

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

important role in the economy but they are its backbone around which the whole of economy revolves. Paradoxically, despite this the condition of farmers is deteriorating fast. If we take 1970-71 as the base year, we find that the prices of inputs used by farmers in agriculture have gone up at the rate of 9.6% a year during the period from 1970-71 to 1984-85 while the prices of agricultural produce have been raised by the Government at its rate of 3.5% a year only. The agricultural production in the country has grown at the rate of 1.5% per annum while the average farmer's output has grown at the rate of 3.5% per annum.

Government has increased the prices of wheat at the rate of 3.5% per annum while the prices of other consumer goods have registered a tremendous increase over the years unabatedly and economists of the country are of the views that this trend in increase of prices is likely to reach the whopping figures of 15% by the end of the year.

From the above data, it is clear that the purchasing power of the farmer of our country is eroding day by day and he is getting involved in financial trouble. Today, agriculture has become sick industry. Government is taking several measures for the development of sick industries.

According to the report of the Reserve Bank of India ending June, 1986, the number of sick industries has gone up to 1,30,606 in which a sum amounting to Rs. 4,665 crores has been staked by the nationalised banks. Despite this, Government has taken measures for their development by providing markets for these industries and investing money for their development. But it is not clear as to why Government is not declaring agriculture as a sick industry. I request the Government to declare agriculture as a sick industry, give financial assistance to farmers, take steps to reduce cost of cultivation, develop marketing facilities for selling the produce at remunerative prices and through these measures bring this industry out of the bonds of sickness.

15.30 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah) : I move :

"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.'

Sir, the President has been very kind to remind us in his Address about the vision of India. I would like to begin my introductory remarks with this basic point of view. The Indian independence movement or Indian revolution has its own basic role of event in history, an event which profoundly affected the whole world. It is an event like earlier the French Revolution which brought about the end of all kinds of exploitation and feudalism in Europe. Not only that, it unleashed a force which led to the development of entire Europe, industrialisation and also led to the negative factors of colonialism, colonisation and imperialism; later on, the advanced form of exploitation not only of its own economy but exploitation of the world as a whole. Later on, the event has given us—bigger event of historical significance—the great October Revolution in the earlier part of this century. It led to the emancipation of mankind not only in the Soviet Union, foundation of the Soviet States, workers and the peasants but a powerful impulse throughout the world which led to a great movement for emancipation and restructuring of the civilisation of a large number of countries. In the same context, if you see historically Indian independence movement was unique in the sense that never in history

such a large number of people participated in this struggle for freedom. Millions of people—poor people, the farmers, the people in the villages, the intelligentsia and everybody, even women—participated for 90 years in the struggle through non-violence. The result was the end of colonialism not only from India but from the entire world. The world has changed after Indian independence. Therefore, the President has been pleased to remind us what are the foundations of the Indian state. What are the basic foundation? Let us remember it because some of the challenges that are coming some of the negative forces that are operating, we will be able to judge them in that proper perspective. The President says :

“The vision of India is a land whose unity and integrity are invulnerable to external threats or internal weaknesses;

—where the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our Constitution, are fully realised;

This arises from the very struggle of freedom itself. The people who have struggled for freedom or participated in the freedom struggle live on all sides and I think the duty lies on them at this moment when there are dark clouds over this country, when there are dark forces, internal forces trying to weaken the country. There are also external forces as the President has reminded. How to meet the challenge? Once we have our say through what we call the democratic parlance, the Parliamentary parlance, we can build up the national unshakeable faith, national unity and national consensus on certain basic issues. There should be unity in the Indian sub-continent. India is a democratic country. It is a secular state. It is a socialist country. I think with the application of these principles, we will be able to deal with the problems firmly which arise today. I would like to begin with what Gandhiji had said. He has told these words just before two weeks of his death, i.e., on the 19th January 1948 writing in Harijan. He said, 'Indian society must only be based on truth and non-violence. No one should want anything that others cannot have without

equal labour. There will be neither paupers nor beggar, nor high or low, neither millionaires employers nor half-starved employees. There will be equal respect for women as for men.' The last sentence is relevant. We had Deorala incident where forced 'Sati' was performed and only yesterday the whole House expressed its shock and abhorrence over the gang rape of women, the most heinous crime and coming from Bihar, I hang my head in shame that such things are happening. It was said in the House yesterday that conditions of fear should be created so that no such incident should happen again in future in this land. It is the duty of everyone, the State, the Government to see that such things do not happen. It is the heinous crime perpetrated. The instruments of law and order should see that action is taken against the perpetrators of this heinous crime. This is most reprehensible. How are we going to deal with the internal weaknesses or the threats? The biggest challenge comes from Punjab. Gandhiji said that violence must be eschewed. Violence will not solve any problem. Panditji repeatedly said that all our problems can be solved through democratic methods, through negotiations, through discussions and through dialogues. Prime Minister has not only been saying but also practising. He had the applause of the entire world. He has started practising this in Punjab—Punjab is a state of terrorism of a special kind in which the international factors are involved. They get help right across the border. They get help from other factors, other element, from those who are inimical to us. So, we pose a very difficult problem, a complicated problem. When we try to solve, we feel at times that we have surmounted it. We have led them on the run, they come back released with fresh energy, with fresh recruits. This is the problem we face which is a challenge. How can this challenge be met? The Prime Minister has said only the other day that the dialogue should go on. One must have a political will to solve these problems. The only silver lining in the Punjab situation is that despite this problem going on day after day, communalism has not taken shape. There is no ill feeling among the people, Hindus and Sikhs. This is the redeeming feature. The people are showing us the way. But what is happening today

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is a challenge to the system, it is a challenge to the basic foundations of the State, basic principles on which our State is built. If we show firmness, unity and strength and do not go by sectarian interests, we will definitely succeed in our goals. In this connection, I would like to quote what Panditji said and that is very relevant today. Delivering his first memorial lecture on Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the great Indian, the great leader, the great nationalist whose life was a saga of sacrifice and who lived for the whole of India and was an embodiment of secularism, Panditji said :

"I want the narrow conflicts of today in the name of religion or cast, language or province, to cease and a classless and casteless society to be built up where every individual has full opportunity to grow according to his worth and ability. In particular, I hope that the curse of caste will be ended for there cannot be either democracy or socialism on the basis of caste".

In Bihar, the curse of caste has become cancer. Bihar is backward despite the fact that it has the richest land the richest resources. But, as I said, the curse of caste has become cancer for Bihar.

The President in his Address has rightly reminded us that we must not be guided by partisan interests, sectarian interests or the interest of taking electoral advantages or various other advantages. Here, it is a challenge to the State, a challenge to the stability of the country, it is weakening the fabric of the State. Everyone of us must rise against it and find a solution through dialogue, through discussions and through democratic means. That is the tradition that has been handed down to us from the Father of the Nation, from the great leader, Jawaharlal Nehru and other great leaders of the Indian independence movement. That is the Indian legacy. India represents a moral force and a civilizing force. Not only we have been building up our nation for the last forty years on right lines, our record is one for which everyone can be proud. We have built the founda-

tion of a strong State; it is a vibrant economy, it is one of the most industrialised State. In agriculture we are not only self-sufficient, but we will soon be one of the largest exporting country of agricultural surpluses by the end of the century. This has been tested this year. We had drought of lesser intensity in 1966 to 1969 for three years. There was a negative growth of ten per cent. The plan had to be given up. Then, in 1977 to 1972, there was a failure of rain on a much lesser scale than the last year. The prices rose as much as by 22 per cent in 1979-80. And we have a combined magnitude of drought and flood. Every district in the country is affected. If the drought takes care of the 269 districts, the flood takes care of the rest. So, the entire country is affected. But still we are standing on our feet. It is all because of the various programmes undertaken during the Indira Gandhi's regime. For example the agricultural resurgence, green revolution, the dynamism in the agricultural growth, all these were undertaken during the time of Indiraji and are now followed up by our present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. As a result of this our economy is strong. Not only this, our industrial growth also is strong, and it all goes to the credit of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi who ushered in the second industrial revolution in the country. This is the point I wanted to make. His emphasis is on higher productivity and modernisation.

Despite the various controversies that may be there, we are making large investments in the public sector. The public sector has come to a stay. It will definitely grow. It has already assumed commanding heights of the economy but the point is if such large resource investments do not yield adequate results, the entire financial system becomes imbalanced. It has been said that if these investments are going to yield results, the picture of the Indian economy will be different. The commanding heights of the economy means that they are the growth leaders; they are the strongest bulwark of the financial, monetary and economic management. If you judge our financial and monetary management you will find that it is quite good as compared to any other developing countries. Our critiques from the western countries or even

the World Bank has testified that the India's management of the economy has been good. The present year of drought shows the resilience of the Indian economy. There are various factors attributed to it. The point is that whatever we invest in high technology, in modernisation, in the management techniques and even in the agricultural production is that by the end of the Eighth Plan, we have to produce 175 million tonnes of food grains. We have to bring in a new technology and that is what is being done. We have undertaken the Water Management technology, the Energy Management Technology, the application of new variety seeds and new techniques in agriculture sector. All this shows that a revolution is taking place and this is possible under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister. So, we are placed in this stage. The drought of this magnitude may lead to a shortfall of production to the extent of 10 per cent in the food grains. But you will find that the drought management is quite good. Mostly all the states are affected. The Prime Minister has himself visited most of the drought affected areas and because of the drive personally undertaken by the Prime Minister, the drought management has been good. The result is that although the Budget provides for Rs. 462 crores the total expenditure for the drought relief is going to be about Rs. 2,000 crores. These things have to come from the resources of the Central Government. This will be managed. We can see this when the Finance Minister presents the Budget. Here again the credit goes to the management of the economy. In this worst drought situation also, the management has been exemplary. It may be better than any other country.

Another point is that, we just go about managing the drought and create a situation in which the sufferings of the people can be alleviated to the extent possible. We immediately went on to the acceleration of the Rabi programme. The drought has affected the rabi crop. The moisture in the soil has affected the rabi crop. But because of the massive programme undertaken and the amount of work that has been undertaken to grassroot level—at the village level—we are going to have a bigger rabi crop this year compared to last year. I can tell you

about my State. I have seen it there. I have gone into this. In spite of all these difficulties, Bihar is going to have at least 1 million tonnes of wheat this year which will be more than last year. If Bihar can produce 1 million tonnes of wheat this year, then I think the whole country can expect that the rabi cultivation this year will be good. This will be definitely going to help us.

So, my point is that we are trying our best to maintain industrial growth. The industry is vitally affected because of the impact of drought. In July, the rate of industrial growth was 16 per cent. During the last seven years, what was our rate of growth? The rate of growth has been accelerated. According to the UN Survey, we are one of the leading countries in the world.

Definitely this year's drought is going to affect us. The point I am making is that in 1965 we went down to 10 per cent. In 1979, we went down to zero per cent. But this year despite the acute drought situations, our growth rate will not be less than 3.5 per cent. The Kharif crop has been affected. From 16 per cent growth rate in October, it has come down to 4 per cent. Even during the last seven months, the growth rate was 9 per cent in industry. I hope these are our calculations. This year the industrial growth will not be less than 7 per cent to 8 per cent which is remarkable. The actions which our Prime Minister and the Government have taken are remarkable. They have taken various measures. Anyway, this is not the occasion to deal with all these things. This will be dealt in the Budget. The point I am making is that the economy in a very difficult year has been good and exemplary. Let me give you one example regarding monitoring of industrial projects and various other things. They have been improved. This information was given in the last meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Industry. We have 124 on-going projects. 14 are mega projects costing over Rs. 1000 crore, each. 110 are major projects costing Rs. 100 crore, each and the rest were small projects. In these projects we have invested something like Rs. 22,000 crores. Monitoring is being upgraded, everywhere. It is under

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the personal direction of the Prime Minister that the whole monitoring is now a monthly one; it does not come after 3 or 6 months, nor is it a mid-term review or mid-year review. It is a monthly monitoring, and wherever red light comes during a month viz. that a project is behind schedule. There should not be a time over-run or a cost over-run. This is about 78 big Central projects—124 all together. Seventyeight are the big and mega projects. This is how the economic administration is taking shape. I think this should be appreciated.

Similarly, I would like to touch upon international relations. There again, the impact or the stamp of the Prime Minister is there. Obviously, through a misconception or through design, people are writing—or the papers write—that the Prime Minister goes out too often but they do not realize that each of his visits has produced results. They have subserved India's interests, and they have made a new landmark.

The President has referred about the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. This is the most historic, far-reaching agreement which not only meets the basic, legitimate requirements of the Sri Lankan people, the Tamil group, but also meets the regional security aspects; India's security aspects. It has been acclaimed widely. The difficulties are there, but we must be behind the Government; there should not be any misgivings about it. The IPKF is playing a gallant role. The whole country should be proud of them. We should be proud of them. Very soon, this problem will be tackled. They are acting with restraint. You know they have to use force, because they cannot do otherwise. But there is no rancour, there is no hatred, there is no idea of violence in their mind, or in their action. It is the duty which they are performing in the best spirit, in the spirit of non-violence, in the spirit of the tradition of this country. They are laying down their lives in the interests of the Tamil people, or the Sri Lankan people there. So, we should be proud of our role.

Another thing is the role that the Prime Minister has played in bringing about a situation of peace, stability and disarmament

in the world. This is to be realized. I think we must know that India's role has been a role of a catalyst. I know it personally; and this is there right from 1985. But for the Prime Minister's discussions, whether they are in America with President Reagan, or with General Secretary Gorbachy, the confidence-building measures between them would not have come about otherwise. He has been able to remove suspicions, and now you see the change in the language. Only this morning, Secretary of State Shultz has issued a statement from Moscow where he has gone. He says this on a question like Afghanistan. You compare it with the language of the past when both the sides were speaking about that issue. Now he says: Yes; the Soviet Union will withdraw from there. I believe they will do that, and they are interested in it." The whole thing has changed. The language has changed. Who has done it?

Today, the INF Agreement, the peace agreement is there. For the first time in history, elimination of nuclear weapons agreement has been achieved. If we had talked about this six months ago, nobody in the world would have believed. There have been the agreements—SALT-I, a limitations treaty. There has been the agreement: SALT-II, a limitations treaty, limiting things. But this agreement is for the elimination of arms.

You remember the tradition. It is important for us to remember it, and I am glad that the President has reminded us. Let us all remember what Gandhiji said on the day bombs fell on Hiroshima. On that day, Gandhiji had said: 'Nuclear bombs will solve no problems. They should be destroyed.' This was Gandhiji's statement. What did Panditji say in 1959 at the U.N.?

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He was the first leader in the world who said in the United Nations that the nuclear weapons had to be destroyed and there should be a general and complete disarmament. This was his language. He struggled throughout his life for this. After him, Shrimati Indira Gandhi's the Prime Minister of India, struggled in her own

way, dynamic way. Today, Shri Rajiv Gandhi is following them and he has succeeded in it. The credit should go to the two big leaders, the Super Powers—President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev. I know that India has also played its role. In 1983, how the situation was dangerous. It is for us to remember it. It is the voice of reason that counts; it is the moral voice that counts; it is not only the force that counts; it is the reason, it is the truth, it is the voice of sanity and wisdom that counts. In 1983, there was no talk about disarmament. All talks about disarmament were suspended; whether it was in Geneva or in Helsinki or any other place. Everywhere we were talking about the balance of terrors; we were talking of accelerated nuclear arms race; it was going space. At that time in Delhi, presiding over the Seventh NAC, she gave a declaration known as New Delhi Declaration that nuclear disarmament was the only way for the survival of mankind; that Declaration went from here. On 21st May, 1984, a few months before her death, she took an initiative called "Six Nations Initiative" in which she gave a programme about a comprehensive test ban treaty. This was also known as Famous May Initiative. That programme was sent around and it was working slowly, peacefully and quietly. After her death, our young Prime Minister took it up and we proposed a Verification System involving all kinds of things and all the six leaders from the five continents. Our present Prime Minister pursued it. Today the result is that they first met in Geneva for acquaintance meeting. This was the first time that the two leaders met. Then they met at other place. So, we call it huddle—muddle meeting because they were all on the point of reaching an agreement. (Interruptions). But it all muddled up.

Finally, the Washington meeting resulted in a success. Now a news comes from Moscow saying that the meeting between the two leaders—President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev will take place before May or July. There they will go on to the next stage of a deep cut into the strategic missiles and the Afghanistan question. This is another ramification of this. We are deeply involved into it. We had played a role in Afghanistan and even now we are playing it regarding what arrangement there will

take place. Here again we know about the deep suspicion between the two leaders with regard to withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. How this withdrawal will take place? What is the date of the withdrawal of troops? What is the time frame of withdrawal of troops?

These developments are taking place because now they trust each other. Even the language has changed. India is following the policy of quiet diplomacy, following a certain base and we have been taking a lot of pains. It has a rhythm which the President has reminded us following a vision which has worked. Now the Afghanistan situation is like one of the regional conflicts. You can see the difference now. The Indian independence movement was a mass movement in history, the biggest mass movement. India's initiative always inevitably believed on the initiative of the people, creating a strong people's will throughout the world and that is what it has created, the will. If you go to any country there is a yearning for peace, there is a yearning for disarmament, they have welcomed all this and the biggest example is that about all these regional conflicts, there are talks now. Things are moving on Afghanistan, talks have taken place in Kampuchea but the most important change is that the situation in Nicaragua is going to change, and has changed. Why? Because, earlier the Congress refused to cut down the President's aid to Nicaragua. This year the climate in America has changed. They have refused any aid to the President. The President has been totally rejected. They have refused! That is the change that has come.

So, let us face the challenges. There is a challenge. I need not go into it. I have dealt with all of them. But the approach is, that Indian Parliament, our democracy, our secularism and socialism, these must rise to the occasion. About the challenge from external threats, I do not believe that any external threat can do us any harm, if the people of India are united and strong as they are united today. Whatever the weaknesses there are, we must give up and we can meet the external threat.

So far as the internal weaknesses are concerned, whether they are in Punjab, whether they are in Assam, whether they

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are in any other place, or whether it is caste or communalism or whether it is language or whether it is anything else, remember Gandhiji or Mr. Nehru. Remember the tradition of India. Remember the tradition of our freedom fighters, and after independence. And, we can go along strongly.

We have already laid the foundation of a strong economy, social economy and industrial economy. Our social life is based on certain basic principles of socialism/ secularism, democracy. It is strong. The Indian nation is united. It is on the march and let us come forward till our vision and goal is realised. This is the message of the President. Let us all accept it, acclaim it and give our support to it fully.

16.08 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *In the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion of Thanks moved by my colleague Bhagatji on the Address of the President which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together. In support of the motion I would like to submit that whatever has been stated in his Address is totally relevant today because the pledge which we took for attaining Independence of the country has been visualised in his Address which has now become a part of our national document. I would like to draw the attention of the august House to the first portion of the Presidential Address in which he has referred to the cherished values of the nation. The hon. President has presented before the nation the collective picture of our determinations and development. The hon. President has stated that the goals of Democracy, Secularism and Socialism enshrined in the constitution should be realised, social justice and equal opportunities should be provided to all and science and technology should be used for eradicating poverty and disease. He has further added that the natural wealth should not be wasted but used for national develop-

ment and industrialisation and modernisation should be fused with moral and spiritual values where all religions and cultures must flourish in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation. I think that in no other country of the world, anyone can provide a better total vision to the mankind than this. This path was shown to us by Mahatma Gandhi at the time of independence and in the international field, after taking over the reigns of the nation, the Hon. Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru gave an idea of mutual respect, cooperation and co-existence to the world polity. Later on, Shrimati Indira Gandhi pursued these ideas and took the nation forward. I would like to say this with all emphasis under my command that the idea of mutual cooperation and co-existence given by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to the world polity has been given a practical shape by our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi and he has been able to turn the path of world politics. There is no doubt about it. It is necessary to promote the politics of mutual respect and cooperation both in the national international fields in the midst of mutual differences, bickerings and conflicts. We have seen again and again in this country during the last few years the feeling of regionalism, language differences. Religious differences have raised their ugly heads and communal passions are being aroused for weakening the country. I don't want to repeat the problem of terrorism raised by our colleague but I categorically say that after independence many conspiracies were hatched to disintegrate the country, but surprisingly Government has managed to take the country forward despite all these evil designs. We are all grateful for it.

We are grateful to Mr President that he has assessed the conditions of the whole country in his speech. Mr. President has stressed upon moral values, about which we bother the least, while discussing modernization and industrialization. Mahatama Gandhi reiterated this before independence and after independence of the country Pandit Nehru too laid stress on it. Today we do not follow it in practice though we often refer to moral values. Mr. President has emphasised upon the cultural awareness and spiritual tradition of our country by talking about the moral values and spiritual perception.

If our country lacks moral and spiritual values, we can never become perfect man however we may make progress. An individual might be economically prosperous, but can never be a perfect man if he lacks morality. Mahatama Gandhi also wanted to be a perfect man and a common man thinks of it even today. We repeatedly claim that our country has moved forward as a result of our economic policy and technological measures adopted for the economic progress. Nobody can say that minorities in India are unsafe, or women have not been uplifted or no attempt has been made in multi-dimensional development, though the results may not be much due to the lack of resources. Nobody can say that our country has deviated from the moral values. The Address of the President is a lamp-post for us. We know that when we were struggling for freedom, the British Government did a lot of mischiefs to disturb communal harmony. But even in those days leader like Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi made his first sacrifice for the sake of communal harmony in 1931. Though thousands of persons were struggling for freedom, but he was the first to sacrifice himself. Immediately after independence, communal hatred had made such a wide cleavage that at that time also, our greatest leader Mahatama Gandhi sacrificed himself for the sake of national unity, communal harmony and to bridge the gap between the minority and majority groups. Again in 1984, our leader Indira Gandhi sacrificed her life for the same purpose. So, we have seen that whenever occasion so demands, people have cooperated with each other, readily offered the greatest sacrifices for the sake of communal harmony and national unity. This country has never been found lacking in offering sacrifices. A nation faces crucial time when its citizens, organisations and leaders lack moral values. In the absence of moral values, nobody can make sacrifices. A country never faces crisis where its citizens, leaders and organisations follow moral values. History proves that we never lacked these values. I am glad to say that Mr. Prime Minister also referred to cultural awareness repeatedly. I think that the success of his leadership lies in the fact that he talks of modernization and cultural upliftment side by side. On the one hand, emphasis is being laid on computerisation, industrialisation and progressive

increase in the means of modern development while on the other, our leader is according same importance to the cultural awareness. You have seen how much hue and cry was raised in the country recently about moral values. In the history of free India, never before such serious attempts of character assassination were made to lower the image of a Prime Minister who is a respected leader of the country and whose conduct and image have no black spot. The darkness created by the people would have destroyed the country, if our leader lacked the moral values. Only those moral values have saved our country. In spite of the darkness created by the people for their narrow political gains, our leader has been able to save the country from crisis by dint of moral values he possess.

On this occasion, I would also like to talk something about education. You would appreciate that morality and spiritualism find their expression through education only. Our education had some drawbacks. I would like to lay more stress upon this factor, as it did not invite much attention of my colleague. Our country has made much progress in the field of education. I am recalling those days when the great educationist ~~Rahul Sanskritayan~~ could not get the post of a teacher even in a high school due to lack of formal degree, though he was a scholar of 30-32 languages, though later on he was appointed as Head of the Department in the Moscow University in Soviet Russia. He was also made Head of the Department of Kannada University in Sri Lanka and Professor in China University. But the fact was that he could not be appointed a teacher in any of the Indian schools. It is our good luck that we have for the first time recognised the ability of the person, by introducing open university in which one could be admitted without having any degree. Majority of the people in our country are poor, they are farmers, labourers who live in villages, and small traders. By opening Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Government has at least given an opportunity to the small farmers and petty traders living in the villages who have never seen the road or rail but who want to provide good education to their children. Had the Central Government not given this opportunity to them, their condition

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would have further deteriorated. I am of the view that through these Vidyalayas, these people will get an opportunity to have good education. The type of products the public schools are sending out, I think, are not that useful to the humanity. Such a thing is possible only when the poorest of the poor in the country has an access to good education. What is the objective of knowledge and science in our country? On the objective of education, it has been clearly accepted in our country—*'Sa Vidya ya vimuktaye'*. The education is that which liberates us from idiocy and darkness. That is our objective. That type of education will spread when means to education are made available to the people at Government level. Then we shall certainly be able to spread our moral and spiritual values among the people.

In the international field, I fully support what Shri Bhagat has said about Sri Lanka Accord. Whatever Government of India has done in regard to Sri Lanka is very good. But what Shri Rajiv Gandhi has done to put an end to the politics of confrontation in our own country is also a rare example in the history of the country. Under his leadership, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has heralded the country into an era of goodwill and cooperation in place of politics of confrontation. Today in India, whatever be the party in power in any State and whatever be their ideology, they are given equal opportunities for development and progress provided they have faith in the constitution of the country and accept its unity and integrity within the constitutional framework. Given the situation prevailing in the country, I consider it the biggest achievement of our Government and for that matter of our leader. It has been the endeavour of the Government to sort out the issues through cooperation and goodwill. This is reflected in the efforts of the Government whether it is the case of North-Eastern States or Punjab in the North-West or any other State. This viewpoint has been encouraged all along. I am of the opinion that we cannot make all achievements in a day. There have been shortcomings and weaknesses. But the one who continuously strives to march ahead only achieves success. Today, dishonesty,

untruth, cheating and all such things are the order of day and it is said that there is nobody to check it. When I hear such things, I am reminded of Budha. Once a disciple of Budha, Anand, told him that after having toured the country extensively all that he had seen was immorality, atrocities and corruption all around and in such a situation what would be the use of his preachings. To this Budha replied—*"Appdeepo bhava"* meaning thereby that one should become lamp oneself. First we should liberate ourselves from those wrong things which get patronage because truth can not be hidden. Fire ball light of the lamp and sun light cannot be covered by a piece of cloth. It needs no obduracy. However, when vested interests are involved, we want to forget the truth by adopting some other viewpoint. We shall have to remind today that those who have faith in truth, morality spirituality, honesty and character should deep into their own character also. What sort of character we are building for ourselves? If we are involved in all sorts of cheating ourselves, we cannot keep the rest of the world away from these evils. Mahatma Gandhi and other great saints of the world have said that first of all we should mend ourselves for the better and then only good of the society is possible. If we talk of democracy and at the same time continue to neglect the people, it is just not possible.

I shall conclude by making one more submission. In the situation in which our country is today, nobody can say that we have made all achievements because that is simply not possible. As long as all people do not work in this direction continuously, as long as cooperation and goodwill from one and all is not received, these ends cannot be achieved. The work relating to development and progress and providing leadership to the country depends collectively on all the people of the country. Nothing can be done single handedly.

Mahatma Gandhi fought against communalism and resolved that the country will not be allowed to be divided into two. But the situation in the entire country changed and partition took place. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru continued to pursue policy of cooperation and co-existence in politics but the

world was continuously heading towards confrontation, strife and struggle.

Today the same opportunity has again come and Shri Rajiv Gandhi has said that we want the politics of cooperation and good will not of confrontation. Even where we have dissimilarity of views, we do not want to solve the issues through confrontation. We want to work with cooperation and affection. That is why while referring to China and Pakistan, the President has said that we have to create an atmosphere of understanding and goodwill with our neighbouring countries so that we could see our country happy and prosperous.

One more thing which I want to say is that no work in this world can be done in a single day. During the course of success, some weaknesses are natural and nobody can do away with them. Here I would like to mention about one of my friends and Urdu poet Nashurwahidi. When we achieved independence, we came across a number of shortcomings and weaknesses. He has drawn a psychological picture of such weaknesses in an Urdu couplet which I want to quote :—

Unbane trakki hai, yeh tere fazace bhi,
Kuchh gard bhi uthti hai jah kafila
chalta hai.

When caravan marches forward, when thousands of people come to the roads, some dust is bound to flow. What will happen if the caravan is stationary like a dead body? Some struggle is bound to be there where work is done. A few complaints of weakness will also come when progress takes place. Only work invites criticism. Who will talk about those who are lying like a dead body doing nothing?

With these words, I once again support this Motion.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :
"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 one has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1988."

Hon. Members present in the House, whose amendments to the Motion of Thanks have been circulated, may, if they desire to move their amendments, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the amendments they would like to move. Those amendments only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of amendments moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :—

"but regret that the Address does not refer to the unprecedented rise in the prices of almost all essential commodities."(31)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention of the electoral reforms and judicial reforms in the Address". (32)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not refer to the problems of farmers particularly regarding payment of remunerative prices to their farm products." (33)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

[Shri V.S. Krishna Iyer]

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the failure of the Government to unearth blackmoney effectively." (34)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret to note that the Address does not mention about the need to give right to franchise to all citizens on attaining 18 years of age." (35)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention to take effective steps to fill the unfilled posts reserved for SCs and STs." (36)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about a national policy for slum clearance and rehabilitation of slum dwellers." (37)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to implement the Mandal Commission's recommendations regarding reservation for the backward classes in Government service." (38)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to include 'Right to Work' as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution." (39)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about making A.I.R. and Doordarshan an autonomous body." (40)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to give equal importance to all the languages recognised under the Constitution." (41)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to give timely and adequate relief to drought and flood affected areas." (42)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY
(Katwa) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the Motion, the following be added namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about increasing menace of dowry and dowry deaths in the country." (68)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address makes no reference to the need for proportional representation as a measure of electoral reforms." (69)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to give autonomy in the functioning of A.I.R. and Doordarshan as autonomous bodies." (70)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not show due concern at the growing economic disparities resulting in more and more people going below the poverty line." (71)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that Address does not mention about the need of incorporating the right to exercise franchise on attaining 18 years of age as a fundamental right in the Constitution." (72)

The at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the Government's failure to curb the growth of monopoly industrial houses in the country." (73)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the USA as the main factor endangering the world peace." (74)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the growing expansion of the US military base in Diego Garcia and arms build up including nuclear arms there." (75)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any steps for the proper rehabilitation of bonded labourers in the country." (76)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to solve the problem of mounting illiteracy in the country." (77)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the continued brutal atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis

in different parts of the country particularly in Bihar and U.P." (78)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of ever increasing foreign debt repayment liability." (79)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the failure to give compulsory education to the children in the age group of 6 to 14 years as provided in the constitution." (80)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about that housing shortage in the country and the growth of slums in condition of slum dwellers." (81)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the undertrial rotting in jails without a fair trial for years together particularly undertrials in Jodhpur Central Jail." (82)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the failure of the Government to unearth black money and to punish the guilty." (83)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address to supply all essential commodities through public distribution at reasonable price throughout the country." (84)

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to effectively eliminate the dowry system in the country." (85)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the interference of the World Bank and the I.M. F. in India's economy." (86)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention about the need for inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution." (87)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention about the intention of the Government to solve the Darjeeling problem created by the G.N.L.F." (88)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention about the need for special Central Assistance for the industrial development of Darjeeling." (89)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to mention the declaration of the whole of Tripura as disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 on the eve of the State Legislative Assembly election." (230)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the deployment of army in Tripura at the time of election." (231)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention the declaration of the whole of Tripura as disturbed area without consulting the State Government." (232)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention the appointment of Governors in a number of States in contravention of all democratic norms, ignoring the respective Chief Ministers, flouting the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission." (233)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention the alternative proposal submitted by the Non-Congress (I) Chief Ministers on the terms of reference of the Ninth Finance Commission." (234)

The at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention the failure of the Government to clear development projects in the Opposition ruled States." (235)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to mention the extravagant expenditure in holding Cabinet Meeting in a Wildlife sanctuary disturbing environmental peace of the area." (236)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention concrete steps proposed to ensure the integrity and security of the country." (237)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention any course of action to ensure that the use of religious places will be forbidden for political purposes." (238)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention the acute hardship being suffered by persons below the poverty line due to steep rise in the prices of essential consumer commodities." (239)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention any definite assurance for implementation of electoral reforms within a definite time-limit." (240)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any scheme of the Government to probe into the unaccounted Indian capital deposited through various channels in foreign countries and to take necessary follow-up action." (241)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need of formulation by the Government of a policy so that the farmers may get remunerative prices for their agricultural produce keeping in view in rising costs of farm inputs." (242)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about Government's inability to check malpractices at high places." (243)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the disproportionate rise in the Consumer Price Index as compared to the change in the wholesale price index of the essential commodities." (244)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the measures proposed to be taken to strengthen and make viable public sector units such as timely completion of projects for utilising their full capacity." (245)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for implementation of a composite price policy ensuring remunerative prices to peasant producers, parity between the prices of agricultural produce and industrial products and inputs, limiting the difference in the prices, paid to the primary producers and charged from the actual consumers to twenty per cent and guaranteed supply of all essential commodities at controlled prices through a network of public distribution system by nationalising wholesale trade." (246)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take a serious view of the fact that in most of the States the implementation of the land reforms including the land ceiling and distribution of surplus land to the tiller has come to a dead halt." (247)

[Shri Salfuddin Chowdhary]

That at the end of motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not express serious concern that even after 40 years of independence nearly one third of the Indian Villages have not been provided even with drinking water." (248)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not propose to put any effective curbs on the drain in our national resources as a result of remittances of the profits interest, royalties and dividends by the multinationals from this country." (249)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the growing regional imbalances and steps to correct them." (250)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for recognition of trade unions through secret ballot." (251)

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH
(Chapra) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address that about the failure to carry out the electoral reforms promised in last Presidential Address." (214)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take notice of the deep resentment prevailing among Government employees about Government's not taking any positive steps to remove their fear of dismissal from service without being assigned any reason therefor." (215)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not spell out any concrete steps for solving the unemployment problem in the country." (216)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the necessity of increasing the share of the States with regard to various duties and taxes." (217)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps taken to eradicate poverty and to bridge the gap between the rural poor and the urban rich." (218)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to remove the sickness in industrial sector and unrest among industrial labour." (219)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps for removal of unemployment and under-employment among the rural people and the educated unemployed." (220)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for making 'right to work' as a fundamental right and under-employed in the rural areas." (221)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps for giving remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce." (222)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the interference of the World Bank and the IMF in India's economy." (223)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the necessity of re-examining the automobile policy and need to give more stress on efficient and reliable public transport." (224)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the necessity of taxing the agricultural income to raise internal resources." (225)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to fix a ceiling on income and expenditure." (226)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to mention that Government will not go in for privatisation of public sector institutions." (227)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the steps that Government propose to take for the removal and rehabilitation of slum dwellers in the big cities." (228)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the implementation of the National Health Policy." (229)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not refer to failure of the Government in containing the terrorism in Punjab and to save innocent people from the hands of the terrorists." (262)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not give any facts which justify the stay of Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka resulting enormous loss in men and material." (263)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about ill-treatment to lawyers by the police in Delhi." (264)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address has completely failed to take note of the excesses committed by police all over India." (265)

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any concern by the Government with regard to the growing number of deaths in police lock-ups." (266)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the appointment of Governors without consulting Chief Ministers of certain States." (267)

That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about early restoration of popular Government in Punjab" (268)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the impropriety of raising the prices of petrol, steel, and other commodities a few days before the commencement of the Budget Session." (269)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address lacks concern with regard to the edible oil seed growers who are not able to get remunerative prices for their oil seeds because Government is resorting to import of edible oil to the detriment of oil seed growers." (270)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the delay in setting up of Vizayanagar Steel Plant in Karnataka." (271)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the increase in the number of unemployed and under employed persons in rural areas." (272)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need to check growing expenditure on administration and non-plan expenditure." (273)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not show any concern with regard to increasing poverty and misery of people in the country." (274)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address fails to note about the encroachment by the Centre into the power of the States and thus increasing their dependence on the Centre." (275)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about need for increasing the share of the State Governments in all taxes and duties collected." (276)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take serious view of the acute shortage of power in the country and the failure of the Government to step up the production and distribution of electricity." (277)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not reflect the utter failure of the Government in preventing the flight of capital from the country." (278)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any concrete steps to check malpractices at all levels in the Government machinery." (279)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any serious effort made by the Government to unearth black money which is ruining the economy of the country." (280)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about enhancing the power of the T.V. relay station at Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh from 100 watts to 10 megawatts." (281)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention any effective steps to bridge the widening disparity of incomes between the poor and the rich." (282)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the apathy of the Government towards imposition of ceiling on urban property." (283)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about establishing a socialistic pattern of society." (284)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not take serious note of the Government's failure in maintaining law and order in Delhi." (285)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about need to provide drinking water to all the villages." (286)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for diversion of Netravathi River Water (in Karnataka) to the district of Kolar, Chitradurga, and Tumkur in the State of Karnataka and the district of Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh." (287)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about constructing a parallel canal from the foreshore of Tungabhadra to solve the drinking water problem of Anantapur district in Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh." (288)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about steps to improve irrigation facilities in the chronic drought affected areas particularly of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh." (289)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

[Shri K. Ramachandria Reddy]

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the fact that the continuous fall in the value of rupee has caused irreparable damage to the economic structure in India." (290)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the failure poverty alleviation programme like IRDP; NREP; RLEGP and DPAP in removing the rural poverty and improve the lot of rural people." (291)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention any serious effort made by Government to improve the lot of the agricultural labourers with regard to their wages, living conditions." (292)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any serious effort to provide adequate credit facilities to the Indian farmer." (293)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not contain any effort for a Central legislation to reduce the enormous disparity in the price of agricultural produce and industrial products." (294)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention of any effort to make India into a single zone with regard to movement of all agricultural produce." (295)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely ::

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of any scheme for providing buildings for all primary schools in the country." (330)

That a the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the need for remunerative prices for sugarcane, cotton and tobacco." (331)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address fails to note the incidents of 'Sati' during last year." (332)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address fails to impose any curb on the ever increasing defence expenditure." (333)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention any steps for permanent solution of famine in chronic drought affected areas particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan." (334)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret for the absence of any plan in the Address to locate industries in the drought prone areas in the country." (335)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need for electoral reforms." (336)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to provide Vayudut air service between Hyderabad and Cuddapah and Hyderabad and Anantapur." (337)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret the Address does not mention about the need for construction of a thermal power station in Muddanoor Cuddapah district in Andhra Pradesh." (338)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any effort by the Research and Development evolving a drought resistance groundnut seed to be utilised in areas of low rainfall." (339)

That at the end of the motion' the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not suggest any effective steps to improve the yield per acre of all agricultural produce." (340)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any effort to utilise the gas in oil-wells in Andhra Pradesh for fertilizers." (341)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not take serious view of the half-hearted efforts of the Government in implementing birth control schemes to check the explosion of population." (342)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention any efforts to stop the migration of rural folk from villages to towns and cities who have to go to towns in search of work." (343)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the handloom industry being unable to provide work for the handloom weavers as this industry is unable to face the onslaught of modernised cotton mills." (344)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any solution with regard to growing unrest in the Industrial sector." (345)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not evaluate properly the foreign policy of the Government which has converted all with reference to out relations with neighbouring countries." (346)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the fact that a grave threat is posed to our country by Pakistan which is accumulating sophisticated weapons from America." (347)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about easing of the tension in the border area between China and India in the wake of claim by China with regard to some areas in Arunachal Pradesh and other areas." (348)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO (Vijayawada) : I beg to move :

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not refer to the unprecedented rise in the prices of almost all essential commodities." (349)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that there is no mention of need for electoral and judicial reforms in the Address." (350)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not refer to the problems of farmers particularly regarding payment of remunerative prices for their farm produce." (351)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the failure of the Government to unearth blackmoney effectively." (352)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about a national policy for slum clearance and rehabilitation of slum dwellers." (353)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that in the Address there is no mention about the need to implement the Mandal Commission's recommendations regarding reservation for the backward classes in Government service." (354)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about making A.I.R. and Doordarshan an autonomous body." (355)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the need to give equal importance to all the languages recognised under the Constitution." (356)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address of the need to provide timely and adequate relief to drought and flood affected areas." (357)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that there is no mention in the Address about the steps to be taken to solve Punjab problem." (358)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not take note of the widespread discontentment among Government servants, consequent upon the Supreme Court Judgement in the matter of dismissal of Government servants without assigning any reasons therefor." (359)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the need for a National Urban Development Policy." (360)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about the steps proposed to be taken to remove the abnormal disparities in the income of the people in the country." (361)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention the steps that Government would take to remove industrial sickness." (362)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about steps to be taken to make justice speedy and cheaper for the common man." (363)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address fails to guarantee remunerative prices to farmers for their produce and thus improve their lot" (364)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the need for a National Policy on reservations for the backward classes in the country." (365)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address fails to mention about the inadequacy in the implementation of the National Health Policy." (366)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :

"but regret that the Address does not mention any proposal to include cotton, tobacco, chillies, turmeric, cash

crops also within the purview of comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme." (367)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention any proposal to fix remunerative prices for chillies, turmeric crop by the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices." (368)

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention about any measure to continue the incentives to the Industrially Backward areas." (369)

That at the end of the motion, the following to added, namely :-

"but regret that the Address does not mention any measure to treat taluk/Panchayat Samithi/Mandal as a unit to determine the industrial backwardness to replace "No Industry District Policy." (370)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Mr. Bhattam Srirama Murty may speak.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir, the Prime Minister is on record having broken several conventions many a time in the past. I don't know whether his absence today during the discussion on an important subject like the Presidential Address is also one more instance in breaking such conventions. I take, in any case, a very strong exception to his absence and this is highly improper and let it be placed on record that this shows the scant respect with which the Prime Minister treats the Parliament as such.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. Buta Singh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is highly objectionable and the Hon. Member should not cast this personal aspersion on the Prime Minister. The Government is very much here, the Hon. Prime Minister, was

[Shri S. Buta Singh]

here just now and the Government is very much here. This is too unbecoming of a leader of a Party which claims to be a major group in the opposition. He should at least show some respect to the high office of the Prime Minister and not stoop so low. This should be expunged from the proceedings. The Government is very much here.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
Sir, I am not yielding. He has no business to say like this.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Sir, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had said the same thing...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : The Prime Minister is very much here, he has just now left.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
I am not yielding.

S. BUTA SINGH : How can you say that he was not here ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has his opinion.

S. BUTA SINGH : He was here. How can he say that he was not here ? *(Interruptions)*. And we expect some level from the opposition and they must rise up to that level.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
I am here as a Member of the opposition...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : The Prime Minister was very much here and the Government is here. You can make criticism of the policies of the Government. *(Interruptions)*. Sir, it is a personal attack on the Prime Minister. It is more unbecoming of him. This shows scant respect they have for the parliamentary democracy. The Prime Minister was very much here.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
He must be called to order. He has no business to say like this. What is the level which he is wanting ? I am representing the opposition.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
I am representing the Opposition. I am initiating this debate.

S. BUTA SINGH : He is the leader of the whole country. He represents the whole country.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would respectfully point out to him that it is no disrespect but there is a convention that when the first speaker on the Opposition side speaks, normally the Leader of the House remains present. He is the first speaker from the Opposition.

S. BUTA SINGH : He was very much here. For some reason, he has to go for a while. That does not mean that he has no respect for the House. He was here. He may come back, here. Why should the Member stoop so low ? I never expected this from him. He should show some respect to the office of the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue your speech.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
I have the right to point out this. He has no business to object to my right of pointing out this lapse.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are not sorry for disrespect to the Vice-President.

S. BUTA SINGH : Let us not bring that here. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please continue.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Sir, the President during his Address in para 3 said :

"Our vision of India is a land whose unity and integrity are invulnerable to external threats or internal weaknesses :

—where the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our Constitution, are fully realised;

—where social justice prevails, with equality of opportunity for every human being; etc."

About six points were mentioned by him. In such a situation, for them, I read the following :

Sir, we are passing through the current period in the history of India, where the democratic ideals and conventions are consistently flouted and stifled and the concept of socialism defied and diluted by the Government.

Sir, we are living at a time when social justice is a cry in wilderness while abundant opportunities are opened up to the rich and to the fortunate few. We are living at the time when the Prime Minister is at war in season and out of season with the Press and the Opposition, for no reason.

Sir, again we are living at a time, when in the name of technology, doors are open to multi-nationals who invaded the domestic market cutting at the root of the long cherished concept of self-reliance and the sanctity of the core, sector project; Sir, again, let me say, we are living at a time when the Prime Minister advises the students at Santioiketan, 'Don't read newspapers. They are writing blatant lies'. His New Year's resolve is not to take the Press seriously.

This is the state of affairs in this country. Again, let me point out that we

live at a time when the Prime Minister said that the country cannot afford socialism because the public sector which also forms part of socialism, instead of generating wealth, eats wealth and therefore, this country cannot afford socialism.

These are the circumstances in which we are living today and this is the position which we are now facing. This is about the Presidential Address.

I would like to further point out now, as a matter of fact, how do they respect the sanctity of the budget. I will make a passing reference. There is a pre-budget hike every time, every year and consistently during the course of the last two or three years, the pre-budget hike was 3 or 4 times more than the hike during the course of the Budget. That is borne out by the figures.

If Parliament is by-passed, if the Government is to take recourse to raising, mobilising funds by way of pre-Budget hikes, then what is the sanctity of a Budget at all? If the Government does not believe in it, then obviously and basically there is something wrong with the very thinking of the Members constituting the Cabinet itself. Therefore, I earnestly appeal to them that they must for heaven's sake forsake this habit which is a chronic habit and come before the House before they proceed with such hikes. I want to point out another thing which Professor Dandavateji had also pointed out on an earlier occasion. During the course of the discussion on the Budget, roughly about 80 per cent of the total demands goes without discussion. They are guillotined (*Interruptions*). Only roughly 20 to 25 per cent of the amounts involved under the demands alone are subject to discussion.

S. BUTA SINGH : Who is responsible ?

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : You are not responsible for anything. (*Interruptions*) You are only a Minister here.

PROF. MADHU DANDVATE : They are responsible for Bofors.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : During the year 1985-86, 85 per cent of the demands were not discussed. During the year 1987-88, 86 per cent of the demands were not discussed. This is the position. Now, what is this budget for? What is the budgetary control this Parliament is having? I would, therefore, earnestly make this suggestion to revise the system again. This was once mooted by the Hon. Speaker himself. Let there be some budgetary Committees, a panel of Committees, a panel of Members to individually discuss and debate, irrespective of the party affiliations freely, frankly and separately and also thoroughly the various budget demands and this has got to be seriously thought of. Otherwise, it is thoroughly meaningless and it is a force in a democracy in which we will have no control about whatever is being done here. Having said that, I would now like to say about the Address of the President. It is very disappointing for what it had stated.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVTE : That is due to the Government.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : It is more disturbing or what it had not stated. I expected some introspection in the firm delineation of policy and political strategy for solving the problems of Punjab Gorkhaland etc. Punjab is a political problem primarily. It is not in need of pious platitudes. It is in need of a political strategy. The President's Address refers to non-violent political solution. It speaks of non-violent political solution. What are the specifics of non-violent political solution? If the shape and structure of the solution in search is specified, of course, we, from our side of Opposition will be able to offer some suggestions and extend our cooperation. But if you indulge in vague generalities and never come to grips with the problems, the problem always eludes any solution and it permanently exists. Therefore, so far as Punjab is concerned, I would like to ask only one or two things, because in any case the Minister for Home Affairs is here. It goes to his credit that he got up in the House and justified the proclamation of President's Rule in Punjab on the ground that the law and order situation in Punjab has deteriorated badly and therefore it was absolutely

necessary for the Centre to step in. But now, what is the situation today? After the dismissal of the elected—Government of the people and after the imposition of President's rule, has the law and order situation improved? How many persons were killed, murdered day-in-and-day-out? What are the stories which we are hearing? How does the situation improve? It is not only that. It is clearly stated that a number of factors are there. Reg. release of innocent people, only those whose cases were scrutinised and were decided to be innocent among the Jodhpur detainees, that is one point which is hanging in balance. To take action against those people who are responsible for the anti-Sikh riots at that time in New Delhi in which about more than 2000 people were mercilessly massacred and killed, some action was to be initiated. But nothing was done. We have to create security zones and seal the border with Pakistan. But there is no talk. Nothing was done. What are the plans of the Government? Some time back, we heard from the press that Government would call for an all-party meeting with a view to find out possible solution. But nothing could be seen.

Sir, Khalistan maps are pasted in the temple. Golden Temple in Amritsar was under complete control of the terrorists. In fact, it is reported in the press that a parallel Government is functioning inside the temple. This is the situation. Now, if Barnala's Government has not functioned properly and could not maintain law and order, you have dismissed that. But now this is the position under your rule. Who should dismiss you? You must have resigned, What should the country expect from you? In this connection, I referred to the first statement of the Prime Minister soon after the assumption of office. He gave the initiative to the country that the Punjab stands the top-most in the priority list for solution and Cabinet is going to constitute a sub-Committee for that purpose. This is with the hope that peace prevails and normally obtains, and everything will come to normal. People voted for him in good faith.

At that time there was some protest that there was another Government. What is it that will happen? What powers do we have over the head of the State Government? You

please tell us. How Prime Minister confronted us on the floor of the House. Today that Government is no longer there. What powers are you now lacking in? What more powers do you want still more to control the situation? Please tell us and enlighten us and secure our cooperation for the purpose. This country cannot afford this. This is a great tragedy to continue indefinitely and infinitely. That is what I would like to say on the matter.

Sir, wherever you look today, there is a separatist movement, a fierce revolt against the authority of the State. Gorkhaland, Jharkhand, Uttarkhand, Kolhistan in North Bihar and of course, Khalistan are there. These are the tendencies; these are the trends. Apart from that, again you find insurgency—TNV in Tripura, GLFA in Assam, NSCN in Manipur, there is, of course, Punjab and Kashmir. All are simmering cauldrons of hate and violence. This is the scenario today.

Now, apart from this, the peasants in the field, the workers in the factories, the white coloured employees in the offices, all these people are revolting against the Government. There was a trade bundh the other day in New Delhi. The lawyers are on strike. Everybody is discontented and disgruntled. The doctors, the lawyers, the State Government employees in the whole country and several lakhs of railway employees and officers in the public sector undertakings, all these people, the Bhartiya Telecommunication technicians, All India Institute of Medical Sciences Students Union, all those people for one reason or the other have got to go to the roads and raise their voice against the Government to have their demands fulfilled, to achieve their goals. This is the sad state of affairs. If this is a responsive Government, if it can easily react to the people's difficulties and grievances, this situation would not arise.

Let me point out in the industrial sector, the Textile industry is in doll drums, the handloom weavers' plight is miserable, there is hunger and starvation, they cannot make both the ends meet and give a square meal to their children. The sugar industry is in crisis, the paper industry is in crisis, the fertilizer industry is in crisis. Because of the

new drug policy, the pharmaceutical units are also under closure. Over one lakh small scale units have fallen sick.

S. BUTA SINGH : My friend says that Telugu Desam is encouraging them, what can I do?

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : The President spoke in his address about unorganised labour and said that the Government is intending to do something about that. I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government that a Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Labour Ministry observed some time back that the wages of the agricultural labour are as low as Rs. 3 per day. Many of them get a job for about 60 to 70 days only in a year. Such people are about 80 million to 100 million in this country. What do you propose to do? Appoint a commission and await the recommendations of the commission? In any case, I wanted to focus your attention on the problems which obtain in this country.

I would like to respectfully ask whether, with 1/10 of the population entering into the 21st century, the Government wants the rest of the 90 per cent of them to remain in the 18th century itself.

As far as poverty is concerned, about which several claims have been made, a number of programmes were formulated. I quote from Mr. Vasant Sathe who wrote an article in Yojana, the official journal of the Planning Commission :

"However, some of us are determined to deceive ourselves in drawing a line of poverty and moving it upwards and downwards to find false solace and satisfaction that we have been able to substantially remove poverty and raise a large number of people above the poverty line".

This is what is being done. Just draw the line and move it upwards and downwards. But the basic fact of poverty continues. That is not removed. Again he says :

(Shri Bhattam Srirama Murty)

"The fact that more than 85 per cent of our people in rural areas and more than 60 per cent of our people in urban areas can be said to be in abject poverty, if that is understood to mean absence of basic requirements of hygienic and dignified life."

Please see whether, by whatever ameliorative steps you have taken, the benefits have accrued to the people lower down.

With regard to housing I also want to add a sentence. The Birla Institute of Scientific Research estimated the housing shortages in the minimum 15 million units and in the maximum 126.5 million units. With U.N. having declared 1987 as the International Year of shelter of the homeless our Prime Minister said housing is high in our list of priorities. It is an admirable sentiment. I am happy about that statement but the truth of the situation is that the actual allocation proposed for housing accounts for a meagre 1.3 per cent of the total Seventh Plan outlay. So at present level of efforts this problem cannot be solved even after 100 years.

The Presidential Address also makes mention of the decision of the Government to raise agricultural production to the level of 175 million tonnes by the turn of the century. We have the same foodgrains production during the last three years. The fact is that there is no growth in the agricultural because population in the meanwhile has increased by 42.50 million and in the next 12 years we require 235 million tonnes. Even if 2.5 per cent of increase in production is granted we will still be wanting 20 million tonnes by the turn of the century. That is the gravity of the situation which the Government must realise. Government have no sufficient plans. I do not know how they are progressing. For instance, Government have imported 5 lakh tonnes of urea which is already in surplus in our markets. A huge stock has piled up with no outlet in the market. Fertiliser industry has been pleading against the imports. The industry lost 400 crores of rupees because of import induced glut. Miscalculation of the demand

of fertilisers has cost the exchequer a huge loss.

Now about fertiliser I must incidentally mention one more thing. According to an estimate by the World Bank, each of the gas-based fertiliser plants using the technologies of the Italian company, Snam Progetti and its sister concern Haldor Topsoe is costing Rs. 75-80 crores higher than competitive units elsewhere in the world. So for 10 such plants which they are now constructing for which their services are now being utilised it will cost about Rs. 800 crores more. This has been pointed out by the World Bank and not by any interested party. In the industrial regulatory policy study volume II the bank has been commenting on the Indian government's decision in favour of Snam Progetti. Why such decisions are taken it is not known! Therefore, the Government may better look into the matter again.

Sir, before I run out of time I may have to make a reference to the Sarkaria Commission report which is relevant for more than one reason. It has been very clearly stated therein that as far as Governors are concerned it is desirable that a politician from the ruling party at the Union is not appointed as Governor of a State which is being run by some other party or a combination of other parties. This is the recommendation which was submitted to the Government about three-four months ago. Government is aware of the recommendation. So even before considering this the Government have flouted and against the spirit of this recommendation they have despatched Governors to Kerala, Haryana and Karnataka. Why was this done? The obvious answer is that the Government has not taken a decision in this regard. They are still considering this.

16.55 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Then, I would like to point out respectfully what purpose is served by a post mortem discussion of this report in case all orders are passed and nothing can be touched later. Therefore, the Government not only appoints a commission but is also

firmly inclined to flout all the decisions of the commission. That is the situation we are facing today.

In Andhra Pradesh, we have a bitter experience. I am quoting from a speech delivered by the Governor on the occasion of the Republic Day. The Governor has stated this . . .

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

S. BUTA SINGH : On a point of order. I am afraid the Hon'ble Member cannot discuss the conduct of a Governor in this House. Therefore, I object to his reading the speech of the Governor and trying to criticise the Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : He is reading a speech from a newspaper. He is not commenting on the conduct.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is he merely reading?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He is only trying to read the speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For what purpose are you reading?

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Everybody should know what her speech is. Let the Home Minister be enlightened about this matter.

S. BUTA SINGH : This is all propaganda. This is all for political publicity.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : I am only reading a speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow you to make a comment.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Whether it is relevant comment or an irrelevant comment, you yourself can arrive at a conclusion in the matter. Please let me read this . . . (Interruptions) . . . The statement is like this :

"No State can progress without the cooperation of the Central Government in these developmental schemes."

So, absolutely they should depend on the Centre. True, we also want the Central Government to help us in the developmental programmes. But nothing was done when we have a grievance or a grouse. We have our own difficulty. Of course, that is a different matter altogether.**

S. BUTA SINGH : This has nothing to do with the Hon'ble Governor's speech. The Governor's statement is a simple fact that the State Government can prosper only with the cooperation of the Central Government. There is hardly anything wrong with it.

Why are you trying to put your words now? Therefore, this amounts to discussing the conduct of the Governor. I, therefore, object to it. I request you not to allow this to go on record.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : I am only reading.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The comment on this will not go on record.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : I am only reading from the speech. (Interruption)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Any new ground?

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : In Andhra Pradesh, we see that more than 200 schemes of the Central Government are under implementation. This is what he says.

Can I not point out how the Governors are functioning? We are discussing the Sarkaria Commission's report and the role and appointment of the Governor. It is only in that context I am pointing it out. What is happening in our State? . . . (Interruption) . . .

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Bhattam Srirama Murty]

It further states ;

"Whatever progress we have made during the Five Year Plans, whatever help the farmers get to get water for agriculture, the Centre gave assistance for more than Rs. 1,000 crores for minor and medium irrigation schemes . . ."

This is her statement. If we look at the industrial sector, our attention is drawn to the huge public sector industries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are crossing the limit now. Don't read the Governor's Address further.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
Why not, Sir?

S. BUTA SINGH : All this can be discussed in the Assembly of Andhra Pradesh. Why is he bringing all this?

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
* *

17.00 hrs,

S. BUTA SINGH : I take strong objection to this. I am afraid he is casting aspersions on the high office of the Governor and he is describing the Governor as **. This is highly objectionable and I object it and it must be expunged from the proceedings.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
I have the right to condemn it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot discuss the conduct of a Governor. So, whatever you have said in this context is expunged.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
Let me make a submission. I am not discussing the conduct of the Governor. I am only discussing the speech of the Governor.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Speech is also the conduct of the Governor.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
In that case everything is a conduct. Conduct is something different.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please don't refer to it. I will expunge the earlier remarks and if you cannot proceed

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
Then I refuse to speak. What did you observe? Let me know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Conduct of the Governor cannot be discussed in this House and from that point of view, you cannot refer it and discuss it here. (*Interruption*).

S. BUTA SINGH : Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Member called the Governor of Andhra Pradesh as **

MR. CHAIRMAN : These remarks are also expunged. You are commenting upon the conduct of the Governor. Please don't do it again. You go further to the next part.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
If I am not permitted to make a reference to the Governor's speech, how can I discuss the President's speech ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is according to the Constitution. President's speech and Motion of Thanks has to be discussed in the Budget Session.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
That is correct. Similarly, the Sarkaria Commission's report is there. Sarkaria Commission's report is bound to be discussed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sarkaria Commission is not for discussion just now.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :
How they conduct themselves and how they deliver speeches. All these things come into the picture. That cannot be expunged. I will

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

not be able to yield. I will not proceed with my speech unless I am permitted to continue that—you will have to revise and reconsider your ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot permit it. You go ahead. There are other points.

S. BUTA SINGH : Let him complete his speech.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : No general expunction.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever is not allowed, I will expunge.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Let me know the rule.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based upon a substantive motion drawn in proper terms. This is Rule 3'2 (5) and Governor is a person in high office.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : On a point of order, Mr. Chairman Sir, here the Sarkaria Commission and the institution of the Governor whether the Governor's institution must be there, how the Governor's institution is being misused and misutilised is a point which has to be referred to. This is very relevant because Sarkaria Commission also refers to that. Now, how the Governor's institution is being misused and misutilised has to be referred to. Constitutional appointments are made by the Central Government and by the President. Whether the Constitutional functionaries appointed under the Constitution are discharging their duties properly or not, we have to bring to the notice of the people and the President. We are the elected representatives in the Lok Sabha. If we are prevented from commenting on the conduct of the Constitutional Authorities, who else will do it ?

S. BUTA SINGH : According to the rules of this House, to discuss the conduct of a person in high office, the judges of the High Court, the judges of the Supreme Court, the

Governor—there should be a proper and substantive motion and without that nobody can mention about the conduct of the Governor. The hon. Member did mention about the conduct of the Governor, only that portion of his speech must be expunged. He can complete his speech. We have no objection to his speech.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : What we have today before us is a substantive motion because the Motion of Thanks is before us and we can speak about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Substantive motion drawn in proper terms with respect to that, and not any substantive motion. The substantive motion today is with respect to the President's speech and we are thanking the President for his speech. In the first place, the Sarkaria Commission's report is not for discussion today before the House. A reference has been made in the President's Address that the Sarkaria Commission's report has been received by the Government and it will be placed before the House for discussion. In that context, you may refer to the Sarkaria Commission, but the conduct of a Governor cannot be discussed because of this rule.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : I am not discussing that. But can I quote or cannot from the speech of a Governor... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : How can you quote from the speech...? (*Interruption*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. I do not think, you can quote from the Governor's speech and base your arguments on that speech.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : But whatever comments I have made should not go ; the comments should remain on the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We do not quote anything unless our argument is based on that. You want to quote merely to base your argument on it ; therefore, I would not allow it.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : A reference has been made to the Sarkaria Commission there and I am also making a passing reference to that. But if you say that I cannot discuss it and this cannot form a part of the record, I refuse to discuss it further. I would have to lodge a protest and walk out. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is insisting on reading that and basing his arguments on that. I would not allow that.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : On a point of order. You are a reputed lawyer and you know the Constitution. The Constitution has given freedom of speech and every Member in the House is entitled to speak and he cannot be prosecuted, accused or charged for the speech made by him in the House. The rules of procedure are there only to guide, they cannot over-ride the Constitution. Our fundamental rights given under the Constitution cannot be over-ridden by the rules made for the guidance of the House. Here, the entire governance by the Central Government is under discussion. The President's Address is meant for a general discussion with regard to how the state of affairs of the country is and specially how the various constitutional authorities are functioning...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please. The freedom of speech is guaranteed under Article 105 and Article 105 itself begins like this :

“Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament...”

Therefore, your freedom of speech is subject to the Constitution and also the rules framed by us for procedure.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Here, the conduct of that particular person is not the subject for discussion. It is a subject for discussion only for the purpose of referring how the Governors are not discharging their functions properly. They are misusing their posts and positions...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry, I cannot agree with you. He was referring to the speech and in that context he was commenting on the Governor's conduct.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : We are not commenting on the conduct of the Governor, but upon the constitutional appointments made by the Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given my ruling ; no further discussion.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am on a point of order. My request to the hon. leader is, that there is a set procedure for quoting from a paper also. If the hon. Member desired to quote the speech of the Governor, he should have taken the permission of the Chair and he should have ascertained from the Chair, whether the speech should be quoted here or not. How do we know that this is the speech of the Governor ? How does he want us to believe that it is authenticated. This is a grave injustice to the House. He was quoting from what is supposed to be the speech of the Governor. Never in the history of this Parliament has this happened. The speech of the Governor has never been quoted in the House. This is the precedent that he is trying to create. I request you kindly to consider the Rule. Whether the hon. Member has taken the permission of the Chair ? To what extent can he quote a speech ? On what authentication he is trying to quote ? All this must be gone into. A seasoned Parliamentarian, my friend, Shri Madhaw Reddy should not try to create a situation and announce a decision in this House as if to draw a political mileage out of it. We are all serious. We want to hear the views of the hon. members. They should not try to politicise everything. They just wanted to have mileage in the Press reports and that is why they are trying to stage a walk out I am sure he does not have that in mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already decided it. It is not necessary to go into other questions. I have already given my ruling. You were referring to the Governor's speech in order to discuss the conduct of the Governor. It is not permitted under the Constitution and the Rules. Therefore, I did not allow you to refer to it. That is my

ruling and there will be no further discussion on it.

(Interruption)

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : You have ruled that he can read out the speech. This is your own ruling and now you are going against your ruling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I thought he was merely quoting it but now I found that he is quoting it for the purpose of discussing the conduct of the Governor. Therefore, I did not allow him to continue.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Will you please permit me to make my submission? This is on a point of order I am speaking. The Minister for Home Affairs is there and he has made a reference to Shri Madhav Reddy about his seniority. I am the Member concerned; I am making the speech, then how is it that he is making a reference to Shri Reddy. I am responsible for it.

S. BUTA SINGH : Because of my implicit faith in him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That question is over. Now, please continue your speech.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : As a Leader of the Party I have every right to make an appeal to the good sense and my implicit faith in Shri Reddy's leadership and I think I have done nothing wrong in appealing to Shri Reddy not to jump on such a conclusion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please continue your speech

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : I will not continue my speech. If it is objected to then I will give up my right to speak and, therefore, I am not participating. How does the gentleman sitting over there, occupying the treasury benches, is speaking in that manner? Then he is questioning the authenticity of the speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given my ruling.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : If the authenticity of the speech is questioned then I am going to uphold it. I am going to resign if it is not correct. Let him say that it is not correct. I am going to uphold that it is correct and it is valid.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us not discuss any thing. I request you to continue your speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : We stage a walk out in protest against this. This is a big blow on our own right. You will not be able to do it and if you do that then no useful purpose will be served. From time to time the rights of the members are abridged. They are put under this torture. Even then we have not been given the freedom to express our view points. Our State is reeling because she is adopting unfortunately a very political stand. On protest we are walking out.

(Shri Bhat'am Srirama Murty and some other hon. Members then left the House.)

17.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *th the Chair*]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the Chair and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for giving me this opportunity of participating in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The President in his address has covered the entire kaleidoscope of issues, events, situations and the actions taken by the Government as well as proposed to be or contemplated to be taken both at the domestic front as well as the situations abroad.

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Sir, not only has he spelt out in clear, concise and emphatic terms the resolve of Government and the action contemplated, but he has also reminded us of the vision of India as envisaged by the founding fathers of the Constitution and the people who participated in the freedom struggle. He has mentioned this and I quote :

“Our vision of India is of a land whose unity and integrity are invulnerable to external threats or internal weaknesses;

—where the ideals of democracy, secularism and socialism enshrined in our Constitution, are fully realised;

—where social justice prevails, with equality of opportunity for every human being;

—where science and technology have helped to wipe out poverty and disease;

—where economic development does not exhaust the bounties of nature, but creates wealth in harmony with it;

—where industrialisation and modernisation are fused with moral and spiritual values;

—where all religions and cultures flourish in an atmosphere of mutual respect and cooperation.

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.”

He has also invoked the spirit of sacrifice—selfless sacrifice—service and the spirit of struggle during the war for independence or freedom struggle. This is once again the reiteration of the consistent policies which we had been following prior to independence and even after independence. So, he has

also enumerated and drawn our attention to the notable achievements whether it is in the field of agriculture; whether it is in the field of industry; whether it is in the field of infrastructural development; whether it is the power structure—the power generation; whether it is Railways; whether it is coal or whether it is other parameters of the economic progress, i.e. communication and steel production. At the sametime he has also reiterated the sincerity of the efforts, the consistency of endeavours and the dedication and hardwork of the people which he has commended. He has reiterated the primary goal of Government, i.e. the rapid amelioration of poverty and its eradication. He has also drawn our attention to the fact and has also given an indication that in the Eighth Plan, these objectives and projections will be done in a more rapid manner and I quote :

“The Eighth Plan must provide for even faster growth, the maximisation of employment opportunities, and the vigorous reduction of regional disparities. We need both a higher rate of growth and a composition of growth which matches the basic needs of our people and the evolving requirements of our economy and society.”

So, while he has mentioned about the transformation of our demographic figures, he has also indicated that India is a country which is fast emerging in the world, which will have the largest amount of people among the youth group of below the age of 35. And along with all round human development, there will be training and upgradation skills; there will be requirement of full employment for these youth as well as the full channelisation of their talents and energy. And this is exactly what Government seeks to do, and I am sure in the coming few days, when the Budget is presented, the Budget—which will be the instrument for managing the economy for this year—will reflect the points which have been enumerated by the President in this Address to both the Houses of Parliament.

He has also spoken about the National Policy on Education, which is a pledge of the country and of the Government to the

coming generations, and a guide to the future, where equality of education for all is the key to national development, which will also give equality of opportunity and social justice.

In his address, at page 4, he has given various figures, to quote which I would not like to take the time of the House, in which the number of Navodaya schools has been mentioned, where the number of people living below the poverty line (41 per cent), where people coming from rural areas (77 per cent), and where people coming from homes of economically weaker sections, backward classes, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have found admission to a greater extent than their percentage of population.

The question of a comprehensive scheme for vocationalization, and enhancement of the quality of higher education and technical education has also been referred to. Many States have already taken steps to achieve this.

He has also mentioned the problems of Family Welfare and Health which are so inter-linked. Today, in an industrial environment, with teeming millions and with a growing population, we are utilizing every source of natural resources for the requirements of food, fodder and fuel for domestic consumption, and drawing on every reserve of water—whether from ground water or from flow. In many States, this has resulted in arsenic poisoning because of the withdrawal of ground water reserves from geological sources. Therefore, it is the scientific management and optimum utilization of water resources which are very necessary; and this has been reiterated time and again in this House also, and this also finds place in the President's Address where he has stated that water is now being considered a national asset, and a scientific and optimum utilization of this asset is to be undertaken. Already, a legislation has been brought in, in this very House.

The President further goes on to refer to the emancipation of women, to the oppression and suppression of women in our society which has been a source of

anguish and also a sense of worry to the entire nation, where we have seen barbaric customs and consequential developments. Only yesterday, we found our lady Members being greatly agitated on the attack on women in a particular State, in police custody. In Mahatma Gandhi's own words: "We are the trustees. Under the concept of trusteeship, we are the trustees for the future generation, for the country. If people charged with the responsibility of enforcing and safeguarding the law take law in their own hands, then I shudder to think what a citizen can do against the terrorism of State." I am glad the hon. Home Minister immediately yesterday rose to the occasion and has taken concrete steps. I am sure responsibility and accountability will be fixed, and the culprits will be brought to justice.

So, the President has also referred to the harmonious industrial relation which has resulted in not only the higher productivity but also in all round improvement in the industrial climate, which has also reflected in our export earnings as well as export performance and the entire economy as such.

He has also referred to the role of the participatory management culture which is to be brought in, which has been the subject matter of debate; and many Hon. Members over the years on various occasions demanded the role of the participatory management culture in the industrial relationship. Government has also reiterated its resolve for bringing in a comprehensive Industrial Relation Bill and also Employment Provident Fund Act.

Many a time we have debated that India lives in villages and more than 80 per cent or 82 per cent of the labour force belongs to the rural area. Government has taken positive action of not only appointing a National Commission on Rural Labour but also framing a national policy for child labour.

Then on the 20-point programme, the President has been very kind to mention that 30 per cent of the total plan outlay will be spent on the IRDP, NREP and RLEGP which have been the major instru-

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ment to attack rural poverty, and specially in this year's drought which has been referred to as the worst drought of the country. This will have a tremendous impact in providing gainful employment and creating permanent assets in the countryside which will be a deterrent and a preventive measure for the natural calamities which have beset our nation, continuously for the last so many decades.

Water is now being considered to be a national asset and a legislation is already in the anvil in this House. During the last session, we could not pass it. I do hope that we will have an opportunity of passing it in this session because for scientific and optimum utilisation of water and converting it into a national asset, we shall be able to harness water resources both in major, medium and minor irrigation as well as flow irrigation as well as lift irrigation and the ground water potentiality; and especially coming from a State which is rich not only in minerals and forest resources but in water resources, it is a paradox that the largest amount of people living in this country under poverty line belong to my State. So, this paradoxical situation has to be changed. Therefore, to remedy this, although the President later on also referred to removal of regional imbalances, I would like to mention here, submit here that over the years, various States which have been continuously in the grip of drought, floods, cyclone and other natural calamities, it erode their economic structure as well as their resource mobilisation strength and their base with a very large amount of population living below the poverty line as well as a large amount of population, about 9 per cent belonging to economically weaker section of the society. Various finance commissions, various Planning Commissions must take a look to see how these States whose economic base has been eroded can be helped in removing regional imbalances, regional disparities and giving a better quality of life to their people to which we are striving and to which the Government has committed in its 20-point programme.

There is also a mention of the national housing plan and the housing board and

the housing policy which will give shelter to unsheltered millions in the next couple of years; this has to be emphatically and very dynamically followed and implemented because there are many States, there are many parts of the country where people are still living in primitive state of affairs without proper housing, without proper shelter and sometimes they are housed in the open.

There is a mention of development of more responsive administration. While training programmes are going on, while administrators and people in the administration are given various orientations, the fact still remains that we have inherited the legacy of a colonial administration and the attitude of the people in administration to the weaker sections and to the people they serve is not oriented properly, and brought on to the same wave length, so the mentality of service, the mentality of cooperation, the mentality of thinking for our own countrymen, has to be developed. It is not as if there is a foreign administration looking after the interests of the natives. It is here, our own people looking at our own problems, looking with our own eyes at the Indian problems for Indian solutions and an Indian attitude of mind.

The President has very correctly referred earlier on to the cultural heritage which we have, the five thousand years of culture, the analysis and synthesis and drawing of the past from every culture. It has that our old traditional culture also pervades into the more responsible administration, which we are seeking to achieve. Administrative structure to be more responsive, should not only be responsive but quick and efficient. It must be time-bound, responsibility must be fixed because all your 20-Point programmes, all the programmes meant for the amelioration of poverty, poverty alleviation programmes, the five technological programmes which will be spending crores of rupees in specially water and other sectors will have to be implemented by this very administration. So, the new work culture and the new responsive administration which we are seeking to achieve must rise up to the occasion and must be oriented to this direction so that the intentions of the Government which

have been reiterated or which have been enunciated by the President's Address are given effect to and implemented properly.

The President has also referred to the internal and external threats to our democracy and to the Government. Only in the last session, or the session before, there was a warm debate regarding the security environment and apart from the external security many members pointed out that the internal threat to our security both to our democracy and to our unity and integrity is not only real but it is in growing proportions. Whether it is smuggling, whether it is foreign exchange racketing, whether it is drug trafficking, whether it is illicit bootlegging, whether it is a question of crossing across the border, whether it is arms running, arms smuggling or whether it is trying to break the morale of the people, the moral fibre of the people or whether it is a direct attack on our system, whether it is terrorism, this has to be, as the President has said, that no quarter will be spread nor given and the strictest action will be taken.

I was listening with great attention to the honourable speaker from the Opposition Benches, and in fact it reminded me of a little writing given in my autograph book when I was in school. Two men looked out of the prison bars. One saw mud and the other stars! The pessimist always looks at the problem side of things and the optimist at the brighten side of things. I wish he had taken the pains to go through the President's Address. But his vision was jaundiced or it was acting like blinkers in his sight. It is said that he could not perceive or could not appreciate the fact that the President in his Address has very beautifully taken the entire situation as it is happening, whether it is the external situation, whether it is our economy, whether it is our security, whether it is the internal threat to our security and what are the steps the Government has taken to combat it or to prevent it or where it has taken the punitive measures. He has only tried to find out the faults and has forgotten the various achievements which our scientists, our farmers, our youths, our intellectuals and our Indian people have achieved in various fields in our daily life, whether it is agriculture, whether it is science and technology.

For a country which was not even able to produce a needle forty years back, today we have harnessed nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, for laser, for food, for medicine, for irrigation and various other utilities for mankind. Only a few days back, we have read that the Defence Research Organisation has produced one of the finest long range missiles for the Indian Armed Forces so as to achieve self-reliance and self-sufficiency in defence equipment also. Our farmers and our scientists have provided us the food security and the food self sufficiency. Twenty five years back we went with a begging bowl to other countries and today we are in a happy position where we can share our self-sufficiency, and we can share our happiness with some of our less fortunate brethren in Africa and Latin American countries. These are no mean achievements and to denigrate them, I think, is lowering the morale of our people. I remember a saying by Pandit Nehru that the strength of the country is not only its military might, the strength of the country is also its economic progress, the political stability and the indomitable spirit of man or the indomitable spirit of the people of the country. This is the indomitable spirit of the people of India, which our late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had imbibed. She had given a pride to the nation. She had got her utmost faith in the Indian people, who can achieve anything given the chance, opportunity and the correct leadership. Today, we are not only following her policies, but her illustrious son is also going at a faster rate, at a more dynamic pace and we are on the threshold of the 21st century. The youth of today, who are the harbinger of progress and who are going to be the leaders of this nation, have to be trained and have to be equipped and skilled to face various problems of not only the end of the 20th century but of the beginning of the 21st century. It is in this light our Government has taken certain steps both for the intellectual and physical discipline, sense of enterprise and adventure, and affording them the opportunity to indulge also in athletic prowess. This is one medium which many countries, both capitalist and socialist, or whether you would like to call them communist, have utilised as a vehicle for bringing in national unity, national pride, upbringing the national health ~~and~~ also ~~esprit de corps~~. This is exactly where

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our Government has laid great stress both in the human resources development as well as in sports activities, NCC, Scout and guides, Nebru Yuvak Kendra and the National Service Scheme.

Having said this regarding the President's address, I would only like to conclude that there are States of this Union although we had a sustained plan process and we have just finished a mid term appraisal of the Seventh Plan which possess a lot of natural wealth and a lot of national wealth, for instance first and foremost in my mind is water. Water is the crux of our problem for our country's development because it is the water problem which is resulting in putting our economy out of gear. This year, do drought has affected our hydel power generation, it has even affected our export performance, it has affected our industrial output. In spite of this, because of the soundness of our economic policies, we have only had a seven per cent fall in agricultural production, a slight fall in the industrial production and we have been able to arrest inflation to 9.8 per cent. But the fact remains that if we had made more scientific utilisation of water, we would have been able to provide our farmers with assured irrigation and we would have been able to harness this water to prevent floods which every year cost the exchequer about thousand crores by way of damages and relief, which is a diversion from planned development. If we can give assured irrigation in the form of major, medium and minor irrigation projects, then our farmers, who have only got less than 39 per cent of assured irrigation facilities in 40 years of planned development, would be able to boost our agricultural production which we are trying to take to 175 million tonnes, and they would be saved from the disaster of drought and floods which not only bring in death and destruction but also it impoverishes them. And it lies on the Government to bring them back to normalcy economically and the entire economy has to be brought back on the rails. This has a set back on the planned development.

The second is the energy sector. Somebody has said that no energy is more costly than less energy. Therefore, energy has to

be given priority. And I come from a State where we sit on millions of tonnes of coal. We have water resources and forest resources. But these water resources and coal fields have still to be tapped properly. Therefore, without naming the only two super thermal power projects which we are trying to get—one is at Talchar and the other is Ib—I would urge upon the Government to take a comprehensive view of this to see that environmental and other administrative clearances of all energy projects in such backward States is given in a time bound frame because any delay means escalation of cost. There was a time when one MW of electricity used to cost less than a crore of rupees. Today it comes to more than Rs. 1.06 crores. So cost and time over-run can be saved if time bound programmes for clearance of these projects are done.

I would like to conclude by thanking the President for his very kind Address which has taken into consideration the major issues of our country, the major inputs which have to be taken to face these situations and the Government resolve to follow the policies which it has been following with greater strength and determination.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) :
The Address of Rashtrapatiji has thrown light on the path through which our nation is going and the path that we will take in the coming years.

Rajiv Gandhi's Government has led the nation for the last three years and these three years were periods when the political stability and economic stability of the nation was tested. And he has proved as stated by Indiraji ;

"India has shown unmistakable courage and capacity for meeting new challenges —"

India has given evidence of an indomitable spirit. When Rajivji took charge as the Prime Minister of this country, it was the time when many of the word powers thought that India will stumble down, India will be divided and India will be demolished. But it has been proved that we stand united and whatever problems this nation faces, can be

faced unitedly and can be dealt with very seriously. We have faced a new law and order situation, that is terrorism. It is unheard of in our Indian culture, it is unheard in our political life. When Khalistan movement took a monstrous shape our great leader Indira had no other choice but to send army inside the Golden Temple. If she had not taken that strong decision, India would have been divided. The primary duty of Rajivji was to see that the wound inflicted in Punjab was healed effectively. The Rajiv Longewal Accord which was signed after a long discussions and negotiations, was a sincere attempt to heal the wounds created in the hearts of Sikhs. At this time, when we look at the terrorists in Punjab, one aspect is worth noticing. The terrorists are completely isolated from the Sikh community. Now, it is a question of time how terrorism can be contained. Similarly, the Assam Accord and the settlement of the problems of Mizoram have clearly shown that political problems can be solved by democratic means, by democratic negotiations and discussions. During the last three years, elections were held in many of the States. In Jammu and Kashmir, in Kerala, West Bengal, Haryana, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura, the elections are over. What was the feeling of many of the Opposition parties? The Marxist party claimed after the Kerala elections that Kerala was with them, West Bengal was with them, Tripura was with them and that now they were to move to the Red Fort, that in the near future the Red Flag will be on the Red Fort. But the elections in Tripura and Meghalaya have clearly shown that the verdict of the people is against the Marxist Party, against the divided and weak Opposition.

Sir, the major defect of our democratic system is the lack of a stable and powerful Opposition. The Opposition in our country is divided. It has not got any idea about any problem that is facing our country. Sir, in this very House many of my honourable colleagues were vehemently asking for the freedom of the press, for the freedom of expression in this House. But the legislations that are being brought in the Karnataka Assembly show that in whichever States the Opposition is in power, they have no respect for the institutions such as the Fourth Estate. When the Marxist Party lost election in Meghalaya and Tripura, the complaint

was that the Congress has misused the power. But coming back to my own State, Kerala, where Local Body elections were held just one month back, the Communist (Marxist) Party which is leading the LDF coalition in Kerala misused the entire Government machinery. Sir, never in the history of democratic India we have heard of an election where the elected Councillors of Municipality were taken in the police custody at Nedumanghadu, and then the Chairman was elected. Is this not a shame to the entire democratic system in our country? In this very House we are strongly arguing for the freedom of the democratic institutions, but in States where the Opposition is in power, they misuse the Governmental machinery, They have no faith in the democratic system. That is why I am very proud of my leader, Rajiv Gandhi, who has always upheld the democratic system. Even though there were baseless allegations against Rajiv Gandhi's Government, this Government has upheld all the democratic institutions including the press.

Coming to the economic stability of the nation, we have proved beyond doubt that we can face any economic problem. Sir, this year we have seen the worst drought of the century. There was a feeling that our economic system has failed. But it has been proved that our economic system can face any eventuality. I still remember the days when I was a boy in my village, we were waiting for the ships from Burma to carry rice to Cochin, we were waiting for the ships from the United States to come to Cochin so that we would get wheat. Now, the times have changed. In the field of our agriculture, we could make such scientific changes that our nation has got enough foodgrains and we face effectively this worst drought of the century.

Sir, coming to the international field, again, I would say, right from Indira Gandhi, our aim is to have a very friendly relation with our neighbouring countries. Indiraji said :

"Peace we want because, there is another war to fight—the war against poverty, disease and ignorance. We have promised to keep with our people—work, food, clothing shelter, health and education."

Sir, our foreign policy is known to everybody. We are the leaders of the Non-Aligned movement. In the Sri Lanka ethnic problem, the stand taken by our leader is applauded by the entire world. The Indo-Sri Lanka agreement is the agreement of the century. When our Tamil brothers in Sri Lanka were brutally killed by the Sri Lanka forces, it was the desire of the House that India should intervene. But as a nation which is committed to Non-Alignment, which is committed to respect the sovereignty of other countries, we know that we cannot send our forces unilaterally. So, discussion started, negotiations started and an agreement has been arrived at. But I am very pained to see that some of our friends are criticising the Indian Peace Keeping Force. They are the valiant force who keep up the tradition of this great nation. Everybody knows that in Sri Lanka, both the hands of our armed forces are bound behind. At the same time, they have to face terrorists, anti-social elements who have no respect for the agreement made between India and Sri Lanka. We have to always remember and the House should salute the bravery of the I.P.K. Forces which, even at the peril of their lives, are keeping up the traditions of this great nation.

I once again thank the President for presenting a clear picture of our nation, the achievements made during the last 40 years and the future course of action which this Government have to take.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry, I have to make one or two observations. One is that I am quite sad to observe that the whole Opposition is not present. Only one Party, namely the Telugu Desam staged a walk-out, but the others have not found it prudent to be present inside the House, when such an important discussion takes place.

Second is that the Telugu Desam staged a walk-out from this House on a most unbecoming ground. It is because, the point which was being raised was not only unconstitutional but also not permissible under the rules. This is high-time, I would like to direct my appeal to the leaders of the Opposition that we restore the importance and the dignity of our high institution Parliament so that our democracy can prosper. To misuse the forum of Parliament is to running down the Parliament in the eyes of the people. We are the largest living democracy in the world and we should be proud of it. And the hon. leaders of the Opposition are as well responsible for maintaining the dignity and the importance of this august House.

18.00 hrs.

I would like to address my appeal to them that they should cooperate in maintaining not only the order inside the House, but also strictly in conducting the business of this House according to the Constitution and the Rules and Procedures of this House. We are not against discussion. This House is free to discuss anything happening in this country, it is free to have any discussion. The Government is willing to cooperate with the Opposition. But from today onwards, we must see that the Rules of Business and the Constitution is upheld by which we have sworn-in ourselves as Members of this House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 25, 1988.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 25, 1988/ Phalgun 6, 1909 (Saka).