an integral part, of India right from times immemorial.

I would also like to mention about a few other aspects. The President was kind enough to mention about the harmonious growth of industries, and harmony between management and labour etc. He was also pleased to mention about droughts and floods. In this connection, I would like to mention that until and unless we have proper industrial development in backward areas like Arunachal Pradesh and the north-eastern region, we cannot talk about harmonious industrial relations. We do not have industries there...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about industrial relations.

We want to have in those areas more industries and other developments coming up. In this regard, when we talk about industries, immediately what we think about is of power, infrastructure etc. In the north eastern region, Arunachal Pradesh is a State where more than 20,000 MW of power generation can be possible through hydel power project only. But, it appears that, whatever resources we have, are not being properly tapped; and that is a kind of denial to the people of that area of their development. There is a project known as Kameng Hydel Project. The investment work was started 20 years ago; i.e. in 1967 it had started, but so far not much progress has been made. When our state government ask for fund, from they talk about non-availability of fund, When we talk here about implementation of projects, they say something else. If such kind of delays are perpetrated the industrialisation or development of that areas will be affected very adversely. That project will not only serve Arunachal Pradesh but whole of the region. I am told Kameng Hydel Project is going

to produce 600 MW of power which can be enough for Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and it can supply to other parts of north eastern region.

I would like to cite one more example how procedural wrangles create delays. There is a small micro-hydel project at Nurunang in Arunachal Pradesh. In Nurunang area and Tanga Valley area, we have two divisions of our Defence Personnel. They use day-and-night Kerosene Oil because those areas are very cold. If we can produce more electricity in that area, it can be used for our defence personnel as well as for our people. This project has not yet been cleared and our government has been trying for the last more than one year to get it approved from the Central Electricity Authority. I urge the government through you that at least such a small thing should be cleared very soon so that we can take advantage of our resources.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Prime Minister will reply to the debate on the President's Address at 3 P.M. The House stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 2 P.M.

13.03 hrs

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received today a letter dated 1st March, 1988 from Dr. Chinta Mohan, an elected Member from Tirupal constituency of Andhra Pradesh, resigning from his seat in Lok Sabha. The Speaker has accepted his resignation w.e.f. today i.e. 2nd March, 1988.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No further discussion on this.

14.06 hrs

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : I stand to oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President on his Address. The address is insipid, uninspiring and also full of platitudes. I thought the President will tell us how the nation's problems will be solved. It is unfortunate that no solution is to be found to any one of the long pending problems of our country.

First of all, with regard to Punjab problem, though all these Accords were welcomed here, unfortunately, what is the state of affairs? We do not find any solution of this in the President's Address. It is said that terrorist activities will be curbed. But unfortunately, no mention has been made how the problem is going to be solved.

So far as Assam accord is concerned, the Government says that points mentioned in the accord have been implemented. But the Government of Assam says that many of the points are still to be implemented. You know that an agitation is also going on there. Like that there are so many problems. I would like to emphasise that the Government must take this House into confidence and tell us exactly what the position is. Not only with regard to Punjab, Assam and Sri Lanka, but also the Prime Minister has given a go by to the usual meetings which he used to have with the opposition leaders. We find that not a single meeting has been held in the recent past. These are not party problems; these are national problems. That is why, I urge that the Government must find solution to

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all these problems. They must take into confidence the entire House so that they may be taking into confidence the entire country.

Today I wanted to speak just to draw the attention of the Government to one very important and serious matter, and that is with regard to regional imbalance. Most of the Members not only from the other side also, have been raising their voices about that. It is very necessary that the Planning Commission and the Government must, first of all, identify the regional imbalance in each State and then solve it. I am sorry to say that the Government has completely failed because, you may be aware, that many of the regional parties have taken birth because of the neglect of States by the Centre in so many areas like economic, language, etc. That is why, the regional parties have come up. Otherwise national parties would have still been strong. I take instance of my own state and tell you how the regional imbalance is there. The Karnataka State, though it has progressed on its own, has been completely neglected by the Centre on so many aspects. I first of all, come to the Vijayanagar Steel Plant. The foundation of this Plant was laid by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in 1971. It is yet to see the light of the day. Similarly, in is many other areas like setting up of an oil refinery and all that, the State has been neglected by the Centre. Particularly when the Centre is committed, it should see that it is implemented.

I now come to the border dispute. It is nearly 20 years that the Mahajan Commission gave its report with regard to Karnataka-Maharashtra boundary dispute. Still the Government of India has not come forward with amendment to implement that Act. This is agitating the minds of our people.

Now I come to the river disputes. It is high time that the disputes between Andhra Karnataka and Maharashtra and also between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are settled soon by negotiations. Government must take steps to solve these problems. This can be done by persuasion.

Then, Sir, I come to the language issue. It is a very sensitive issue. I will give you only one instance. We have got nearly 18-20 *kendras* of Doordarshan in Karnataka, and the central *kendra* is in Bangalore. You may be surprised to know that Bangalore is a full-fledged studio where out of 300 minutes, only about 60-70 minutes are devoted for Kannada language, for the local language. You know, Sir, that an agitation is going on there. Everyday, *dharna* is being held in front of the studio. What is the purpose of having a studio in every State? The purpose is to educate the people of that State. Another surprise is that except from Bangalore *kendra* Kannada language is not telecast from any other studio at all. Everything is directly telecast from Delhi. There is no arrangement at all to telecast local programmes from the Bangalore *kendra*. So, people are very much disgusted.

Another most shocking thing is that in Bangalore Doordarshan *kendra*, out of 60 employees at present only ten know the local language. That is because most of the people are recruited from other States. They do not know the language of the State. Then how can they produce a programme in the local language? So, it is very necessary that it should be set right. Now that a full-fledged studio has come up there, a new building for the Bangalore Doordarshan *kendra* has been constructed, I am sure that the Government will take steps to see that the programmes should be there, and afterwards it should be switched on to national programme.

At present they are screening only one picture in a week and that too on a Saturday. You know that it is impossible to see pictures on Saturday. It is only on Sundays that people have a holiday and they would like to see a picture on Sundays. So, it is very necessary that it should be screened on Sundays instead of on Saturdays. Why I mention this is because an agitation is going on there.

In view of the Railway Budget, a *rail roko* programme is going on. It is a serious matter. It is in my State, it may be in other States also. What I would like to emphasise is that it is the responsibility of the Central Government to see that in every region, in every State, irres-

pective of the party in power, there is no regional imbalance. People should not have a feeling that they are being ignored. That is very dangerous for the unity of the country.

The last point that I would like to mention is with regard to the three-language formula. It is a very dangerous trend. Take my own State. We are committed to the three-language formula but still people are agitating because it is only in southern parts of India that the three-language formula is being implemented. In northern India, can you name any one State which is implementing the three-language formula? How do you think that there can be national unity and integrity? It is very necessary that they should make honest and sincere efforts in this regard. That is the reason why South has a feeling that Hindi is being imposed upon them. That feeling should not be there. On their own they will love to learn it. You may be surprised to know—and everybody knows—that on Sundays, Ramayana is being screened. You cannot have any other programme at that time because everybody loves to see that programme. Though it is in Hindi, but they can understand that Hindi because it is so simple that they have to love that. So, what I want to make out is that the three-language formula should be implemented in its total sincerity in all the States. That is my point.

Coming to one more incident which took place in my constituency, I would like to mention that a gas tragedy took place in Bangalore during the last month, in which ten children died and nearly twenty were seriously injured, and they are still in the hospital. That happened because of the gas leakage. The leakage was because of the faulty sealing of the cylinder. I do not know whether we will be discussing the Petroleum Ministry's Demands or not, but that is different thing. Through you, Sir, I would like to tell the Government to see that proper instructions are issued to those who manufacture the gas cylinders. They have to properly check the cylinders and people must be educated how to use the gas cylinder because everyday we hear about gas burst. Therefore, the people should be properly educated on the use of gas cylinders. I am sure Government

will take note of this fact. So, Sir, I once again say that the President's Address does not show any direction on which Government should move. It is just like an Annual Report of any company. So, I strongly oppose this.

[*Translation*]

~~DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the Address by the Hon. President. First of all, through you, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Hon. President for recalling the human and moral values and paying homage to Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan in the very first page of the Address. It is quite befitting with the tradition of our Indian culture. On the basis of these human values we want to carry our country forward to the international level. In the face of the situation created by drought and external dangers lurking around the borders of the country resulting in financial difficulties, the progress made in the field of industrial development and maintenance of buffer stock of foodgrains and spectacular advancement in technology, especially in Defence Department, deserve all praise. The opposition may try to find fault with it for the sake of criticism, but they also realise the reality in their hearts of hearts.~~

As regards international achievements of our country, whether regarding Sri Lanka or the struggle for human values launched by Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa many years ago, those human values are being carried forward by the Government of Rajiv Gandhi by adhering to the path shown by Pandiji and Gandhiji. It is really an international achievement. Despite the difficult situation created by terrorists activities, drought and activities of G.N.L.F. in Tripura, the Government has been able to maintain the pace of industrial development and buffer stock of foodgrains and prevent starvation deaths in the country. These achievements speak themselves of the excellent work done by the Govt. of Shri Rajiv Gandhi for which he deserves felicitations. What else remains there for which this Government could be criticised.

As far as the question of people claiming themselves to be so-called champions

[Dr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra]

of democracy is concerned, I am quite surprised to see when some members from the opposition side claiming themselves to be the watchdog of democracy surprisingly boycotted the Presidential election held for strengthening the democracy. In fact, I would like to say that Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has all along maintained that the elections, whether in Punjab or West Bengal will be held at due time whether his party wins or loses. This statement is indicative of our faith in democratic system. In fact, it is only the Congress Party which is propagating democracy and not those persons who simply criticise Rajiv Gandhi Government and level all types of allegations to weaken democracy.

In this connection, I would like to state that whenever we strive for advancement and economic development of the country, the external forces, who do not like that India should make progress and become self-reliant, start putting obstacles in our way. Some of the people of our own country also help them in their evil designs. For example, you have seen that some time ago, violent attempts were made by some internal forces to disrupt the supply of petroleum products in Assam, and the country's economy suffered a great deal thereby. But despite all these, our country has made tremendous progress in all fields, be it industry or agriculture. I think Government deserves congratulations for this.

I would like to speak on other topics also. The Government is requested to monitor the benefit of subsidy and other reliefs given to farmers in the new budget so as to ensure that the benefit of subsidy and concession reached the lowest level. For example, prices of urea have been reduced. So, the Govt. should ensure that the urea be made available to farmers at the reduced rates for which special monitoring is required.

The Hon. President also referred to forest and environment. I will definitely say that industrialisation is necessary for the country and our economy. We should pay special attention to check imbalanced industrial growth so as to prevent environ-

mental imbalance which could be harmful in future.

The opposition has raised the issue of unemployment. The Hon. President has definitely drawn attention to solve the problem of unemployment in rural and urban areas. Many steps have been taken to solve the unemployment problem under 20 Point Programme, IRDP and other programmes. The benefits of these programmes are shown in the statistics given in this report. It is really a pity that even after launching of the earth satellite by the country, our technological achievements are undermined. This achievement has brought to us international acclaim. I would definitely like to draw the attention towards one thing. Assistance is given on the basis of caste to people living below the poverty line. To my mind, poor is a class in itself and the caste of poor is poor itself. Therefore, without dividing poor into various caste groups, economic help should be given to people living below the poverty line on economic basis.

Hon. Member, Shri Indrajit Guptaji, has talked about our relations with America. Our relations with America are definitely beneficial for the development of the country and technology, but we do not compromise on basic principles. When we talk of disarmament, the Government is not lacking even in criticizing America if the need so arises. But this does not mean that we are at variance with America in the matter of principles. He wanted us to clarify why it is so that on the one hand, Government asks for assistance from America while on the other, it criticizes American policy. Development and policy are two separate matters. We do not want to be bound by any treaty with any nation. We want to run the country according to the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. But our colleagues from the Opposition find it hard to understand these issues and they go on criticizing Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government.

The issue relating to Tripura elections is raised here time and again. If peace in a state is disturbed, atrocities are committed on common men, innocent people they are killed, I do not see any wrong in,

it if the Central Government while discharging his responsibility sends in the Army there for the smooth conduct of elections. Does this mean that Army personnel deputed there have put ballots in the ballot-boxes? There is nothing wrong in making arrangements for maintaining peace. Elections have been held in Punjab also. Some intellectual members of opposition side cite the example of Punjab also. But the Opposition must appreciate that the Army has to be sent if necessary. Both ways the Rajiv Gandhi's Government is criticized for sending the army as well as for not sending the army. We accepted defeat in Bengal as well as in Karnataka but did not accuse anyone for our defeat. We had talked of preservation of democracy. It is very regrettable that today defeat in Tripura has been made a point to criticise the Presidential Address. I feel that this issue should be looked at from a broad spectrum and not from a narrow viewpoint.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): You could have won even without help from the Army. You just spoiled your case.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA; Mr. Dandavate, I want to tell you one thing. You are a senior Member of this House. During the recent elections in Bengal, I stayed there for a month. Whenever we appointed some people as our polling agents, in the evening, the same night, their dwellings used to be set on fire. We admitted those people in hospitals before coming here. This is certainly a sad state of affairs. The Opposition people talk of terrorism in Punjab. But when the Government talks of dealing with the terrorists of Tripura, the Opposition shows no interest. Members of the Opposition do not seem to be disturbed when terrorism and naxalism are practised overtly in Bengal.

Without taking up more of your time, I want to say that if the youth of a country do not get any employment, this proverb would hold true—"An empty mind is the Devil's workshop". In these circumstances, their potential can be misused by outside forces. It is imperative that our Govern-

ment provide employment opportunities to the unemployed, whether they are in rural or urban areas or are from the educated unemployed group. Along with this, people should be given the benefits of the concessions given in the Budget.

With these words, I welcome and support His Excellency, the President of India's Address.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to speak on His Excellency, the President of India's Address. I support the Presidential Address. We have been discussing it for the last many days. Some of our colleagues say that India has made no progress. It is well known and it is also mentioned in the Presidential Address that we have to preserve the unity and integrity of our country and realise the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I mean to say that we must all live in harmony, whether we are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs or Christians. During the freedom struggle we all remained united under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. In the same way, we should work as one force towards India's development and make our contribution in our country's progress. The Presidential Address urges upon us to remain united and co-operate in India's quest for strength in every field. A country can develop only when it progresses on the right path. At one time we used to import foodgrains from other countries. Then under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's directions, the Bhakra Dam was constructed. This project became a source of irrigation for a large area. Availability of more water increased the agricultural yield. Today, the population of India has grown manifold but we have enough stocks of foodgrains. So much so that we can even export foodgrains to other countries.

We have made progress in the industrial sector too. Small-scale industries in our country have seen rapid expansion. We have made concerted efforts to indigenously produce the items that we previously imported. And to a large extent we have succeeded in our endeavour. I want that we should follow the path shown by our leaders. The Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had mooted the 20-point Programme

[Shri Bharat Singh]

through which a number of poor people have got means of livelihood. It is well-known that land commands a very high price in Delhi. Under the 20-point programme rural land has been earmarked for the poor. Out of this land our Government has given plots measuring 125 square yards each to the landless poor free of cost. Lakhs of plots have been distributed thus in the Delhi region. Under the 20-point programme arrangements have also been made for irrigation. Many employment opportunities have been provided to people under D.R.D.A. and I.R.D.P. This does not mean that they have got jobs but that they have got means of livelihood. When such means are available then there is no need for jobs as such because people have a means of subsistence. Similarly, three-wheeler scooters have also been given. So, a lot of work has been done under the 20-point programme for the upliftment of the poor. If we follow the guidelines given by our party, India will surely make progress and we will be able to preserve the unity and integrity of our country.

I want to say one more thing. Previously, the number of schools was very less. Children did not go to schools in large number. Now every village has a school. In villages one can see that every effort has been made for their development like laying roads, setting up of dispensaries, etc. I want to say that if villages develop, townships will develop and then cities will develop. All this would lead to the development of India as a whole. We are happy to note that this year's Budget would effect reduction in the price of fertilizer by Rs. 5. This will give relief to the farming community. Today our Government is combating drought and all know that our Prime Minister has visited areas affected by drought. In view of the drought and flood situation, we were issued clear instructions from the Government to shelve all other work for the time being and take up flood and drought relief work first. All assistance was to be provided to the affected people and arrangements made for providing them food, clothing and shelter on a priority basis. Government has done so much. Many years ago when

Bengal was hit by famine, a large number of people died of starvation. But the situation is not the same any more. India has made considerable progress and if we move on the same path, we will continue to make more progress.

The farmers, owning upto 5 acres of land in our area, have been paid compensation for loss of crops under the drought relief programme recently. I want that farmers owning upto 6 acres of land should also be brought under this scheme. The farmers owning upto 5 acres of land should, of course, be given this relief but I want that even those with 6 acres of land should be brought under this scheme so that they can face the drought situation effectively.

Our Government has installed sewer pipes and handpumps at different places. Water for irrigation purposes has been supplied through tube-walls free of charge to ensure that the farmers produce good crop. If land is irrigated properly and quality seeds and fertilisers are provided, we can be assured of a good crop and the farmers can face the drought situation effectively. As a result, farmers will not allow agricultural production to fall, rather they will do their best to increase the production. Government also wants the same.

Similarly, schools have been opened at different places. But colleges in adequate number have not been opened to cater to the needs of the students passing from schools. So, more colleges, particularly vocational colleges, are required to be opened so that more and more boys and girls after passing from such colleges start their own small profession. The scientists in our country are doing very good work. I congratulate them. Earlier people had to draw water from wells. Now they make use of the tubewells for drawing water. The scientists are doing laudable work. I want that a science college should be opened in the rural areas of my constituency (Outer Delhi) so that children from all walks of life can receive education and improve their economic condition gradually. If our Government continues to move forward with the same determination and zeal, we are sure that poverty in this country will be eradicated and the condition of all our people will become better.

Government is making all round efforts with regard to education. The number of Central Schools is being increased. With the spread of education poverty will be alleviated gradually and our capacity for work will also increase. Education is very necessary in our rural areas.

Similarly, in our education system, suppose a school is located at a distance of 1 mile, then the examination centre should not be set up at a distance of 10 miles from the school. It should be ensured that the examination centres are also located within a distance of 1 mile so that children do not have any difficulty in appearing in the examinations.

In order to ensure development in rural areas in Delhi, Panchayat houses have been constructed where people can assemble even during rains. In Delhi the Panchayat Raj has been functioning very well. I want that more powers should be given to Panchayats so that they could settle petty disputes at their own level. Several such cases arise but the poor people are not able to go to the courts to get their disputes settled because they are not able to bear the expenditure involved in that. Therefore, I want that the S.D.Os. of each of the 5 blocks should go to the villages and settle small disputes there itself which will help the poor a great deal.

Much work has been done by Khadi Gram Udyog in the rural areas of Delhi. A large number of women have been provided employment. The people have been provided employment in different fields of occupations such as grinding spices, leather work, wood work and hardware. Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi had formulated such policies for the upliftment of the rural poor. If we follow the path shown by them, we will continue to make progress and maximum possible development of our country will take place.

At present, 80 per cent people of our country are residing in the rural areas. Therefore, we should pay more attention to our villages. Our Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. President are paying full attention there. Presently also, our whole attention is being drawn to the rural areas

and we expect to make considerable progress in this direction through our current Budget as well. We will produce more foodgrains. We have made much progress on the power front as well, but whereas people used 1 bulb earlier, they now use 4 bulbs. Apart from that, they use more electrical appliances like T.V., fridge etc. which consume more power, requiring more power connections. Thus, power shortages are occurring on account of increased consumption. The workload of DESU has also increased much but recruitment of workers there is banned since some time ago. I want that this ban should be lifted so that work in the electricity Department can be carried on smoothly.

Regarding supply of water, I want to say that the population of Delhi has increased enormously. Our quota of drinking water should come from Chandigarh. We are not able to get water from Haryana. Somewhere we have to sink tubewells to get water. Therefore I want that Delhi's quota should come from Chandigarh so that Delhites can be assured of the supply of adequate quantity of drinking water, which will keep the people of this metropolis free from diseases as well.

With these words, I support Hon. President's Address and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Sir, Hon. President in his Address has remembered the Freedom Fighters and it has been very appropriate to do so. We should remember our heroes of freedom struggle, and among those who were in the forefront in this struggle was Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, who is also known as Frontier Gandhi, and it will not be an exaggeration, if we call him the '*Bhishma Pitamaha*' of our times. He had all along been vehemently opposed the partition of India. Division of India gave a permanent shock to him and he could not overcome with this shock till his last days. With the tributes paid by the Hon'ble President to the Frontier Gandhi, I too pay my humble tributes to him.

[Shrimati Vidyavati Chaturvedi]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country rests on three pillars. These are democracy, secularism and socialism and we can strengthen our country on the basis of these policies only. Our country is progressing because we have been pursuing these policies. Under the NREP, D.R.D.A., R.L.E.G.P. and 20-point programmes, we have provided land to the landless and under the Indira Housing Scheme, resources have been made available to the people for construction of houses. The shelterless people have been provided houses and development work is going on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as several hon. Members have stated, we have made progress in every field. We have made much progress in the field of agriculture. The country has been hit by calamities such as hailstorms, drought and floods for the last 3-4 years but we have been able to tackle the situation because we have adequate stocks of foodgrains with us. Relief work is in progress in the flood and drought affected areas and people have been provided with food and money. Similarly, efforts are being constantly made to maintain the unity and integrity of the country. However, certain forces are indulging in disruptive activities in various places. Such forces are bent upon destroying the unity and integrity of our country. They are indulging in violent activities at different places at the instance of some foreign powers. Brothers have become enemy of their own brothers. Innocent children are being killed, whole families are being annihilated. If one goes through the morning newspaper, he could find that news papers are full of news of killings of persons, annihilation of families, killings of women and children. Fissifarious forces within the country, whether they are in Punjab, Bengal or Assam, will have to be crushed with firmness and we have to face their challenge with full might. I agree that our Government has taken some effective measures for it. Despite it these forces have not been inactivated. They are still indulging in fissiparous activities and their aimed at destroying the fabric of national unity are still going on. I request the Government to take most stringent

action against them, if need be, so that unity and integrity of this country is defended and these elements are rooted out for ever. I will not lose this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister for his signing a historical accord with Sri Lanka. This accord, which shows farsightedness of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, will have the far reaching results and history alone will tell as to how significant it was for the country. Peoples oppose it at present. It appears that peoples either don't understand it or want to be ignorant of it knowingly. This is a very important step, it deserves to be praised from all quarters. I once again congratulate Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and army personnel who have been discharging their duties with full dedication braving odd situations in Sri Lanka. The persons engaged in bringing peace and making sacrifices to achieve this end, also deserve to be felicitated. I extend my good wishes to them and pray God they may be successful in their mission and bring glory to the country in the world.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, point raised by our hon. President with regard to regional imbalances is required to be considered seriously. No doubt, our Government has mobilised resources and undertaken many significant works during the last 40 years. In spite of it, there are regional imbalances in the country. Even today, there are certain tribal areas in the country which are very backward and no attention has been paid to them during the last 40 years. Not only this, there are certain areas which are more backward. I come from Bundelkhand region. Earlier there were small princely states there. Rulers of these states were unable to undertake any work of development owing to lack of resources. People of the area had to live under dual subjugation. Firstly, rulers were under subjugation of rulers. People are very backward there and living in a state of misery because no attention was paid to them after independence. I would like to bring to your notice that not a single effect was made to provide water for irrigation purposes. As a result the land is still dry there. We have not done anything for location of industry there. There is no industry even today. Everywhere there is unemployment and poverty. If you get a

survey done, you would come to know that one and a half lakh people of my parliamentary constituency alone are wandering in Delhi in search of job. In order to provide employment, it is imperative that large and medium scale industries, either in private sector or in public sector, be set up there. What is the reason behind the rapid increase of population in the cities? The main reason for it is that all development work is confined to the big cities only. Naturally, people would rush to the places where employment is available. You should pay attention towards it. Bundelkhand, about which I have been referring and from where I come, is a dacoit-infested area. There is no means of transportation. There has been a demand since long about a link-rail-line between Lalitpur and Banda covering a distance of nearly 125 kms. Lakhs of hectares of land would get irrigation facilities if our two multi-purpose irrigation projects of Oraccha and Kane rivers are completed which are now pending clearance by the Central Government due to disputes between the two States. It is very necessary to pay attention to it because we can get at least 80-90 megawatt of electricity from a single project.

Not only I but the whole female sex is grateful to the Prime Minister for providing them opportunity to live with honour by making laws and programmes for them. These programmes should not be confined only to educated women living in big cities. But these should be extended to rural women confined to their household affairs or working in farms or roads. They should be enlightened. They will have to be awakened to know their rights and duties. In spite of it, I have to say with grief and shame that women are still immolated in the name of Sati, they are being killed for dowry and they are still subjected to brutal atrocities, be it in Bihar, Assam or Darzeeling. We would have to take stringent measures to check it. It is very necessary to give education a spiritual temper. We will have to arouse moral values. We will also have to take sternest actions against the exhibition of vulgar and sexual movies.

With these words I again support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak. I oppose the Motion of thanks on the President's Address. I am not opposing it simply because I am in the opposition, but because there is no mention of the country's present situation in that Address. It does not portray the wishes, aspirational and the condition of our people. There is no mention in it of the problems of secularism, national unity and democracy. It is not told in the Address as to how the gap between the rich and the poor is to be abridged. Only some so-called accomplishments of the Government have been mentioned. About foreign problems the Government say that they are solving them but the Government have failed in solving the country's problems. The hon. President has only enumerated the achievements. He should have also counted the problems arising in our country today.

There is no mention of growing unemployment in the country. It is also not mentioned as to how we will remove this unemployment and corruption. Nothing is said about the steps to be taken to stop the fast growing communalism and communal riots in the country. Our heads hung in shame when we find that even after forty years of independence so many communal riots have occurred in the country, though we claim to be a secular state. In this Address, there is no mention of stopping them.

While moving the motion, Shri Bhagat said something about caste system. Really, I appreciate his view point wherein he quoted the former Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Nehru, as having said in one of his speeches that in this country we would build class less and caste-less society. He had told such a good thing. Shri Bhagat gave the example of such a good thing, but one thing I would like to ask you, when you talk to create a society free from class, caste, creed and religious prejudices, why you joined hands with the TUJS in Tripura. Is this your caste-less society? Today regional parties are getting encouragement in the country. Sarkaria

(Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

Commission has also gone on record to say that regional parties help in disintegrating and weakening the country. Then why are you joining hands with the regional parties and at the same time, you quote Pandit Nehru? It is not the Congress of Nehru, it is the Congress of one man. The qualities of Congress of Pandit Nehru's era are absent today...*(Interruptions.)*

Along with it I want to make some more points. It is known to all of you that a large amount of money is being spent on the poverty alleviation programmes started by our hon. Prime Minister. Shri Bindeshwari Dubey is not present here. It would have been better if he were present here. I would have told him in his presence that in Jahanabad, where he was taken by the collector to distribute pass books to the beneficiaries with his own hands, they have not got any money to buy cows and buffaloes till today. I want this to be noted that in spite of their getting the pass books for over one year, they have not yet got money from the Masoudhi and Sirlhua branches of Bank of India.

Secondly, I want to say something with regard to land distribution to the poor. For example, in 1981, hundreds of bighas land was distributed in the Bath village in Arbal block, but till today those people, among whom the land was distributed, have not got possession of the land and they didn't even have a handful of land. If my submission is found to be wrong, I will submit my resignation to you. I am not inclined to be here. My moto is public service.

Thirdly, I will say that there is no rule of law today, as claimed by you day and night. When you dissolved the Government of Punjab, you said that administration was not being carried on in accordance with rule of law as there were killings going on. But you should see what is happening in Bihar. Here killings are going on. Due to killings in Punjab, you dissolved their Government, but you have not the courage to dismiss the Bihar Government, because it is the Government of your own party.

Fourthly, I want to say that parallel Government is running in Bihar. In village MOKAR in Jahanabad district, this parallel Government confiscated and took away all the belongings and harvested paddy crops of twelve farmers and beat them up. What is all this going on?

Despite this, you claim that you have been successful in maintaining law and order. But I would like to say that where there is no law and order, the law of jungles prevails. Such conditions prevail in our country. But Hon. President has not mentioned this in his Address.

Though I do not want to take much time, yet I would like to tell some more points.

There will be no paddy production unless bolder pitching is done by repairing the embankments from kharat to karaye. So you may kindly get this work done.

Floods in our area have caused so much destruction that the help of Shri Bindeshwari Dube's Government by dropping the commodities continuously for four days by helicopter has been ineffective, and all the crops have been completely damaged. All the embankments have broken and still your Government is doing nothing. In the coming days farmers will not be able to do plantation of paddy crops even on an inch of the land in such circumstances.

The river has changed its course towards the village in our area. I would like to urge the Central Government to give instructions to the Bihar Government to provide compensation to the farmers for the loss caused by the floods.

Besides, Central Water Commission has not cleared the Punpun Dardha Scheme for the last so many years. Why do our schemes fail? This scheme was to be completed in 1980 at an estimated cost of Rs. 83 lakh which has now increased to Rs. 2 crores due to price rise. In spite of all this, you are claiming that the Plan has been a success. This scheme has been pending clearance since 1980. I raised this issue a number of times in the House in the last three years. But it has not been sanctioned. I would request the Government to give clearance to this scheme so as

to root out the menace of floods in our area forever. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SALAHUDDIN (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the views expressed by honourable Shri B.R. Bhaṛat.

[Translation]

A member of opposition from Bihar was speaking just now. He claimed to have seen the things there. But I want to tell that today schools and projects are functioning in every village in Bihar. Perhaps he overlooked them.

AN HON. MEMBER : This is wrong.

SHRI SALAHUDDIN : This is not wrong. It is true. I would also resign if it is proved wrong.

Your way of viewing the things is different from ours. Your way of measurement is different from ours. For example, there is a glass half filled with water. I say that it is half filled with water and they say that half of the glass is empty. The only difference is that ours is a positive approach and theirs is a negative approach. We find the glimpses of development in President's Address. Everything has been mentioned faithfully, be it the matter of energy or coal, our nation building or IRDP or Defence. We cannot help if you are blind to all these things.

AN HON. MEMBER : They are blind to these things.

SHRI SALAHUDDIN : It is the responsibility of this Government, our party and our people to tackle the present day situation in the country. I do not say that it is your responsibility. It appears that only Congress is to take up the work of nation building, of ensuring that the economic programmes of development reach the poor and of providing succour to the poor.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the danger which the outside forces posed to our country was

faced by us courageously. Our Colleagues from opposition parties are raising fingers even at the accord which we signed with Sri Lanka. The accord is being criticised. But the time will tell that the accord which we signed with Sri Lanka was right and was in our interest.

The time at my disposal is not much. Therefore, I would like to raise only the important points. Today, we have achieved progress in every sphere. This document reveals that we have achieved substantial progress in the field of energy. Similarly, we have progressed a great deal in coal and defence sectors. It is a matter of pride that our country occupies fifth place in these fields. We have been able to produce missiles in our country during these 40 years of independence whereas a country like England which had ruled over us for many years could not produce missiles in such a short time. I congratulate our Prime Minister for this achievement.

Now, I would like to say a few words about our textile policy. Our hon. Minister, Shri Mirdha, is present in the House. He is well aware of the problems faced by weavers. Still, I would like to draw his attention toward the problems of weavers. The price of cotton yarn has been looking up for the last 6 to 8 months. Consequently, almost the entire handloom industry is facing closure. The system for subsidy should be stopped because it causes a lot of corruption. We have been receiving many complaints in this connection. A suggestion which I would like to make in this connection is that the cloth woven by weavers should be purchased through state cooperative societies or some other similar agencies. The Government may pay only wages to the weavers. This will prove to be a very good thing. You are paying subsidy to weavers at the rate of Rs. 2.70 per metre. It has been observed that this subsidy does not reach them. Therefore, you must pay attention to all these matters.

15-Point programme framed by the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi for the welfare of minorities was indeed a very good programme. In this connection, I would like to tell you that the Ministry of Home Affairs should issue strict instructions to all States for executing this pro-

[Shri Salahuddin]

gramme effectively. This will help in restoring confidence among the minorities which has been eroded of late.

The problem of unemployment is also there before our youths. This will also have to be solved seriously. I would like to tell my colleagues of the Opposition that they should change their attitude towards Congress Government and should also change their way of thinking. They must extend cooperation in nation-building which will help in the development of the country and in bringing prosperity to the people both in urban and rural areas.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : At the outset, I would like to thank the President of India for the very words that he has uttered for my State. In the first paragraph, he says : I give my good wishes to the people of Goa, which has attained statehood. Therefore, on behalf of the people of Goa, I would like to thank the President of India for the special reference that he has made in his Address.

In the last two-three days we have been listening to the speeches made by the opposition members. In fact, it is very difficult to know the ideology that the opposition parties are holding and the directions in which they are going. Perhaps it is needed that the brains of my colleagues there should be scanned because when the Congress Party acts democratically and elections are held, it is these people who profess to champion the cause of democracy thwart that process and commit all sort of violent acts in the process.

When Tripura elections were due, CPI(M) Members were saying that we should not postpone it. In fact, they were accusing that the Congress Party would postpone the elections there. But when the elections were held and we won, the same people said that we had played some mischief there.

What happened in West Bengal during the Panchayat elections. Bombs were hurled

and guns were used. It is these opposition parties who have thwarted the process of fair elections there(Interruptions). They always remind us of conventions, rules and the Constitution. But when we quoted the Constitution, they said that the Governors had been appointed without consultations. I would request them to read the Constitution and show us where is the provision for consultation in the matter of appointment of Governors. But they will now say that it is a convention. When we go by conventions, they will say, what about the rules. In fact, this is a method which they have been adopting for the purpose of opposing any democratic move made by us. Therefore, if they believe in the principles of democracy they would not have done what they have done in West Bengal ..(Interruptions).

As pointed out by various colleagues, a number of legislations have been enacted for the purpose of safeguarding the interests of women during the session before last. In this connection, I would like to point out that we in Goa have got a uniform Civil Code under which women have been given equal rights along with men in property. When we enact our uniform Civil Code for the whole country, I would urge upon our Government, specially the Law Ministry, to take into consideration the provisions of the uniform Civil Code prevalent in Goa, called Portuguese Civil Code.

No doubt we have enacted several legislations for the purpose of uplifting the status of women in our country.

Then there are various superstitions prevailing in our country and I would appeal through this forum to the religious heads of all the communities that they should meet together and separate superstitious beliefs from the religious rights so that the people belonging to various sections of the society, may be Muslims, Hindus or others, understand through their religion that these are the superstitious beliefs and that these are the religious rights. At present this effort is not there. Of course, it is not our outlook as politicians to advise any religious heads. I would urge upon them that this is in the interest of our country. We should distinguish between the superstition and the religious

rights so that the problem which we have faced recently we should not face in future.

Now, I would like to refer to the Industrial Relation Bill. I think yesterday only it was said that the Industrial Relation Bill is going to be introduced in this very Session. I would urge upon the Government that before a final shape is given to the Industrial Relation Bill various facets of this Bill, like the relation between the industrialists, the labourer, etc. should be considered thoroughly.

We have a Constitution of India which is basically a political Constitution of this country. I would like to say that the 20th point of the 20 Point Programme is very important and essential because that point is actually the economic policy of Government. Therefore we should give full respect to the 20 Point Programme as we give to the principles enunciated in the Constitution, especially to the 20th Point. It refers to the simplification of the rules and regulations. It also provides for a machinery to redress the public grievances. I am sure that if these two aspects are scrutinized by the Central and State Government and a public grievance machinery is established then most of the problems which the commonman faces in a day-to-day life will be resolved.

Lastly, I would like to mention about the land reforms. In many states these land reforms have been enacted. In my State too the Tenant Act has been enacted giving the rights to the tenants to be the owners. But, Sir, somehow this legislation is still pending in Supreme Court of India for the last 8 years. As a result of this, Sir, the tenants of Goa have not been able to become the owners of their respective land despite the fact that a similar legislation has come into force in all other states except in a few union territories and a few states. Therefore, Sir, I would urge upon the Government that a special effort should be made to take up the land reform matters on the priority basis.

I once again thank the President of India for his speech and support the Motion of Thanks.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

While addressing this Parliament, Hon. President has told us about his vision of India. He said and I quote : "We want an India whose interaction with the nations of the world is dedicated to peace and international cooperation, and a new world order based on equality, freedom and justice."

All this could be possible only if moral values are inculcated along with education. Our Government has taken concrete steps in this direction by opening Navodaya Vidyalayas and by framing new education policy so that the students could acquire moral values along with education. I urge upon the Government that something should be done under the new education policy so that the students of VII and VIII standard could be relieved of the excessive academic burden on them.

The culture of our country is richest in the world. The people of our country are very intelligent and on top of it, they are spiritual. This is very essential for the human life.

The Government has allocated crores of rupees for setting up polytechnics, colleges, high schools, primary schools etc. in border areas for educating the backward people. I belong to a border area. I am very grateful to the Government of India.

I shall put forward a suggestion that if a girl from a family whose income is less than Rs. 25000 per year is staying at the hostel for higher studies, subsidy should be granted to her to meet hostel expenses.

Hon. President has also mentioned about providing employment in rural areas. India is a country of villages. The Central Government gives 10 per cent subsidy to the industries to be set up in backward districts. I have heard that this subsidy

[Shrimati Usha Thakkar]

is going to be stopped by the end of March. Therefore, I request the Government, through you, that this subsidy should be continued.

Welcoming the address of Hon. President I would like to thank the Government for the steps which are being taken by it to end the centuries old social boycott, discrimination and repression. A pious man like Narasingh was also discriminated socially and treated as untouchable by our society. But the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi started the struggle for independence by reciting the devotee Narasingh's hymn, "Vaishnav jan ko tene kahiye, peed parai jaane re." Our beloved Nehruji, our brave Prime Minister, Indiraji, had taken a number of steps for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, has given maximum benefit to the people of these two classes by allocating a major share from rupees 14 thousand crores sanctioned for this purpose in the Seventh Plan.

Small family has been given national priority by the Government. This is very essential to keep our country in the mainstream of the world. Awakening has been created among the people through publicity. But due to social reasons, the people do differentiate between a son and a daughter. I would suggest that the family which adopts family planning measures after one or two daughters should be given saving certificates worth Rs. 10,000 by the Government. The Government of Gujarat has taken initiative in this direction by deciding to give Rs. 6000 to such families. I request the Government of India to issue Saving Certificate of Rs. 10,000 each to such families.

Narmada Project has been sanctioned by treating water as a national resource. For this, I give a lot of thanks to the Government. Narmada project is a life-giving scheme for Gujarat. Gujarat Government has promised extension of forests to other lands in order to save environment under this project. I request you to extend the afforestation scheme to my area Kutch as it is essential to take up such schemes there. The vast desert area

will turn into greenery with the help of water from Narmada. But it is very important to see that the trees to be planted should be suitable to the soil and climate. Kharek, Coconut, *Bor* and *Neem* trees should be planted in my area as they are suitable for that soil. The aged people of my area are of the view that *Wild Bavad* trees help in protecting the moisture of soil. When it dries up, a weather averse to rain develops.

The situation which arose due to drought is unprecedented and the steps taken by the Government at the behest of the Prime Minister are also unparalleled. Our Prime Minister, unmindful of hot and cold weather, visited these drought affected areas accompanied by his wife and provided relief to the drought affected people. Late Indiraji introduced the 20-Point Programme and infused hope in the poor people. The Government of Rajiv Gandhi has also taken many steps to give impetus to this 20-Point Programme.

15.17 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A national level committee has been constituted for the all-round upliftment of women. I agree that the society will be greatly benefitted by the good efforts of the Government.

If the woman is cultured, so would be the country. The woman is the maker of the society. Jijabai, the mother of brave Shivaji, Lakshmbai, the Queen of Jhansi, and the Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi were all well-cultured women and all of them have played a very significant role in getting for India a high place in the world.

Both Punja's Accord and Sri Lanka Accord were reached with good intentions. Many countries are making attempts to undo these accords. But the right step of the Government will never meet failure. I am of the conviction that with all its peaceful efforts, India will continue to be the India of the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and conclude my speech.

*SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO (Amalapuram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion of thanks to the President for his address.

Sir, we attained freedom 40 years ago. In these 40 years of freedom there is hardly any progress that we can feel proud of. Instead of moving ahead, we are going backward. So there is hardly anything which can make us proud for our achievements.

Farmer is the backbone of the country. But the lot of very farmer who is toiling day and night to feed the nation and to save us from the disgrace of begging food-grains from others is groaning under the burden of poverty. Though many programmes are being taken up for the benefit of farmers, the benefits are not reaching them. As a result, he is getting poorer and poorer. All the programmes and schemes meant for the betterment of farmers have not yielded any result so far. It is pitiable and one should really feel ashamed to see the farmers succumbing to the desperate conditions that are prevailing today. Cotton, tobacco and sugarcane growers are now resorting to the unthinkable method of committing suicide. These farmers are thinking in terms of suicide as their condition has slid down to such a level where they cannot repay the loans that they have borrowed to raise the crop even after disposing off everything. The indifferent attitude of the Government towards the problems of the farm as is quite deplorable.

The lot of harijans is no better. 40 years of independence gave the harijans nothing. Their conditions have not improved. They are as they were 40 years ago. Government has taken up various welfare measures from time to time to improve their lot, their living conditions are remaining the same. All these welfare measures have failed miserably in improving their conditions. The harijans and other scheduled caste and scheduled tribes are still at the receiving end of the society. They are still leading the same kind of life that they were leading generations ago. Atrocities are being perpetrated on harijans even to this day. No State, no region in the

country is free from the atrocities on these most neglected sections of the society. Since the implementation of various welfare measures is not perfect, the desired benefits had not yet reached the harijans. This is the position of harijans and other down-trodden people in the country. As though this is not enough, even the Central Govt. is not extending any financial assistance for the welfare schemes taken up by non-Congress Govts in the States. This kind of step motherly treatment meted out to non-Congress Govts. will help only to further worsen the conditions of harijans and other down-trodden sections of the society.

The plight of farmers and others in my area is beyond any description. There were floods in the area during the year 1986. Even before the people could think of recovering, there were continuous droughts. These natural calamities have almost crushed the people in my area. But the farmers and others who have suffered are yet to receive any help. Sir, my constituency is surrounded by river Godavari on three sides and from the sea on the remaining side. It is totally cut off from rest of the State. I have been pleading for the construction of bridges on Godavari so that this area can be linked with the maid-land. Very recently the foundation was laid for the construction of a bridge near Narsapur with the collaboration of ONGC and the State Govt. Along with the construction of this bridge, another bridge at Kotipalli should also be taken up either wholly by the Central Govt. or in collaboration with ONGC. This will help to have an easy access to my constituency which is hitherto as I have said, remains cut off from the other parts of the State. The construction of these bridges will boost the development of this area.

Sir, there nearly 10 lakh people living in my constituency. The postal and telephone service in the area is hopelessly poor. Most of the out dated telephones remain out of order all the time. The subscribers are paying the bills without using the telephone even once in a month. The post cards do not reach their destination even after a month. Hence I request the Govt. to look into the matter immediately and take appropriate steps to remedy the situation. I hope that the telecom-

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri A.J.V.B. Maheswara Rao]

munication system in this area will receive the appropriate attention of the Govt. immediately. Also, the TV net work is not adequate in this part of the State. Since the entire area is inhabited by the farming community, it is necessary to provide them TV facility, so that they can acquaint themselves well with the modern methods of farmings. There are no proper approach roads in this area. It is an accepted fact that no area can develop without proper roads. Many villages in my constituency remain unconnected. They are not connected even with the nearest towns even after 40 years of independence. Though grants are being provided under NREP, RLEGP etc for construction of roads much progress has not been made so far. There is no proper monitoring of the grants provided and of the progress made. There is no proper assessment to see how far the schemes were useful to the public.

Sir, though the steps are being taken to provide water for drinking and irrigation purposes a lot still remains to be done. Andhra Pradesh has been making repeated pleas to the Centre to accord sanction to Polavaram project. Similarly there is a constant demand, both from the State Govt. and the Members of Parliament to clear the Telugu Ganga project. But these important projects have not yet been cleared. Let me hope that at least now these important projects will be cleared.

Sir, the Central Govt. is treating non-Congress I ruled State Govts. on a different footing. Step motherly treatment is being meted out to them. The Central Govt. is not cooperating with the non-Congress I ruled states in implementing various welfare schemes. All the States should be treated equally. Both the Congress ruled States and opposition ruled States should be treated alike while extending financial help for implementation of various welfare measures. The country is one and the people are one. The Central Govt. should keep this in view and extend help to all the States alike. Equal treatment of all States is essential if the nation has to make an around progress. Let me hope that the opposition ruled States will get better treatment hereafter.

Sir, I conclude my speech thanking you for providing an opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all members who have participated in this debate. Many interesting comments have come; some useful suggestions have been made. But the general tenor of the debate has been worthy of the highest, parliamentary tradition. For that, I congratulate all the members.

1987 was a year of persistent challenge and determined response, a year of achievement in the face of great difficulties. Some of the difficulties were caused by disruptive forces within the country; some difficulties were caused by disruptive forces inspired from abroad; some were caused by the weather.

Twenty years ago, Indiraji faced difficulties of a similar kind that were forced on us by weather. In 1966-67, when she launched the Green Revolution it was her farsightedness that had given our economy its strength and resilience today—the strength and resilience that has led us meet the present crisis through our own efforts and our own endeavours. We have not carried the begging bowl to any one. We have not compromised on our freedom of action. At that time, Indiraji's strategy was opposed by a segments of expert opinion, by even some myopic elements from the benches opposite; but Indiraji prevailed and because of her faith in our kisans, because of her confidence in the ability of our scientists, and because of her trust in the performance of our extension workers, she pushed forward with policies which led to the Green Revolution. She assured our farmers required inputs at reasonable prices despite subsidies that the economy might have to bear. She gave remunerative prices to the farmers as a cardinal principle of the new strategy; and she took the banks to the rural areas, to the farmer, to give him credit. She introduced a countrywide system of procurement to give the farmer stability in his prices.

Indiraji ensured that the strategy for the agricultural sector and the Green Revolution was in the interest of all the sections of our rural community—the farmer, the small and marginal cultivator, the landless labour, and even rural artisan.

In these two decades, we doubled our output because of her integrated vision of rural India, because of her sympathy and understanding of each segment of our rural society, because of her assiduous attention to inputs costs and subsidies.

Today after four years of bad monsoon, two years of poor rains and two years of severe drought, we can hold our head high and look to the future with confidence because Indiraji laid foundations which were sure, sound and secure. Our drive to maximise the rabi crop is meeting with encouraging success. We hope that the shortfall will not exceed 10 per cent of last year's output. Perhaps we will be able to hold it down to 7 per cent. But I would like to remind members that the drought is not over. The dry months are still ahead and in some States there is going to be another difficult period that we have to cross. We have to be watchful and vigilant.

We have done much to mitigate the distress in the drought areas. Relief programmes have been handled efficiently by and large. The ceilings on assistance have been put at Rs. 1400 crores, approximately half of it earmarked to Gujarat and Rajasthan where the drought has been severest. Surcharges on taxes have put the burden of drought relief on the richest sections of our society.

Using the foodgrains from the buffer stocks we have launched programmes to generate employment and to build assets to cushion against future droughts. Through worthwhile drought relief schemes we have ensured that expenditure on relief became expenditure on development. We have rushed fodder from areas of surplus to areas of scarcity. We have introduced special programmes for drinking water. We have introduced special programmes for lifting the output of village artisans and the handloom weavers, because these are sections which have been hit indirectly by

the drought and it has caused them severe problems. We have tried to bring programmes for this special section in a manner such that they do not move out of their trade and we do not lose the expertise that we have gained over thousands of years.

The genesis of the Green Revolution was a scientific breakthrough, a scientific breakthrough which brought new hybrid seeds and a package of inputs to the irrigated lands. This led us to self-sufficiency in foodgrains. We must now ensure that there is no levelling off in this output. The scientific community must once more be galvanised into providing answers for the next phase of the Green Revolution to take it to new crops and to give it resilience against the vagaries and changes in the weather. Already, thanks to the Special Rice Production Programme, the Green Revolution is moving east-wards, into eastern U.P., which is rapidly becoming a new greenary for India.

Dryland farming has been boosted by the Technology Mission for oilseeds and the national project on pulses. The primary cause of our not surpassing the 1983-84 record of foodgrains output is the weather and, therefore, it would be reasonable to hope for a better monsoon this year.

Our objective remains to regain the Seventh Plan targets for food production. We will give a new thrust and a new impetus to agriculture. We have given careful attention to agriculture. I have held review meetings at various levels and, following these I have given specific directions to the Planning Commission to revamp the Plan for agriculture, to re-order priorities, to give agriculture the highest importance.

I have asked the Planning Commission to furnish a detailed action plan, which should be ready any time now, based on each district, its cropping pattern, its needs for water, power, fertiliser and other inputs. In the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan we must regain the lost momentum. We must hit 175 million tonnes of foodgrains production by the end of the Seventh Plan.

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

To this end, the Budget allocations for agriculture have been substantially increased. The Finance Minister has announced major fiscal and financial incentives for the farm sector. We are committed to the kisan as the backbone of our economy. We are committed to promoting productive agriculture. We are committed to promoting investment in agriculture. We must galvanise rural India by placing the results of the best technology in the hands of the poorest farmer, by providing subsidies where they are required to ensure inputs at reasonable costs.

We have to look at the subsidies themselves. While we are giving very large amounts on subsidies, we have to see that these are used to the maximum benefit of the farmer. There are some doubts raised in this regard. And I have asked the Finance Minister to look at these subsidies to see whether there is need for a change in the method of subsidy so that the same amount can be used more effectively for the benefit of the farmer.

We have to see that attractive prices are given to the farmer so that farming is more remunerative.

And we have to carry with us all sections of the rural community. When we look at the problems of the farmer, we must look beyond just the farmer, at the whole rural community and bring about programmes for all their uplift. Of course, the key element is the farmer because economic activity revolves around the farmer in the rural areas. But while looking at the farmer, we must look at the full community. This cannot be done by pitting the farmer against everybody else. It cannot be done by raising false dichotomy between agriculture and industry. It cannot be done by opportunistic alliances with vested interests, who nurture their own interests raise unreasonable demands and hold country and the farmer to ransom. We shall never surrender under pressure. We shall never surrender under the pressure of vested interests and we shall be always at the forefront to fight for the genuine rights and needs of the farmer and the rural community.

While facing up to the difficulties in agriculture during this year we have pushed ahead most satisfactorily in other areas. Infrastructure has done very well, almost entirely in the public sector. It has returned a performance to fill the heart of every Indian with pride. Despite the drought which curtailed hydel generation, our overall power generation has increased by 7.6 per cent—thanks to thermal generation increasing by 16 per cent. The Plant Load Factor has gone up from 44 per cent in 1979-80 to 50 per cent in 1983-84 to 55 per cent in 1987-88. Coal production has increased by 10.2 per cent over last year. Railway freight has gone up by 5.4 per cent over last year.

Overall industrial performance is most satisfactory. Despite drought industrial growth is likely to exceed 8 per cent, making it over 8 per cent for four years in succession. This proves that our industrial policies have clearly succeeded. We will continue to give full support to the productive forces in industry to encourage greater competition in our industry. But there is no room for complacency. The impact of drought might come in the coming months and may be soon in a slowing down in industrial growth. We will watch developments very carefully and we will try to maintain the high momentum. Till a few years ago, drought meant disaster. There was a drought in 1979-80—although it was nowhere near as bad as the drought that we have gone through during these past two years. Then the GNP declined by 4.7 per cent. This year there is no fall in the GNP—perhaps even a moderate increase. On all such previous occasions, only retrogression has taken place; there has been no question of progress. This year we have moved ahead. For the first time in the history of our planning, we have achieved 86 per cent of the Central sector outlay in real terms in the first four years of the Seventh Plan. Never before have we seen such dynamism in investment. Project management has considerably improved. Many major public sector enterprises will shortly be coming on stream.

This is practical socialism—socialism, which has doubled investment in the public sector over a single Plan period; socialism, which has pushed up public sector perfor-

mance, productivity and profitability to levels that it had never achieved before. Our commitment is to a strong public sector, a public sector with much greater autonomy. We will be spelling out plans in a White Paper to be presented shortly to Parliament on the steps that we wish to take the public sector.

There is one area that is of major concern to all of us, and that is prices. We share this concern with many of the Members who have pointed it out. We regard the control of inflation as one of our top priorities. We have taken steps to hold back the pressures of inflation. In 1979-80—and it is best to compare with 1979-80 because that was the last time that we had a drought although as I said, the drought was nowhere near as bad as the drought that we have had this time—the Government was formed by some of our friends sitting on the opposite benches. And you will remember, Sir, how the prices were allowed to rise by 21.4 per cent at that time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : What about 1977-78 ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : These was no drought in 1977-78. And 1977-78 was the momentum from 1975 to to 1977 that had carried them through. It was when the momentum was destroyed that the true colours of the Government had come out... (*Interruptions*). I have to say 'true colours' because it was not one colour

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If there is a progress under new regime, that is the momentum of the past, if there is degradation, that is on their own. That seems to be their logic.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I am glad that Dandavate Ji agrees with me. As I understand he said that progress... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He said your logic.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Of course, we have done well. Our Government in these three years has done well only because Indira Ji, in the five years preceding,

had given that momentum, and I have no hesitation in saying so. If she had not given that momentum, we would have found this drought very difficult. Let me remind our friends also that if she had not given that momentum upto 1977, I hate to even imagine what could have happened to the country because even with the momentum that she had given they almost destroyed the country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The latest momentum was the destruction of democracy.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member talked of democracy. I don't think many heard it. I would like to remind the hon. Member that it was Indiraji who called for elections in 1977. It was not the Opposition. (*Interruptions*).

Yes, that is what shows her commitment and the Congress's commitment to democracy. (*Interruptions*.)

Sir, some of our friends are very vociferous. But I would like to remind them that they should think back to where they were ten years ago

Sir, prices are a serious problem. But in spite of the trying circumstances, we have managed to keep the inflation rate below 10% and we will keep a very careful watch to see that it is not allowed to go up.

AN HON. MEMBER : But it will be allowed to go up.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In the previous two years, inflation has averaged only 4.5% per annum. We have done this by keeping the lid on the budget deficit by deploying monetary and fiscal policies in tandem to contain prices. We have done this by ensuring essential supplies, with additional imports of edible oil, to meet the shortages. We will continue to closely monitor the price index and we will do everything that can be done to keep the prices down. I am particularly concerned at Government expenditure. This is an area where we have not been able to do as much as we had wanted to do, not that that we have not made progress—we have—but much more needs to be done.

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

We also have to concentrate on the productivity of Government. Again in some areas like infrastructure in the public sector, we have done well. A lot more needs to be done. But in other areas a lot more has to be done.

Sir, the over-riding priority of this Government is the elimination of poverty. The key to poverty elimination, we feel, lies in good education for the poorer sections of our society. The key to poverty elimination is in the healthy growth of our economy and the key also is in our anti-poverty programmes. In taking all three together, we have made a major dent on poverty during these years. No previous Government has earmarked as large a sum as we have for anti-poverty programmes. No previous Government has introduced as many improvements as we have in the administration of these programmes.

One hon. Member complained of the leakage of development funds. We are plugging loopholes through concurrent evaluation which enables us to make adjustments in on-going programme, which enables us to do the fine tuning to change the system sometimes so that leakages can be reduced. But let me say that all leakages are bad, leakages which go to the bureaucratic system are bad. But perhaps even worse are those leakages which go to the cadres of the party. *(Interruptions.)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : You are talking about loan melas.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI ; Why are you feeling guilty ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : You are holding loan melas with whom ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir let me remind hon. Members that there are only two or three cadre-based parties in this House.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We are happy about the confession, Sir.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, the poverty ratio fell dramatically during the Sixth Plan period. We are aiming at a further dramatic reduction in the poverty ratio in the Seventh Plan and we shall make a determined effort to end this scourge by the turn of the century. Government have addressed themselves to these challenges with seriousness and with success. Regrettably, the same cannot be said of the Opposition.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I should not have to repeat things to those with head phones on.

Sir, while the country has confronted the severest drought of the century and threats to the integrity and security of the nation, the Opposition has been chasing chimeras in the vain hope that pursuit of scandal will make up for paucity of policy.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Fairfax.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Fairfax and Bofors.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Not only that, more than that. You will find out who is right and who is wrong.

Sir, precious parliamentary time has been wasted and I believe that more than one Member from the opposite side, from the Opposition, has complained of the inadequate time that they got to discuss the Demands of last year's budget. But may I remind the Members, Sir, where was that time taken up ? Where was that time wasted ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Who usurped that time ? Who usurped the time that was set aside for serious issues ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : To expose you.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : On chasing ghosts.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : To expose your corruption.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The only corruption that has come to light...

(Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : The flight of capital is no corruption ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, the only rruption that hat has come to light on the issues that were raised in the first half of last year is the statement made by the ex-President of India, where the ex-President has said that Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 crores were made available to him. *(Interruptions)* Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the ex-Prehsident on the strong moral stand that he took and was not carried away by them.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Sir in that very statement he has said that the members of the Rajiv Government were responsible for that. He has made it very clear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : A bad thing is a bad thing, whosoever it may be.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Sir, we are prepared for another Commission if they want. We rdemand a Commission on that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I would not like to quote directly from what he said because I don't have the words here with me.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : I have got a copy, Sir. You read the article in *Sunday* in which the interview is given. He has alleged that the members of the present Cabinet were also responsible for pressurising.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing ?

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : If I remember rightly .. *(Interruptions)*

SARI BASUDEB ACHARIA : He said, 1/3rd of the Ministers were there *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER What are you doing ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : If I remember rightly, he specifically mentioned certain members of my Cabinet, who are no longer members of my Cabinet.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Sir, he has mentioncd, they continue to be members of the Cabinet today. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : They are in your Cabinet. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. It is a very serious matter.

You can appoint a committee for that.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Shall I lay that interview on the Table of the House for the education of the Prime Minister ?

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Those Ministers are sitting with the Opposition now They are sitting with the Opposition, Sir.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I am on a point of order. About the time of the House, he said, the House time has been misused. It is an aspersion on you, Sir. *(Interruptions.)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit nowd.

*(Interruptions.)***

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Sit down.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I would like just to say again, I did not say "misused". I said, "usurped".

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I may point out to you that in exposing the Mundhra scandal, the father of the Prime Minister took a lot of time of the House. But that was fully justified. Mr. Feroze Gandhi was fully justified in taking the time of the House to expose the Mundhra corruption. Let him remember that.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I agree entirely with anybody who wants to spend the time of the House in exposing corruption and we will spend time of the House in exposing corruption—but come with some facts.

MR. SPEAKER : I have heard these things. I do not know whether I should intervene at this stage. But Sir, what you have said and what they have said—I think, this is a serious matter for the security and safety of this country. I think, we should do something to find out the truth about this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Thank you, for your observations

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down.

**Not recorded,

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr Speaker, Sir, on your direction...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Don't talk to them.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on your directions, I will request the Home Minister to find out where this 30 or 40 crores is and how it was acquired.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, we fully support you. We congratulate you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should report to the House.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Let a House Committee be constituted, to find out this. We are ready.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I would also request the Home Minister to try and find out how this money was to be used, because there is no campaigning in a Presidential election, in that sense—how was this 30-40 crores intended to be used in a Presidential election. *(Interruptions.)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let your direction be followed by the Home Minister, Sir.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Why not a House Committee ?

16.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you making a noise ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you creating a nuisance ! :

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Are you ready to appoint a House Committee ?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Are we to understand from what you have said just now that you are making the Home Minister responsible for holding an inquiry and finding out who was offering that money to the ex-President ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Also who are the Members of the Cabinet ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you allow the P M to speak ?

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Are you making the Home Minister responsible for finding it out ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : No. I am asking him to find out what is the best way to go into this

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He must be made responsible.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The entire interview of the ex-President should be investigated because he has referred to the present Members of the Cabinet.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down and take your seats. Sit down now.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down (Interruptions). You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : We will follow your interruptions. It is sad that certain progressive...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER ; Nothing doing.

[Translation]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUATA : What are your instructions ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What I have said is there on the record...

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : We want a House Committee,

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Enough is enough. Please sit down Please let the Prime Minister speak.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is the best intervention in the entire debate.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is sad that so-called progressives express reactionary views when it comes to updating technology. Obsolete technology gives us low levels of productivity. It gives us low wages and it gives us low growth, perhaps no growth. where will we get millions of additional jobs ? Without growth, how will we give employment to our young men and women ? Nothing is more anti-worker than condemning the workers to outdated units which inevitably grow sick. Nothing can be more anti-worker than threatening his job by denying him opportunity and denying opportunity to millions on the register. If the number of units, the sick units, has increased eight-fold, as one Member has said, the basic reason is outmoded technology, bad management and unthinking trade unionism. This is what we have to face. (Interruptions)

Sir, that Member's solution is no technology upgradation Only manual labour. Such a policy will bleed the economy while ensuring galloping sickness. To end the curse of unemployment, what we need is proper education, fast growth and constant upgradation of skills on the job. Then, as technology advances, the

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

same worker will find that his drudgery is reduced, his productivity is increased and his wages are enhanced. Meanwhile, employment opportunities will increase to those that are in the queue.

Our policies have given two years of excellent labour relations. A new consciousness of the imperatives of higher productivity, of lower costs and better quality, has come into our industry and into labour. A greater participation of labour in management is taking place, especially in the public sector units.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Where ? Give us one instance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, the Congress Party is not only a party of the farmers and the rural-folk but it is also the true party of the working-class *(Interruptions)*.

It represents the employed, the unemployed and the unorganised. The Congress does not promote as some parties do, the interests of a small minority of the working-class to the detriment of the vast majority of the working-class. Development in our country. *(Interruptions)*.

Sir, some people's minds will never come into the 20th century. They will remain there with Marx.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At least the minds of some of us are on the 20th Century; others' are on the 18th century.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Even in the 17th century

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, unfortunately, they think of Karl, but behave like Groucho.

Sir, development in our country is rooted in democracy. If we want more development, we must have more democracy. This is one of the significant

conclusions that we have been getting from the seminars and workshop of District Magistrates that we have been holding. *(Interruptions)*.

From these workshops, a few things have already become clear. One is that it is difficult for the administration to work if the devolution of democracy at the district level is not done adequately and properly. The second is that there has been no adequate attention to the needs of the district itself in planning for the District. This needs attention. And to make a truly responsive administration at the grassroot-level, we need to build this partnership between democratic institutions at the district-level and the administration at the district level. For this, we must ensure that elections at lower-levels take place regularly and without delay.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about Bihar, Orissa, U.P. and other States ? You hold elections in your-State.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The hon. Member has raised a question. We have given instructions to our Chief Ministers yesterday from the Working Committee of the Congress to hold elections in all our States. In most States, they have either been announced or held.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Even in the Capital, elections have been postponed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They promulgated an Ordinance and put-off the elections by one year.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : You hold elections in your party.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I would like to emphasise that the elections must be fair and not rigged.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What did you do in Tripura and Meghalaya ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I have not said so. Some Members of the Government, they said so. I do not know.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Why not you hold election in the Congress Party ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : On the other hand, we intend to take into account local needs and local requirements when we look at our national objectives and national targets, I am requesting the Planning Commission to start looking now at the Eighth Plan and the formulation of the Eighth Plan based on the district as a unit, to build up the Eighth Plan from district plans and I have asked them to give instructions to all the State Governments to start preparing their Eighth Plan on the basis of District Plans for their own States.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : We have already done it in West Bengal even at the block level.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : You call the members of Planning Commission jokers.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, some States claim that they have done it. But let me assure you, Sir, that when it comes to actually looking at numbers on the paper, there is no State which has done it. Neither a Congress State nor any opposition State.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is just not there on paper.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : West Bengal, we have already done block level planning.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I do not want to argue with the Hon. Members.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Members of the Planning Commission, you call jokers.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : What Groucho ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA ; The Planning Commission members whom you call jokers have not kept you informed.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will have to call him Groucho from now on.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You can call me anything but you call them jokers also

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you are saying ..*(Interruptions)*. It does not look nice.

[*English*]

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, I have never called the Planning Commission members as jokers. Let me be very clear about that. It seems jokers are around here opposite who distort things.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It came in the newspapers. You have not refuted it.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I do not bother to refute everything that is printed in the newspaper. Let me be very clear. I have tremendous respect for the Planning Commission, My only complaint about the Planning Commission is that they are not aggressive enough in their planning, that they are limiting themselves to balancing the inputs from Ministries. I want them to step out much further and produce a much more aggressive plan. That is what I have been talking to them about.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : But you are the Chairman of the Planning Commission.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is why I have directed them to do that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You direct yourself also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, perhaps, some day in the distant future, the Hon. Member will be a Member of the Government. Then he will know how the Planning Commission runs.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K C. PANT) : No chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : He may change parties ! *(Interruptions)*.

Sir, to this end, we would like to strengthen the capacity of the district administrations to prepare adequate plan proposals and we like to give the district administration greater flexibility in deploying the resources for development. We would like to give new life to participatory development by harnessing local democracy for local development.

Sir, the Chief Ministers who have accompanied me to these workshops have said how useful these encounters have been—useful for themselves and useful for the district magistrates. There was one Chief Minister who declined our invitation to attend. And only one. And then after declining the invitation to attend he complained of conspiracies behind his back. Sir, let me say that there is only one conspiracy—and that is to have a more responsive administration. I have been very impressed during these workshops by the dedication to duty, by the drive and by the resounding faith in democracy of our district magistrates

Sir, let me turn to Punjab. In Punjab, representative democracy was given every opportunity. Unfortunately, the elected leadership failed to rise to the occasion. And there is still insufficient evidence on the part of any faction of the party that was elected to power to be ready to face up to terrorism with determination and unambiguity. Only with such readiness, can the normal political process be re-

established. The menace of terrorism cannot be left unchecked. Firm police action is essential and indispensable and we will carry on with firm tough police action. The unity of the country and the integrity of the country demands nothing less.

For several months after President's rule, the security forces were gaining on the terrorists. In recent weeks, the terrorists have had some grisly successes. But if we are firm in our resolve, then ultimately we shall prevail.

One of the Members had mentioned Tripura. The benches opposite have generated much heat over the declaration of a disturbed area in Tripura. Sir, the people of the State have given their verdict on whether Tripura was a disturbed area or it was not a disturbed area... *(Interruptions)*.

Sir, the previous Government, through a dangerous combination of incompetence and naivete had allowed insurgency to overtake the State. It is ironic that one Member accuses us of encouraging fissiparous tendencies when it was his party's softness and shilly-shallying that brought Tripura to this terrible pass.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : There had been no violence, do you know that? TNV murders were only before the elections and not afterwards; not a single one... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : There can be no democracy for common murderers of unknown innocents. Our system reflects the will of the people. It entrusts the elected Government with authority to discharge its responsibilities. The changes proposed by one Member opposite would destroy our stability and endanger our democracy itself.

In April-May last year there was an outbreak of communal violence in Meerut and elsewhere. It was shocking and painful. Sir, effective action was taken to stamp out the violence; but alas, not before many innocent lives had been lost. Allegations of atrocities have been looked into, the district administration shaken up, rehabilitation undertaken, the fanatics

contained and fundamentalism has been restrained.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: What about Hashimpura ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: We are relieved that since then communal violence has not flared up again in Meerut and in that area and has not spread further afield. By and large, the country has remained free of any major incident of communal violence.

Sir, our greatest asset in fighting communalism is that our people are overwhelmingly not communal. We have a long tradition of tolerance and brotherhood. Our composite culture is a reality. We have five thousand years of experience of unity in diversity. Communalism is the work of a few misguided elements who sometimes succeed in inciting communal passions by exploiting specific social disorders and tensions. To marginalise the communalists, we need determined political action; we need vigilance of the local community and the local leadership; we need an administration that is impartial and seen to be impartial; that is seen to be firm and determined in dealing with violence. And, above all, we fight communalism by fostering and preserving the values and standards embedded in our culture and our traditions.

Our traditions of tolerance, of assimilation are threatened from two angles. One threat is from materialism overtaking certain sections of our society. The second threat is from fundamentalism and communalism, regionalism and other such isms that are based invariably on intolerance and violence that misleads in projecting simplistic solutions to highly complex problems. Economic opportunity has opened the door to unprecedented mobility for our population. This mobility is uprooting millions from traditional cultural moorings. Many millions more than ever before are interacting at a personal level with people of different languages, of different cultures and of different faiths. For all of them we must make our diversity a living reality. Our education system is being improved to inculcate the right values. Our seven Zonal Cultural Centres are taking the message of diversity to the people at their door-steps doing commendable

work in remote and far-flung areas, in city slums and in small towns, of bringing people together from every corner of the country and bringing the culture of different parts of the country together.

Almost all States have cooperated with us in bringing the best in education to talented boys and girls from all sections especially the poorer, weaker and deprived sections. There is only one State that has not. It has, of course, a vested interest in the continuation of poverty in the curious belief that the core curricula should be built around alien ideologies. While that State continues to ensure poor education for the poor people, happily the rest of the country forges ahead. Operation Blackboard has been...*(Interruptions)*. If you agree, we will give some good schools to your State also.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Why don't you raise the number...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why only one Navodaya Vidyalaya in one district? Why not all schools be Navodaya Vidyalayas?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: If you agree...

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: After 40 years of Independence there is only one school in a district. What is the meaning of this?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, You cannot do like this.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Sir, after 40 years of Independence when we have found that the State Governments have not bothered to give good schools for the poor, we have had to step in, and give good schools to the poor. There are only one or two States where the State Governments are still refusing to give good schools to the poor. *(Interruptions)*

Now Operation Blackboard has been undertaken to assist State Governments in equipping primary schools. This is a State subject. Should we have to come in to do this? But we are doing it because we are worried about the poor.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Education is in the Concurrent List.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is why we are giving it to you. The Centre can only provide supplementary assistance. The responsibility must be that of the States. When will the States take this responsibility seriously ?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (Amritsar) : Sir, open a school for their education also !

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Now over 200 Navodayas Vidyalaya have already been opened. More are in the offing. The single largest segment of boys and girls in Navodaya Vidyalayas come from the poorest sections of our society

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : How many students are there ?

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The Navodaya Vidyalayas have established that the background of the students is overwhelmingly rural. Two things have been established : one that there is tremendous intelligence which was being lost because good schools were not available to these poor children. Second, that by losing this, the country was losing. It was losing one whole reservoir and the Navodaya Vidyalayas have pulled that reservoir out. For the first time, the children of the poorest people in the country have access to the best education that is available. It is by drawing on such a reservoir of excellence that our country will progress and develop faster and we will fight the vested interests which insist on denying good education to the poor. We will give good education to the poor.

Sir, one other area which has been of major interest to us is the uplift of women and giving women their full rights. During these years, we have legislated on a number of fronts to give women protection. We have legislated some very strong legislation, the type of which has never been legislated before in this House just to give women their rights.

We have given free schooling for girls in all States. We have worked out a detailed plan to assure women their full rights. A National Committee on Women,

which brings together distinguished women from different disciplines, is being set up to advise on the formulation and implementation of programmes for women.

Our country is growing younger.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Growing young !

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It is true. The average age of our country—while some of us grow older and older and senile, the country is growing younger. Approximately 70 per cent of the country today is under 40 and the problems of our youth are very much a national priority. The biggest problem is employment. For employment, the first thing that was needed was a structural change in our education system. We have already started that process. We need to inculcate an ethos of enterprise, of initiative in our youth. We need to change attitudes. We need to make them proud of India and its heritage. We have greatly expanded the expenditure on our youth programmes and our sports activities and this will give us an improved quality of youth activities.

Sir, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes continue to suffer under social and economic pressures. To end their disabilities, we are promoting, at a higher level than ever before, programmes for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes—welfare programmes development programmes—and ensuring them justice. We have made major structural improvements in revamping the SC/ST Commission and strengthening the hands of the Commissioner. I am closely monitoring the deployment of funds that have been earmarked for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The minorities are an integral part of our many-faceted diversity, our composite heritage and our valued traditions. India cannot remain India if we lose any part of the totality of our culture. Some minorities have, on an average, done exceptionally well. Others, for various reasons, suffer specific handicaps and need special attention. The key to the resolution of the problems of the minorities is in the conscientious implementation of Indiraji's,

15-point programme. We have greatly strengthened the monitoring apparatus for this programme. We will do all we can to ensure that the minorities play a role in national life, commensurate with the contribution that they have made and the contribution that they can make.

Sir, hon, Members are aware of General Secretary Gorbachev's initiative to withdraw Soviet troops from Afghanistan. We welcome his initiative. So do all those who seek a peaceful settlement. We hope that the talks in Geneva will be successful. We hope that the Geneva Accord will be signed before the 15th of March so that the withdrawal process on 15th May can start. We have been working since 1980 to help resolve the problem. Indiraji had talks with the Afghanistan Prime Minister. We have had many discussions at the Foreign Ministers' level. We have played a key role in the Non-aligned formulation to stop intervention and interference which is one of the key aspects of the discussions that are taking place today. I have had repeated discussions and talks with General Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan beginning in May-June 1985. I have had a long discussion with President Najib when he was in India at the end of last year. And, in recognition of our constructive role, both the USA and the USSR have taken us into confidence in the resolution of this problem. Key Afghan personalities have appreciated our contribution. Some people have questioned the need for India's involvement in the solution of the problem in Afghanistan. We cannot remain indifferent. We have a vital stake in what is happening in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is in our neighbourhood. Afghanistan is an integral part of our region. The developments in Afghanistan have brought about the confrontation between the major powers in our region to our very doorstep. Now we have an opportunity to strengthen the forces of Non-alignment. It is for that reason that I invited the President of Pakistan to Delhi for a working visit. President Zia has not been able to come. He has said, because of his pre-occupations with political activity at home. At his suggestion, I have named our Foreign Secretary as my special

emissary. For stability in our region, India and Pakistan need to work together on this issue to find a solution. I wanted to talk to President Zia about this. In evolving a solution, we can work together to the benefit of each, for the good of all. I hope there will be opportunities soon for wide-ranging consultations.

In Sri Lanka, significant forward movement has taken place in recent days on the implementation of the Agreement. The Agreement secured justice for the Tamils and the unity and integrity of Sri Lanka. It secured our security interests and it secured Non-alignment in the region. President Jayewardene has reiterated a general amnesty for those who lay down arms. We have made definite progress towards the devolution of powers to Provincial Councils. President Jayewardene has made a commitment to holding elections towards the middle of this year. Elections to the North and the East will be to a single Provincial Council making a reality of the merger. Thus, the Tamils of Sri Lanka will have an opportunity of democratically choosing their own representatives to administer their affairs. The Tamils of Sri Lanka will have an opportunity to test the claims of different groups of Tamils to represent the Tamils. This should be determined through the ballot box.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N V N. SOMU : Innocent Tamils are being killed there. *(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. No interruptions please. The hon. Member is not allowed.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI; I agree entirely with the hon. Member. We are not for innocent Tamils getting killed. We will do everything to protect the innocent Tamils and we have done that.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : In fact, the very task of IPKF is to protect the innocent Tamils. *(Interruptions)*

**Not recorded.

[Shri Rajiv Gandhi]

This will give an opportunity for the Tamils in Sri Lanka to see who really represents the Tamils and represents them through the ballot box, not through the barrel of a gun.

An encouraging indication or index of the return to normalcy is the return of the refugees. A steady stream of refugees has been going back to their homeland.

I must take this opportunity to pay the highest tribute to the gallantry of our soldiers in the IPKF for the discipline and courage with which they have carried out this delicate task. It is deplorable that anyone in this House should give credence to the malicious fabrications about the work of the IPKF.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : No interruptions please. Do not record.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: We are always in danger of getting too engrossed in the minutiae of development. Yes, statistics and indices are important but we must look to the larger vision of India. India has mattered in the world. We have led in the world of Ideas. Our major contribution has been to enduring values and standards, to the soul and the spirit of human kind. Our national task is to take India again to its rightful place to the front rank of human civilization. Development is an essential tool in this endeavour, but the real challenge is the response to what lies beyond mere development and mere growth. To that great task the nation is summoned in this 40th year of our independence.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to express my support to the motion of thanks to the President for his inspiring Address and urge the House to do likewise.

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together ?

***Not recorded.*

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one submission to you. Under Rule 184 I have given a notice of a motion authorising you to set up a House Committee to enquire into the allegations made by the former President of India against sections of the Cabinet as well as the opposition. Please consider that.

MK. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the amendments moved to the Motion of Thanks together.

*All the amendments were put and
negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : 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 22nd February, 1988.'

The motion was adopted.

16-40 hrs

AUTHORISED TRANSLATIONS
(CENTRAL LAWS) AMENDMENT
BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Chintamani Panigrahi on the 23rd February, 1988, namely :—

"That the Bill to amend the Authorised Translations (Central Laws) Act, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."