

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

a plan for each Gram Panchayat and each Development Block whose objective must be the satisfaction of the minimum needs of the people within available resources and by a target date. The priorities must be decided by the Gram Sabha; the execution must be through the Gram Rajya or Panchayat institutions with control over the utilisation of allocated resources and over the administration/technical personnel.

The Panchayat Plans added together, along with the Block level projects, shall form the Block Plan and similarly Block Plans added together, along with the District level projects, shall form the District Plan. At the district level, there should be a well-coordinated team under the Chief Executive Officer who shall be responsible to the Zila Parishad, an elected body representing the people of the District.

The Prime Minister has given timely support to the idea of district planning. States like West Bengal and Karnataka have also taken some steps. What is needed is a national movement towards effective decentralisation. It is suggested that Government should encourage a National debate so that a viable and uniform pattern of decentralisation of planning and development can emerge out of the sporadic experimentation of the last 40 years.

(viii) Need to provide jobs to the dependents of the employees of Calcutta Port Trust who died prior to 1.1.1985

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Till recently, there was a practice in the Calcutta Port Trust and other Central Government Undertakings that the dependent of the deceased employee who died in harness was given a job on compassionate grounds.

It was decided by the then Chairman, Port Trust, in 1985 that a list of the dependants who were to be given jobs might be compiled and jobs given according to that list. It is now learnt that the said list has been revised by scoring out the names of the dependents whose fathers died prior to 1st January 1985 on the ground that three years have elapsed since the preparation of the list.

The dependents who were in the list have gone on fast unto death for restoring

their names. I request the Government to ensure that no injustice is done to those candidates who are waiting for the jobs for more than three years.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1988-89—  
*Contd.*

Ministry of Defence—*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence.

Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma may continue.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the other day while speaking on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence, I was talking about our military preparedness and the needs of the Defence Ministry, and I will pick up the thread from where I left it the other day.

We must have a perspective plan comprehending the totality of prevailing and futuristic security environment around us and thus be able to look 15 to 20 years hence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) ; Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion is taking place in the House on a important matter of security of the country but there are not even 20 members present. So, please let the quorum bell be rung.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the quorum bell be rung. Now there is quorum. Mr. Sharma, you can continue.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA ; This will entail creation of reliable system providing institutional responses, as distinct from situational reactions for withstanding and coping with any crisis facing the region and our national interests.

As a corollary, it will call for a close and constant institutionalised interaction between the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, as that alone will enable our

policy-makers to assess and make a realistic appraisal of any developing situation for taking both short-term and also long-term policy decisions.

I am sorry to say that this kind of co-ordinated approach was somewhat lacking between the Ministries while tackling the situation in Sri Lanka and if I am not wrong, the Ministry of Defence was asked almost at the eleventh hour for despatch of troops for Sri Lanka as Peace keeping Force as provided in the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the use of Defence Forces. I would like to request the Raksha Mantri, to refuse, as far as possible, the availability of Defence Forces for use in aid of the civil power for restoration and maintenance of Law and Order, for their deployment in that role means a deflection from their known primary responsibility. Army should be called upon on rarest of rare occasion, for the large exposure to and otherwise unfamiliar task will lead to dilution in discipline, besides setting in motion a chain reaction of other undesirable side-effects. If it is to combat the natural calamity and that too of beyond the resources of available men and material at the command of the local and civil authorities, by all means, do request the Armed Forces to go to the rescue and provide succour, but certainly not every third day. For the maintenance of law and order, make use of the police and the paramilitary units. But, for God's sake, leave the Armed Forces out of it.

Now, I would like to say a word on recruitment to the Defence Forces. I am glad that the rank and file of the forces are open to the deserving unemployed of our country. But, somehow, the Recruiting Agencies, particularly those responsible for enrolling in the ranks continue to attract hostile criticism of the public. I have no means to go into the veracity and otherwise of the allegations of mal-practices against them. But I would like the system to be fool-proof in its objective of selection and be scrupulously honest and also appear to be such.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, it is usually said that justice may not be done but it should appear that it is being done. What is actually happening in the matter of recruit-

ment to Services is that corruption is there. Money is demanded; money is paid. People come to us. My junior in the profession recently told me that one of his relations was keen to be recruited in the Army. It simply sent a shudder in the heart of my coy when my junior told me that Rs. 8000 were demanded from his relations failing which he would not be recruited. And the result was that he could not find a place. It is something which is really very serious.

Also, the fighting units of our Army, like those of the sports, arms and services, should be of mixed character at the most, if so warranted by some overriding consideration of administration or contingencies, while in actual combat, this may be raised on a regional basis but no more on a caste-basis.

Now, a word about Sainik Schools. While going through the Annual Report of the Ministry of Defence, I chanced upon the rather dismal performance of the Sainik Schools and also the diminishing strength of all Cadet Colleges, as many as 18 in number; the Sainik Schools could finally field only 126 Cadets to the NDA in 1986. How is it that they have come to such a sorry state of affairs when they are all structured to be feeder institutions to the NDA? I have also noticed, to my dismay, that the Army Cadet College, an institution engaged in the task of pre-commission training to the serving Other Ranks has a paltry number of just 197 trainees on its rolls. I do not know how the Ministry of Defence will view the performance of Sainik Schools and the very existence of the Army Cadet College which I find as far from being cost-effective. May I request the Raksha Mantri to have a critical look at the functioning of these institutions?

Before I conclude, I want to give some suggestions about our retiring and retired defence personnel. As you are aware, about 55,000 men, including Junior Commissioned Officers, and 900 to 1000 officers retire every year. I strongly feel that the experience and expertise of this disciplined workforce must not be allowed to go unutilised by the Government. They are a national asset and must be harnessed in various constructive activities. The Centre must assume deeper involvement and greater responsibility for the rehabilitation of ex-servicemen.

[Shri Chiranjil Lal Sharma]

Passing the buck on to the States, as is being presently done, means, in essence, throwing the child into the bath. I for one deem it as too important an area to be trifled around by a wishy-washy approach. As a matter of fact, it is too colossal a national problem to be left out of a well codified and uniform national policy. Dumping it on State Governments, some of which appear in many a case no better than non-chalant and disinterested bystanders, tantamounts to abdication of responsibility by the Central Government. There are, of course, some notable exceptions like the Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu which have a commendable track record of many a progressive and helpful measures for the welfare of ex-servicemen. May I, therefore, request the Government of India to assume direct and full control of the whole problem, or else, even organisations like Directorate General of Resettlement and Kendriya Sainik Board will continue to feel hamstrung, as till now, for want of proper and full constitutional backing from the Union Government.

Now, a word about Defence expenditure. While voting for the financial allocation for Defence in the Budget, I do appreciate that in view of the hostile ambience around us, when some of our neighbours are engaged in acquiring sophisticated arsenal, there is no escape for us from escalating expenditure on Defence.

I think, none of us would grudge and certainly not grumble about it. Defence preparedness, to my mind, is a premium on our all round security, and I for one, would not agree with those who view it as an unproductive investment, for it is an environment of personal and material, safety and national security. Only then capital investment in industrial and the rest of other fields of production activities can be expected.

Lastly, in view of enormous length of our coast line and very extensive, exclusive economic zone, I visualise, in not too distant a future, a vastly enlarged responsibility for the Indian Navy. Particularly so, in view of the new and wider dimensions imparted to the security environment of the

region by recent happenings in Sri Lanka and consequently the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. We would, therefore, need a more purposeful Navy now and an ever-vigilant coast guard. We may perhaps have to go in for another aircraft carrier, more submarines and increased amphibian capabilities.

While at this, I may also venture to suggest, we should have a Chief of the Defence Staff, since the successful outcome of any future war will inevitably depend upon complete and well-executed line of action by all the three services.

Therefore, in the event of war, any kind of an *ad hoc* consultative committee, comprising of the representatives of the three services, however well meaning it may be, would be a poor substitute for an institutionalised body headed by the Chief Defence Staff coordinating and directing and not merely overseeing the assigned combat roles of all the three services.

May I request the Defence Minister to give considerable thought to my suggestions?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipal Reddy to speak. Please be very brief.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Lajapur) : Next year, I won't speak on Defence. My time may be given to him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Last year, you had taken lot of time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : MR. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I must express my happiness at the fact that such a senior politician and seasoned administrator as Shri K.C. Pant, is now the Defence Minister. My only regret is he is presiding over the Defence empire when it has been drowned in the deluge of scandals. At any rate, I do not use this time on the question of scandals.

This year's Report starts with an ecstatic reference to the INF Treaty and a platitudinous hope of a new global ambience of peace. It is rather innocuous if not irrelevant for it has no bearing whatsoever on our national security environment.

It is no doubt a welcome and a historic treaty. But we must realise that it deals

exclusively with the problem of lessening of nuclear tension in Europe. It is important to note that not a single major engagement has taken place in Europe since the II World War. The super powers and other major western powers enhance their economic power and test their latest weapon systems by exporting them to Third World countries.

Coming to our own national security environment, our relations with our major neighbours, be it Pakistan or China, have not improved a wee-bit; if at all they have deteriorated sharply. Frequent skirmishes in Siachen Glacier, intermittent tensions on Indo-Pak border, continued unease on Indo-China border only too well illustrate this point.

But in my view, the security environment should not be assessed so much in terms of actual tension or for that matter so much in terms of suspected intentions as in terms of new weapon capabilities and as in terms of induction of new weapon systems.

In this last sense our security environment has deteriorated sharply in the last one year. Our Report does refer to two such major developments *viz.*, the decision of the United States to grant 4.3 billion dollars economic-cum-military aid to Pakistan and the increased naval activity in the Indian Ocean.

While sharing concern at these two developments, let me refer to one important development which the Report does not care, or may I say does not dare, to mention. That is the emergence of China as a major global exporter of arms.

Before I deal with that aspect in detail, I must hasten to add that I am all for improving our relations with China. In fact, I welcome the initiatives taken by the Government of India in this behalf in the last one year. But the problem that I want to refer to is not our bilateral relations with China; but the size of Chinese military sales and also the Chinese policy of indiscriminate and reckless sale of arms.

China is now the 5th biggest arms exporter in the world. While the sales of both the super powers can be perceived to be linked in some way to their objectives of global diplomacy, one is hard put to find

such a method in the sales of Chinese arms.

For example, China has sold silkworm missiles to Iran. China has also sold such dangerous things as IRBM missiles. CSS-II missiles to Saudi Arabia. They have a range of 2200 miles.

Chinese symbiotic military collaboration with Pakistan across a wide front of weapon system is too well known to need reiteration. There are reliable reports to the effect that China even helped Pakistan to explode the nuclear device of Lopnor. Our traditional approach of looking at defence preparedness from the view-point of bilateral relations only with Pakistan and China is no longer valid. We must also understand that our strategic perspective has acquired a new sort of dimension, that is, increased activity in the Indian Ocean.

India, not because of its ambition but in view of its large size and geographical location, has no option but aim at becoming a major regional power. We can't afford to be too apologetic or hypocritical about our status in the region. We should not keep suffering from what may be called a small power syndrome. In my view, the projection of image of India as a major regional power is essential not only from the view-point of diplomatic clout but also from that of domestic cohesion. A legitimate sense of pride can thus be aroused among all Indians transcending the barriers of creed, race, language and region, I, therefore, do not grudge this allocation of Rs. 13,000 crores for Defence. But I am of the considered view that the money allocated has not been spent in a cost-effective fashion.

As I said two years ago, while speaking on Defence, we have not thought of a comprehensive security doctrine. As a major regional power, facing the most sophisticated weapon, system in our neighbourhood, time has arrived for us to embark upon the policy of ultimate deterrence. I do not mean to say that we should compete with super powers. It is neither feasible nor desirable. It may not be possible for us even to compete with China. But the policy of deterrence does not necessarily imply or involve absolute and mechanical equality or parity. For example. China is

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

not equal to Soviet Union in absolute military terms. But USSR is in no position to take on China though it is immeasurably stronger than China. It is so because China is also in a position to inflict such a heavy loss on the USSR in any all-out war. I do not wish such a situation. No do I expect such a situation to come about. I was only referring to it in theoretical terms.

Then, Sir, we must remember that all defence doctrines are eventually formulated on the basis of the worst possible scenarios. The question, therefore, is whether we have any implicit theory, let alone an explicit security doctrine. The answer can only be in the negative. As a consequence of lack of any longterm doctrine, we have developed at least four major maladies : (i) gigantism, (ii) ultra-sophistication, (iii) snowballing and never-ending imports, and (iv) untenable self-image of unilateral pacifism. These maladies can be clearly seen in their respective symptoms. I may as well refer to them. The first is leading to neglect of the most essential small items. The second is referring to the failure in optimum utilisation of existing weaponry through retrofitting and modernisation. The third is leading to serious erosion of self-reliance and the fourth is leading to self-paralysing perpetual nuclear dilemma.

Starting with the first malady, may I bring to the notice of the House that we have neglected the procurement of small for the Army for more than a decade ? Our Ishapore rifle has been felt to be too heavy and wasteful with its 7.62 mm calibre. At least, since 1980, our Army has been looking for a rifle with 5.56 mm which is yet to make a final selection and I am told that the selection has been short-listed to Austrian Steyr, German Heckler, Koch G-41 and Soviet AK 74 5.45 mm. I need not speak of CRPF and BSF. Even our Army does not have a rifle to match with that of Chinese AK-47. Our Army suffered a serious handicap in its Sri Lankan operation for want of a proper rifle. LTTE terrorists in Sri Lanka were armed with Chinese rifle and the Punjab terrorists, of course, are using them with devastating effect. Our infantry does not have the night-vision equipment. Our BSF

does not have it and our Army does not have it. Our tanks have night vision equipment and infantry does not have the night vision equipment. We do not realise that the basic thing in Defence is to enhance the fighting capability of the soldier. We appear to betray our class bias even in this vital area. It is evident from the fact that we have lost no time whatsoever in purchasing SAF 9 mm handgun for VVIP security. I agree with the high priority that the Government of India is giving to the Navy. The Indian Ocean is Indian only in name. Apart from the Super Powers, the French and the British Navy are dominating the Indian Ocean. The Chinese as well have also entered the Indian Ocean in a big way. There is a possibility of the Chinese submarine, nuclear powered submarine entering the Indian Ocean. Harpoon, Exocet and Silkworm missiles have been distributed generously and freely among our neighbours. These ominous developments in the Indian Ocean do pose a threat to our off-shore oil platforms, our on-shore installations like atomic power plants and petrochemical complexes. Against this background, I welcome the acquisition of the nuclear powered submarine. I may recall that while speaking on Defence two years back in the House, I have pleaded for nuclear powered submarines. I am of the considered view that we must go in for production of nuclear powered submarine since the Russian submarine, I am told, is only meant for training.

13.00 hrs.

I also welcome another important acquisition, *i.e.* TU-142. We as a Nation are grateful to Soviet Russia for these two important contributions. But, Sir, after having said this I must once again reiterate my serious doubts about the wisdom of developing the light aircraft carriers. They are a typical illustration of our gigantomania. I am not saying that they are useless. After having read some literature, I am of the view that the purpose they serve is not in proportion to the gigantic cost of these carriers. A global super power like the Soviet Union could do without them for three decades. It is only now they are thinking of going in for two super aircraft carriers.

Sir, we must remember that in this age of microelectronics and miniaturisation we require smart tactical weapons like deadly missiles. We know the devastation caused by the Exocet missiles in the Falkland war and to a thing like sheffield. We also know the devastating effect it produced on the U.S. frigate called the "Stark." So, what we need today is not so much blue sea Navy. But If I may coin a phrase, we need blue skies navy.

We do not attend to many elementary things. Our ships do not have as yet anti-missiles missiles or anti-missile guns. A modern frigate like the Godavari class, might cost anywhere around Rs. 200 crores but we must remember that it can be disabled by a missile costing just a few lakhs.

Sir, we should be legitimately proud of Prithvi. It is a good start provided we have the necessary political will to develop our missiles on a full scale. Sir, we should have concentrated on missiles a long time back. Prithvi, as it is now, is not very useful. Its range is only 155 miles. Its precision is not high. Geoffrey Kemp of Carnegie Endowment observed that Prithvi with a conventional warhead does not mean much. This again brings us to our inevitable nuclear question. No serious political student today doubts the nuclear weapon capabilities of Pakistan. In addition to this, we all know the close relationship that exists between the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and Saudi Arabia has now been supplied with CSS-2 missiles by China. Sir, as I said earlier, their range is 2200 miles. Mr. K. Subramaniam said that each of these missiles would cost 10 to 12 million dollars and if these missiles are to cost or to carry conventional warheads, they do not make any economic sense. Obviously, they are not meant for the conventional warheads. Sir, therefore, India needs to think of this question seriously. It cannot keep the option open perpetually.

Now, the question is, Sir, as I said earlier, China has developed the power of ultimate deterrence. It has done so, in my view, not by buying latest aircraft or by going in for aircraft carriers; but by going in for missile development programme, by going in for production of nuclear-powered submarines and also by stockpiling nuclear warheads. China has developed the

approach of making up through increased quantity for relative lack of modernity or quality. They have gone in for retrofitting Mig-21s. They consequently have F-7s, which could be equal to our jaguars. Now, China and Pakistan together have gone into collaboration for building a new aircraft called F-8 with the cooperation of an American Company, 'Gramman Aerospace. The point I am trying to make is this. We cannot compete with the United States or other Western Powers by going in for latest aircraft. We will have to make the maximum use of whatever aircraft we have, through retrofitting as we have done in the case of all our tanks, T-72s, T-55s, and Vijayanta tanks with the latest equipment.

The other day, I saw a news item that America is now developing a new plane called Stealth B-1. Are you going to abandon the project of light combat aircraft in favour of the new plane? This craze for ultra-sophistication is leading to snowballing imports. Therefore, we must try to consolidate our technology at certain level. You have purchased Mirage-2000. You have got 40 planes for Rs. 1000 crores. You have again gone in for nine planes and you are going in for nine more planes. But you have not utilised the offer of this company to give you license for the manufacturing of this plane. I would like the Government to tell us as to why the Government did not avail of this offer.

One problem is, that we have imposed on ourselves a ceiling in regard to the number of our squadrons. I do not know why we should confine ourselves to this magical number of 35 squadrons. It is this ceiling on the number of squadrons which is forcing us to go in for latest aircraft. If we can go in for more number of squadrons, we should be able to retrofit many of our aircraft which are in service.

I would like to say a word about the DRDO. DRDO has done excellent work and I have a word of praise for the scientists working in that Organisations. We will have to adopt not the method of general, abstract and pure research but that of mission-directed research. We have developed the 'Kanchan' metal, the 'jackal' metal, the fin-stabilised armour piercing disposal sabot, 'Indra-I' and so on and so forth. Therefore, we should be

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able to spare more money for research and we should be producing all these in our own factories.

Sir, in conclusion, our defence inventory encompasses five lakh items. In the West, we have seen automotive industry and arms industry have been largely responsible for the economic growth in those countries. If we are obliged to spend so much on defence, I would like the Government to tell us as to what specific efforts they have made to see that the spin-off of our advance in defence research also flows into the civilian sector. Though we have mouthing this slogan, we have not been able to put this to use properly.

With these few words, I thank you.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me begin my speech by complimenting the Defence Minister, his two very competent Deputies our Armed Forces, Officers and *Jawans* who are doing excellent work and are keeping the morale very high in really a difficult security environment.

When we talk of our security and security environment, we tend to think that security means only the Armed Forces—the standing Army. But there is another aspect to national security and that is the people of the nation—the socio-economic and socio-political stability that prevails at home. These two aspects are very-very important in any conceptualisation of national security system. In National security, armed forces provide a stable environment for a stable socio-economic and socio-political situation and this stability in turn provides muscle power and support to the armed forces who defend our borders and our territory.

Our Defence Minister is known as a man of wisdom, poise and legendary imperturbability. But when I personally look at the security scenario, I have my misgivings. I would like to share with the hon. House certain observations that I have to make on this. Reference has been made to our immediate security environment and our threat perception that is splot our from time to time. Pakistan is mentioned and sometimes in recent months, there are

only muted references to China. I wish and hope that our negotiations—bilateral negotiations—with China will succeed; But any attempt to understand our security system or project our security system, will not be in our interest unless we analyse the profile—Chinese security profile—and its attendance.

About Pakistan, one thing that I would like to ask the Defence Minister is the American role—this has been continuing and it has a purpose behind it—equating India with Pakistan. Americans want us to walk into their trap and unfortunately we are also walking into the trap of Americans. We grudge; our being equated with Pakistan. But in our formulations, we always try to equate ourselves wittingly and unwittingly with Pakistan which should be abandoned in the interest of India's security framework, whether immediate or future. It has been said that Pakistan has reached a sort of strategic consensus with America and China as well. What is the meaning of a strategic consensus? Pakistan has certain strategic perceptions and in this strategic perceptions India looms very large on Pakistan horizon.

Americans have their strategic perception in this area, in this region, which Pakistanis share to the hilt. Therefore, Pakistan is now part of an international, a global security system; and this global security system is sustained actively by a Super Power, on the ground that this is in their national interest.

The Afghanistan problem was an episode in a long drama. Arming of Pakistan started with the pacts and military alliances way back in the '50s. Since then, Pakistan has been a proxy State, a client-State of America. Pakistan, in recent years, has acquired huge military profile, and sophistication, I am told, in many areas. Reference has been made in the Annual Report also that in very critical areas, Pakistan has acquired a technological edge over India.

Pakistan's role in Punjab is well known; and what Pakistan is doing and will do, is written on the wall.

\*Another aspect of security threat from this side, from Pakistan is the dovetailing of the defence systems of Pakistan with

other friendly countries of America, and of Pakistan as well. For example, Saudi Arabia—a reference has been made to the supply of intermediate range ballistic missile to Saudi Arabia. We have seen, we have learnt at our cost in our cost in previous years, how weapons were supplied to Pakistan by the Saudis at different points. About Turkey, in recent weeks we have seen reports that Turkish companies are involved in acquiring nuclear material and critical components, to be supplied to Pakistan. So, this dovetailing of defence systems of two countries directly receiving military aid from America, *plus* the Chinese nexus which has started supplying weapons on a large scale to Middle East countries and many other countries, has its own angle both military and diplomatic angle. Therefore, in any evaluation, we have to look at this entire range of problems that Pakistan poses today; and Pakistan does this precisely because a Super Power has been active in this area, Pakistan is now part of the American security system, with the central command in the Indian Ocean, or the rapid deployment force in the Persian Gulf. When Pakistan becomes a stooge of an internationally-acknowledged global Power, we have to think basically of the question of our security—whether the preparations that we have made so far are sufficient to meet these challenges that are being posed from across our borders.

Regarding China, we wish to improve relations with China. By all means. Let us not adopt chauvinistic postures in the House or outside, but we have to assess the intentions, as also the capabilities of the Chinese war machine. In Tibet, China has installed strategic nuclear weapons, as also tactical weapons; and in conventional terms, in recent months they have beefed up their preparedness; the level of preparedness at conventional level has gone very high in Tibet. In this situation, we are faced with a grim situation of asymmetry of disequilibrium. Our security system is facing a problem which basically to my mind, is one of disequilibrium of asymmetry in this part.

Sir, if you look at India's strength in terms of machines, equipment or troops, I would like to know the Defence Minister, whether the precise deployable troop strength of India or quality and

level of equipment, what is their party Pakistan, because we cannot afford to pull out our troops and equipment from our northern borders. So, in terms of precise deployable strength, we are more or less on equal terms. We are not ahead of Pakistan, and with equipment, with bolstering up of their strength through different effective sources, I think we will have to have a re-look at the entire picture.

In this context, I would also like to draw the attention of the House to yet another development of far reaching consequence and we can ignore this-subtle imperceptible though it may be only at our cost. In recent months, there has been a perceptible change in the geo-strategic and geo-political perceptions of super powers. There have been changes and shifts, and equations are also undergoing changes. I am sure, the majority of the people, people who try to understand the security problems of the country, will agree with me that in the background of these changes, perceptions of super powers, both globally and in our region, this calls for a major re-thinking on our part. Because, the conventional security parameters, in a very stable and known attitude of the super powers to certain regional problems and regional equations they are undergoing changes. This source also contributes to the growing fragility of our security of our security system. Therefore, I would not like to sound rhetorical, but I would urge the Defence Minister and the House to think of a new conceptual framework, and how can we do it? Sir, we all know that the battle field of the next decade or decades after that, would not be the same as the battle field of the past. We are placed in a situation where our defence forces themselves, perhaps, feel that we are face to face with a situation, where the next battle or war if fought at all, will be in a situation of disparity, a situation of asymmetry. Those who will commit aggression on us will be armed with nuclear weapons or higher level of sophisticated weapons. In this situation, the morale of the Indian Defence Forces has to be maintained. What is the solution? What is the way-out? The way-out, to my mind, is of a fresh look at the entire defence security scenario in our neighbourhood and also beyond.



[Prof. K. K. Tewary]

Sir, the Annual Report talks of our concern of what is happening in the Indian Ocean, what is happening in the Persian Gulf besides Pakistan and other problems. We say, our national interests are likely to be adversely affected by what is happening in these two theatres. Now, when you think of your immediate neighbourhood and when you think of your basic interests being in jeopardy in places like the Indian Ocean which is a fact, and Persian Gulf, than you will have to think of your clout, your military clout, whether you are in a position to defend your interests which you perceive are under attack or are being undermined. Therefore, Sir, in this situation the only way out is to exercise the nuclear option because if you look at the security systems of our immediate neighbour, or even the industrialised countries including China which as already emerged as a mini super power, the basic security concept is based on nuclear weapon availability or even usability. They talk of winnable nuclear war and, Sir, in this context we will also have to think of the doctrinal and technological evolution in this field. Unless India has a fresh look at its conceptual security frame and tries to figure out the national interests and aspirations which are to be safeguarded and protected, I think we will be trying to evade a challenge which is staring us in the face.

When there is a situation like this where you are threatened not only by a small neighbour, but when the neighbour, but when the neighbour happens to be armed to the teeth and acting at the behest of the global actor, then you will have to prepare yourself not only to face that neighbour but also to take into account of to confront, cope with the different obvious linkages of that source of trouble. If you don't do it, you are facing the threat of nuclear imperialism all around your border, and in this nuclear imperialism coercive diplomacy and nuclear blackmail come handy and, Sir, I would like to submit that India is not a micro nation, India with thousands of kilometres of land borders, thousands of kilometres of coastline and thousands of kilometres of exclusive economic zone, we will have to be in a position to defend ourselves effecti-

vely and, in relation to what is happening around us, and I would like to say in this context that there are effects of coercive diplomacy, we feel inhibited in our reaction to the threat posed by Pakistan through Chinese support. What happened? A couple of months ago brass tracks exercises were undertaken well within the Indian boundary and this was described as a routine exercise by the Indian Defence Force of different wings put together and perhaps it was also to test the effectiveness of the newly acquired weapons and also as part of the exercises that keep going. We heard of a 'forward policy' in Arunachal region. A sovereign nation of India's size and of India's clout was undertaking a regular exercise, not posing any threat to any neighbouring country. We were faced with nibbling of a part of our territory by a neighbouring country which sits over thousands of kilometres of our territory. So, we had a certain concept called 'forward policy' in Arunachal. But suddenly, they had to be called off. Was it under any pressure? Was it under any blackmail? For this reason, I am saying that even our legitimate security perceptions are being distorted and we are getting inhibited. So, this unilateralism, we have had enough. We have had enough of nuclear abstinence and celibacy. If India's security interest has to be safeguarded, India has no option except to exercise its nuclear option and I say with full sense of responsibility on the floor of the House that I do not advocate nuclear arms race. I am merely advocating a position of sufficient nuclear muscle in the prevailing situation globally and regionally. Whatever happens to negotiations whether it is INF or anything else, the world will have security problems and nuclear power is going to be the rock-bottom of any major effective security system of any major country.

In this context, the national power concept is also important. The power of a nation, its power projection, is important. Destiny has assigned a certain role to India, the size of India, its potential, its geo-strategic location and we must be fully aware of this destiny.

Only recently, Mr. Henry Kissinger talked of South-East Asia and South Asia. In that context, he talked of Japan. It is a fact that Japan is an economic super

power. China is super-power in the making with India as effective competitor. In this background, when I talk of national power, I do not only talk of military muscle, I talk of economic strength and unity of the country. In my humble opinion India is a country which is under assault and attack. Forces of destabilisation are abroad. For sheer survival and unity of this country, it is essential that India acquires strong military muscle. A strong India, united India with sufficient projection of its power both economic and military which is her inherent destiny, that India alone will be able to get over the problems of divisiveness, of secessionism, of internal violence and also face the subversive forces inside the country. In this context, I would also like to say one or two words about the NPT. That is, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. I keep hearing of all kinds of stories about our reaction to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty although we admire our Prime Minister who clearly said; "There is no question of India signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and we maintain it." Non-Proliferation Treaty is a Treaty of disarming the unarmed. These who do not possess nuclear weapons, they are asked to sign this Non-Proliferation Treaty whereas those who are proliferating nuclear weapons, weapons of death and destruction—and are now invading the outer Space with their weapon systems— they are trying to build space stations in the outer space. These countries talk of India and other countries signing the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Therefore, Sir, in the end, I would once again like to reiterate about India's power projections, legitimate power projections because the world is moving fast from bipolarity to multi-polarity. India has a destiny to be a centre of this polarity and this strength. Unless India acquires nuclear muscle and nuclear weapons, it will be difficult. (*Interruption.*) I will not dilate on this. We will take it up some other time. But certain people opposed nuclear weapons on the ground that India cannot afford it and all our economic programmes would be hampered. Let us not forget that before 1962, the same apologists used to say that India cannot acquire weapons to match China, cannot go in for modernisation and all the economic programmes will have to be suspended. But once attacked in 1962, after that we have under-

taken massive modernisation programmes of our Armed Forces. No economic programme has ever suffered. In terms of cost-effectiveness also, keeping in view the escalation of prices and devaluation of the rupee, acquisition of nuclear weapons or nuclear capability will be less costly. It will not be costlier than the acquisition of conventional weapons. Therefore, in the end, I would like to say that we should have a fresh look at the entire security environment. We should not become obsessed with the Sub-Continent's security system only although Sub-Continent is important for us. We have been too much Sub-Continent's centric. Let us go beyond this also. For the India's nuclear option, this is the right time to exercise India's nuclear option and go in for nuclear power. That will strengthen our Armed Forces, give them sufficient confidence because on all sides, we are surrounded. Our immediate distant neighbour America is in the Indian Ocean. Pakistan has already acquired the nuclear bomb. China is armed not only with tactical weapons and nuclear weapons but also with strategic nuclear weapons. Forces of disintegration of the country are raising their ugly heads by the weapons supplied by all sources. In this broad perspective, I think India's security concept—I emphasise on security concept—has to undergo a change. We have to have a more comprehensive strategic vision of India for which the country is looking to the Government and to this House.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will intervene now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while intervening in this debate, I would like to thank the hon. Members who have contributed to this debate. Each and everyone has given words of praise for our Armed Forces. They have supported us. Not only they supported us but they have urged that Government should provide more funds for the Defence Forces.

While participating in the debate, hon. Members have discussed about Siachen border. They have discussed about the

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

IPKF in Sri Lanka and they have discussed about the Indo-China border relationship. My friend, Prof. K K. Tewary, has just now discussed about lethal weapons. All these were discussed in this House in the past also. Mr. Indrajit Gupta mentioned about blue water naval strategy. My senior colleague, Shri K.C. Pant, when he replies, will deal with all these problems.

First I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the problem about ex-servicemen which has been raised by Shri Sparrow. Shri Ajay Mushran and some others. Yearly, about 50 to 55 thousand ex-servicemen are retiring and they expect some resettlement throughout the whole country. Government is well aware that this is one area where special care has to be taken, and keeping that in view, a concerted effort is always made in cooperation with the State Governments to see that resettlement of ex-servicemen is done. Some hon. Members have dealt with reservation of jobs, more in the public sector, in nationalised banks and others. This reservation already exists there. I think it will be very difficult to increase the ratio, but in order to see that the burden does not always fall on public sector undertakings or on State Governments, the Ministry has stated certain schemes—SEMFEX-I which is with the Industrial Development Bank as well as SEMFEX-II which is being done with NABARD. By and large, we are getting good response from the ex-servicemen, and we will continue these efforts in a more vigorous way to see that the problem of ex-servicemen is solved. As I said, it needs the total cooperation and collective efforts between the State Governments and the Central Government.

Shri Sparrow and Shri Ajay Mushran have raised a question about the recommendation of the high-powered Committee. The recommendation of the high-powered Committee for 'one rank one pension' was not accepted by the Fourth Pay Commission and it is now before the Supreme Court. Once the Supreme Court takes a decision, we shall formulate action on it. At this stage it is very difficult for us to comment anything on this.

Shri Sparrow has also mentioned about reservation. At present in the Central Government the reservation for jobs is ten per cent for Group 'C' and 20 per cent for Group 'D'; in public sector undertakings and nationalised banks it is 14½ per cent and 24-1/2 per cent. In fact, there was a stage when these percentages of reservations were not utilised. After the high-powered Committee had submitted their recommendation, a special cell has been started in our Department under an officer of the rank of Additional Secretary. After that, we are happy to see that the percentage of these reserved seats which in the past was only 41 per cent in 1984 has gone up 64.5% in 1986. I do not have the figure for the current year, but I have been told that this has further improved. As I said, after reservation of for ex-servicemen there is always a backlog of 16 to 20 thousand. Government is considering various other schemes and we shall continue our efforts to see that our ex-servicemen are rehabilitated properly.

As regards the Parliamentary Committee which has been mentioned by some Members, yes, there was a recommendation, but it has not been accepted nor has it been rejected. We have started certain schemes and started implementation of these recommendations numbering 68; except six, we have accepted the other ones. Once these recommendations are implemented and once we have the feed-back, then we would like to consider whether a Parliamentary Committee is at all necessary. But we can say this much that, at this stage, the Government has not rejected nor accepted that formulation or recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee.

Regarding the problem of disabled war veterans, as mentioned by Shri Indrajit Gupta, we will examine what are the concessions which have been withdrawn. Educational concessions are available to their children. But there appear to be problems at State and UT Administration level in availing them. This will be taken up by our Department. We will also examine the possibilities of opening more artificial limb centres, which Mr. Indrajit Gupta has suggested. Unfortunately, he is sleeping now. Presently, marriage after retirement or invalidment is not recognised

for family pension Department of Pensions has agreed to recognise marriage after retirement, invalidment for purpose of family pension but only prospectively. However, we will take up the matter as to whether war disabled can be treated as a separate class to provide for recognition of marriages after retirement, invalidment retrospectively. Other problems put forward by Mr. Indrajit Gupta about this facility of limb. I can say, at present whatever we have, it is sufficient. But if it is necessary in future, we shall definitely increase the capacity because at present whatever facility we have, there is no backlog for giving that treatment. But I agree with you, in course of time, if it is necessary, we shall not hesitate to increase that capacity. It is a good suggestion and we will consider it.

Shri Chiranj Lal Sharma mentioned about Sainik Schools. Sainik Schools are the joint responsibility of the States and the Centre. Fifty ratio is maintained. There are 18 Sainik Schools in the country and we have from the Sainik Schools, 204 candidates in the NDA. If you take percentage-wise, it is 32 per cent. I do not think, this is bad. There was a stage when boys never went to the NDA from the Sainik Schools. Now we are considering how it can be improved and we shall continue it.

A mention has been made that army should not be deployed time and again for civilian aids. It is always the policy of the Government, so also of the Defence Ministry that we never encourage it unless it is dire necessary. The army is not only helping the civilian administration when they are called for in the natural calamities and combating terrorist activities in various parts of the country, army has played a very good role. They have maintained and army must maintain good relations with civilian population. Of late, unfortunately, there are some criticisms when army has been deployed in Manipur and Tripura. And I can tell this that army has never involved itself in any other activities other than for what they have been assigned for, that is, countering the insurgency. We have seen that insurgency in Nagaland has been stopped. We have seen that after the army was inducted in Tripura, peace has not only come, but the killings have been

stopped. This is a good sign. Army has been assigned with the particular job and they are doing it. Not only that. When army goes to different remote areas, they take certain steps to develop better contact with the people. In Tripura, I myself, have seen that army has taken medical team along with their combat team and they have given medical aid to the people not only to their children but they have organised various activities there through distribution of food-stuffs among the children and they have given nourishing food to the children also. It will be wrong to say that some political parties are trying to say something against the army I would like to put on record that there is not truth in it. In Mizoram, in North-Eastern region, army has always proved that whatever, assignment has been given to them, they have performed it with sincerity and we always believe that army must have a good relations with the public and we will continue to do so.

About the mention of the Defence preparedness, as I said, my senior colleague will deal with it.

I would like to say that we have an organisation under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister—the Border Roads Organisation. It was formed in 1960. This Organisation has a perspective plan for 15 years. They go in the remotest area where it is very difficult for maintaining the communication. They are doing very good work and they will continue to do good work. This is basically necessary to give easy access to our armed forces in the border areas along with Pakistan and China as well as in remote areas where there is security hazard. The Border Roads Organisation has done very well and I shall have to put on record my thanks to the Border Roads Organisation.

The Armed Forces are there to protect the borders of our country. But at the same time we must prepare our civilian population also. Our Government has basically taken steps to prepare a citizens force which is the Territorial Army. We are happy that this Territorial Army, when they have been called for, has done a good job. We have seen that the Terri-

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

torial Army has played a very important role when there was a strike in the Railways.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) :** Their main job is to break strikes.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :** Not to break strikes; but to help the civilian population when they are the victims of the strike. We are not concerned how and when the strike has to be defused. We are called for to give service when the public suffer. We take this responsibility. We have no reasons to interfere whether the strike is legitimate or not. We as Defence Ministry do not interfere in that.

As regards NCC, this is yet another area where we have taken special care to build up our future generation. Not only that now we have got Naval Training and Air Force training in the NCC and our experience is that the youths of our country who have participated in the NCC are coming in the Army and also are getting prepared for it. In difficult times also their services can also be utilised.

Some Members while participating in the debate have mentioned about pensions. The Prime Minister recently in one of the meetings has given direction to our Ministry that not only the pension should be disbursed promptly, it should be seen that if we can, give it on the day a man retires. A separate department is there, but at present the Department has taken steps to see that Pension Adalats are held all over the country. Recently in Delhi we have held a Pension Adalat which was attended to by our Cabinet Minister. We have decided to have more Adalats all over the country. It will be our endeavour to see that for no reasons of theirs, pensions are not held up. Of course, there are certain stages where difficulty arises. Definitely we will try to see that pensions are paid as immediately as possible.

Some Members have mentioned about the payment of acquisition cost to the civilians when lands are acquired by the Department. It is being done with the help of the State Government. It is the

State Government, through their procedures, identify the areas and fix up the cost of the land. Once it is fixed up, if it is not contested by the recipient, we make it a point to give. But in certain cases when the cost is fixed up by the Local Administration, they are contested by the recipients and that makes things a bit difficult.

The Hon. Member from Kashmir has raised this point. I have checked up. There are two such cases pending before the Administration and both these cases are before the legal courts. Unless the court decides it will be difficult for us to settle these issues.

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON (Arunachal West) :** There are a few cases of such land problem in my constituency also mainly in Dirang Valley in West Kameng District and Tawang District.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :** Sir, individual cases cannot be answered now. But I will request the hon. Member to write to me. I assure him that it will be examined and it will be solved.

**SHRI P. K. THUNGON :** I have written, Sir.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** He will reply. Don't worry.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :** Then, I will also reply.

Before I conclude, I would like to put on record our tribute to the three armed forces of our country. Our army is no less than any army in the world. They have always risen to the occasion and stood for whatever cause they have been asked to stand. We have in the past, seen that our army has acted to the satisfaction of our nation while protecting our borders, while giving service to the civilian population. I take this opportunity to put on record our appreciation for the three armed forces.

I also put on record the magnificent work that our army is doing in Sri Lanka in implementing the accord. This is a special assignment for the army. The army has done a job under very difficult circumstances. But I take this opportunity to convey my thanks and also give

my condolence to those jawans or officers who have been killed or injured in the Sri Lanka operation. Our full sympathies are with them. The Government have taken some special steps to see that special care is taken for all those who are involved in Sri Lanka, either killed or injured and we will continue to do so.

In Siachin border also, our army is working in very difficult conditions. The climatic conditions and the terrain are quite difficult. The equipment, which is necessary, is not to the satisfaction. Even then, our jawans have done a wonderful job. Our Cabinet Minister has recently visited. He has explained and told us the circumstances in which our jawans are working in Siachin.

As I said, the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Air Force have always played their role effectively and will continue to do so. I also convey my thanks to all Members who have expressed their happiness about the Indian defence forces. With these words, I conclude.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, I rise to support the demands presented by the Ministry of Defence. I also appreciate the report placed before us. A perception of the threats to our country from across the borders has been highlighted. Some Members have pleaded for acquiring the nuclear missiles. I would plead with the Ministry of Defence to weigh this option very carefully before taking any decision in this regard. While, on the one hand, we ourselves are propagating the reduction in the arms, would it not look ironical that we ourselves plead for adding to the nuclear arsenal? Therefore a very clear review of the options involved and examination of the issues therein is required before any final decision can be taken. But whatever it is, the defence and security of the country has been paramount and so has to be our commitment to peace and disarmament which form the cornerstones of our foreign policy.

13.59 hr.s.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER in the Chair].

Generally, when Members speak on the grants of Ministry of Defence, the

role of the armed forces comes in for commendation and its appreciation from all sides of the House. But one section of the Defence Ministry is always left out that is, the persons who actually plan in the civilians sector of our defence planning. I mean, the administration, the secretary, the team of his officers, additional secretaries and various other civilians, engineers, doctors etc. who contribute not a little bit but a major chunk to the evolution of defence planning and who are the brain behind the arm that the army shows to the country and the arm that is so strong for the other countries, who are neighbouring our country.

14.00 hrs.

So, I would like to appreciate the services rendered by our officers who are not in the Armed Forces but who are in the Indian Administrative Service or engineers, doctors, teachers or who are manning our Defence Ministry from the civilian side, who play an important role. Let us appreciate the good work that they have done because whenever the Army communicates to them any change in the security environment, any change in the perception of a threat, it is these civilian group of our friends in the Defence Ministry who have to take cognisance of this and make the plan to meet the new situation in consultation with the Army. This is not to minimise the role played by the Armed Forces. Their role is very important, significant and good for the future of the country ensuring the unity of the country and its security on all hands. Sir, in the year under review, considerable improvement seems to have taken place in the upgradation of our various systems including our war machines and ammunition. I would particularly refer to the two highlights which have been referred to in this Report. The first is that an indigenously assembled T-72 M-110 Tank was rolled out in January 1988. Its importance is that this is the first indigenously assembled tank. Therefore, this is a good development in the country. Similarly, who have the first infantry combat vehicle Sarat which was handed over to the Chief of the Army Staff by the Minister of Defence in August 1987. These are the two highlights which show that considerable improvement has taken place in the equipment, in the apparatus, in the ammunition and in the

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

various other types of mechanisms for forming a part of the defence preparedness. I am not convinced by the arguments by the Minister of State, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev regarding neither accepting nor rejecting the recommendation of the High Level Committee for the welfare of the ex-service men, for creation or setting up of a Parliamentary Committee. If you examine the composition of the High Level Committee, it was headed by the then Minister of State for Defence Shri K.P. Singh Deo. It had the Defence officers, the officers of the Armed Forces, officers from the Ministry of Finance and six members of Parliament. It also had Ministers representing the various States across the country. Since, I was one of the Members of this Committee, I need not praise the Committee but I could surely say that this recommendation was the result of a considerable debate within the Committee and that the Committee came to the conclusion was itself a major step because the Committee felt that the ex-service men are in a peculiar situation. They are the employees of the Central Government but when they retire they are in the hands of the State Governments for their various benefits. It is not the duty of the Parliament to oversee that those brave sons of the soil who risk their lives for the defence of the country, for the security of the country, for the unity of the country also deserve the scrutiny from the Parliamentary Committee as to whether the measures have been implemented or not? It is not enough that you roll out schemes after schemes, that you publish in the newspapers, and give advertisements that you have started doing something for the ex-servicemen. What is more important is that these are implemented in reality and that there is no substitute unless Parliamentary security is available and is able to ensure the welfare of these people who are disciplined in their life while they are in uniform and by and large continue to be disciplined even after that and who also come to parliamentary forces justice has not been done to them. So, I would plead with the Ministry of Defence that it is high time that an important decision like this is taken because the High Level Committee presented the report to the

Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi, just four days before her assassination on 27th October 1984 and the Report contained this recommendation. It is now roughly going to be 4 years add few months and the jawans in the armed forces and ex-servicemen outside expect a quick decision on this. There are some other things that we would like to highlight for the welfare of ex-servicemen. Though 6 States have done something and the States have been mentioned—my State H.P. also happens to be one of the States—yet much more seems to be still in the range of possibility of being done. The process of revitalisation of the Zila Sainik Board and the Rajya Sainik Board was undergone rather rapidly. But it is unfortunate even now to know that some of these Zila Sainik Board do not have the transport. They suffer in various other handicaps and the attitude of the States representation, may be in the Congress or non-Congress State, is that of indifference; is that of some sort of a generous benefactor who is going to give something to them out of his own pity. It is not fair. Therefore, I would plead “please revitalise your Rajya and Zila Sainik Board”. It is not enough that a Governor is there to look after the interest. No. Actually in the field, in the district, in the block, in the sub-division, somebody should be there to look after them. Therefore, an officer of a high status, I would plead that an IAS officer, should be in charge of administration work in these Zila Sainik Boards and that as secretary he should report to the Central Government as well as to the State Government. The Boards should be headed by an eminent Ex serviceman of the district.

Sir, I would also placed that adequate infrastructure, in the form of transport, secretarial facilities also should be provided to the Zila Sainik Board so that they are able to give justice to the task which they are called upon to do.

Sir, various other schemes like the SEMFEX have been introduced and I congratulate the Ministry for introducing these schemes. The SEMFEX-II has been introduced w.e.f. January 1988 and SEMFEX-I was introduced last year. Similarly schemes preparing the ex-servicemen for their rehabilitation (PEXEM) are also launched and some districts have been

included. These are all good schemes. But what happens in the ground. A man while in uniform, got the salute, has to run from one officer to another and still he is unable to get the quick relief. So, I would plead for the streamlining of this procedure.

I would now come to an ordnance factory. A team from the Ministry of Defence went to Himachal Pradesh and visited some sites and also examined the possibilities but no decision has been taken so far. This is not a very happy picture because people expect that a quick decision should be taken. There are 35 Ordnance factories in the country and Himachal Pradesh has continued to play a significant role in the armed forces and many people have lost their lives. More than 1000 people died while defending the motherland from Himachal Pradesh, in three ways that accrued after independence. Some have died in the Sri Lanka operation, as an IPKF force members. We are proud of the role that we have played there. We are proud of the fact that sons of our own State jawans have laid down their lives for defending the country here and there. So, we expect that justice would be done in the matter of various schemes and especially in the matter of allotment of an ordnance factory to the State of Himachal Pradesh and setting up Military Stations of Hamirpur and Una. Ordnance factories have done a good work and I am happy to learn from the report that per average value of production per employee has increased from Rs. 46,700 in 1982-83 to Rs. 87,800 in 1986-87. This is a good commendation for the workers there and for the good management. But I would also plead that this discrimination against Himachal Pradesh should be ended and we should be given one ordnance factory for which necessary survey has been done.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 15 minutes.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : I will take only one minute more.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have rung the bell but you are still going on. It is not good. How long shall I wait for you ?

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Separate demands for the ordnance

factories has been opened for better budgeting and I welcome this initiative. I would plead that in order to show a token appreciation of the gallantry shown by our ex-servicemen when they were in the Armed Forces, villages of all the Mahavir Chakra winners, and Paramveer Chakra winners and even the Victoria Cross winners should be declared, developed and adopted as modern villages by our Central Government in consultation with the State Government. That would be giving a token appreciation of their bravery while serving the country.

The threats to our country are great. But the Armed Forces have played a significant role and I appreciate the role played by them in Sri Lanka in warding off the designs of the Super Powers in creating a ring of threat around our borders. When our soldiers have laid down their lives for our country, it is our duty to pay tribute to their bravery and gallantry and also sympathise with the families of those who have laid down their lives in the defence of our country. With these words, I appreciate the good work done by the Ministry of Defence. I appreciate especially the vision and wisdom of the Minister of Defence, Shri K.C. Pant, who has the entire country in view and the future of the country is safe in the hands of the Armed Forces. We pay tribute to their valour and the sacrifice that they made. I would also appreciate the role played by them in the civilian operations. It is not only in war times that they are called upon to defend the country from threats across the borders, but they also come to the assistance of the nation, either at the centre or in a State, in times of risk, in times of distress and in times of despair. I must say a good word for their role in the management of the affairs of the country and in coming to the rescue and help of the nation in times of difficulty. Their role in peace is as commendable as their role in war.

With these words, I commend the Report of the Defence Ministry and their demands for grants.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : I thank you on behalf of the DMK Party for giving me this opportunity to speak.

As far as the demands for grants of the Ministry of Defence Ministry are concerned, I feel that enough material is not provided.



[Shri N. V. N. Somu]

Government always feels that furnishing such material might affect their secret system and this prevents the elected members to do their duty effectively and more efficiently. Not only that, this emboldens the bureaucrats to gain time, which in turn paves the way for corruption. They also get a feeling that there is nobody to question them or their misdeeds. I request the hon. Minister to furnish more material so that the omissions and commissions of the Ministry can be discussed here and corrected.

Every year, the budget allocation for defence is going on increasing. If one has to bring down the national debt which is already swelling to nearly two lakh crores or so, we have to give a serious thought to bring down the defence expenditure.

Sir, right from the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Panchasheel is the main philosophy of India. As we are more and more interested in propagating peace and disarmament, and as we are taking a keen interest in the Non-aligned Movement, there is even more justification in curtailing our defence expenses to the minimum possible.

We are second to none in the country when it comes to upholding the unity and integrity of India. When there was a war between India and Pakistan during the Bangladesh crisis, I must proudly say that our Dr. Karunanidki was the one and the only Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who donated Rs. 6 crores to Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister at a mammoth public meeting in the Island Grounds of Madras.

It is really very unfortunate that there is a sudden increase of nearly Rs. 1000 crores in this year's Defence Budget. This is mainly because we are wasting about Rs. 10 crores a day in some foreign soil, namely for the IPKF operations in Sri Lanka, just to wipe out our Tamil race. After wiping out the Tamil race, with whom are you going on a honeymoon? I request the Government to stop the killings and to start negotiations immediately.

A very alarming situation is created in Pakistani border area. The Defence Secretary of the USA has not paid any heed to

our Prime Minister's request to stop the arms supply to Pakistan which is already building up a nuclear power. I feel that there is no necessity for Pakistan to acquire arms any more from foreign countries because the USSR has withdrawn itself from Afghanistan, nearly after nine years. I request the Defence Minister to prevail upon the United States on this particular point and ask them to stop forthwith the supply of arms and other weapons to Pakistan because it endangers the security of our nation. In this connection, I want to bring it to the notice of the Minister that nowhere in the world was a guerilla warfare defeated.

Even after fifteen years of struggle with the latest weapons, the Americans could not succeed in Vietnam. In the Arlington Cemetery, there are graves of thousands of unknown soldiers, who lost their lives in Vietnam.

I would say that this Government should learn lessons from USA and USSR and stop killing the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

I would also say that it is enough that you have burnt your fingers there and made the innocent Jawans to give up their lives, in addition to thousands of Tamilians and Eelam Liberation Forces.

Please think of Arlington Cemetery and say a good-bye to the battle of Sri Lanka,

I would like to remind you here as to what had happened in Uganda when Idi Amin was the Head of the country. When the Gujaratis were harassed, the then Prime Minister Shri Morarji Desai sent a special Aircraft and brought them safely with all their belongings.

In Fiji Island, when the Indians got affected, the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi took extra care by bringing our people back to the country.

When the Lieutenant of P.L.O. Leader Abu Jihad died, the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi paid his condolences.

When Bobby San of Ireland died of hunger strike in the Prison of Ireland against the British regime, Mrs. Gandhi, the then Prime Minister offered her condolences. Before he died, she had also requested the British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher to

release him from the prison. The same yardstick is not applied in the case of Tamils because they are born as Tamils.

Mr. Ganapathy died recently after thirtyone days' hunger strike. Mr. Johny, the Lieutenant of Prabhakaran was taken in the Helicopter of Indian Army for having a dialogue with Prabhakaran. He was shot and killed by the IPKF in the mid way. In all these instances, neither the Prime Minister nor the External Affairs Minister or the Defence Minister had paid a word of condolence. It is not that Mr. Arafat is holding roses and Prabhakaran is holding bullets.

Mr. Subramaniam Swamy had appealed to the Government that he is going to undertake a boat journey in the month of May to Kachchativu. It is a part and parcel of India. It should be brought back and included in the map of India.

In Ordnance Factories, you have reduced the manpower to the extent of 5000. In spite of that the production had increased from Rs. 1356 crores to Rs. 1598 crores. For this, the workers should be appreciated.

With regard to defence public sector undertakings the Bharat Electronics Limited has increased its production steadily.

In 1985-86, it was Rs. 226.1 crores. In 1986-87, it was Rs. 326.91 crores. And in 1987-88 it went upto Rs. 371.55 crores, There is a good increase in production.

Its profits had also increased considerably over the years. In 1985-86, it was Rs. 25.45 crores. In 1986-87, it was Rs. 30.32 crores. And in 1987-88, it went upto Rs. 36.20 crores. So, the workers of the BEL should be adequately rewarded. There are pressing problems for the workers with regard to their pay, confirmation and promotions. The workers—because of whom the company is earning profits—should be encouraged. There is an establishment of BEL in Madras and this should be made an independent and full-fledged unit.

The workers of the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi, Tamil Nadu, went on a long strike. It continued for a year. They wanted their pay to be protected. I request the Minister to consider the demands of the Defence Production workers sympathetically because, they are the backbone of our coun-

try. They should be given due encouragement.

The Central Vehicle Depot in Avadi, Tamil Nadu also should be properly nurtured. Slowly, its production unit is being shifted to North India. Instead of strengthening the existing units, the shifting of important production units to Northern India is highly deplorable. The workers are afraid that by these tactics the production units in Tamil Nadu may be closed and they will be rendered jobless.

I request you to consider this thing urgently and favourably.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR  
(Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. I went to take this opportunity to submit a few points. Sir, India is a vast country and the intentions of our neighbour countries do not seem to be good. For this reason, the responsibilities of the Ministry of Defence have enhanced. India is the country of Lord Budha and Mahtma Gandhi. It follows the path of non-violence and turth. But whenever our country has been threatened, our people have never shirked their responsibility. Shastras say that Lord Rama and Lord Krishna tried to avoid was and adopted the course of compromise, but these compromises have failed in every century. The agreements concluded by Lord Rama and agreements concluded by Lord Krishna proved failure and they had to fight war.

Late Prime Ministers Shri Nehru, Shri Shastri and Shrimati Indira Gandhi had good relations with the neighbouring countries, but in spite of that we had war with China in 1962, and with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971. Shri Sparrow has fought with Pakistan in the Runn of Kutch and in Kashmir. Shri Sparrow has explained all this in detail. I don't want to repeat all the details as to how much money had been spent on prisoners of war after Niazi's surrender but I would like to submit that Late Shrimati Gandhi pardoned them, which is an unique example. Those who are brave have the right to forgive. As there is a Shaloka in S<sup>h</sup>askrit—"Khyma Veerasya Bhushnam." According to our

[Shrimati Usha Thakkar]

history, Prithviraj Chauhan pardoned Shahbuddin Gauri 7 times, but later Shahbuddin Gauri blinded Prithviraj Chauhan. Our Shrimati Indira Gandhi was a brave and forgiving lady, but she was killed. So we should remain vigilant. India is great nation. But our neighbour countries make their relations strained with their neighbours under the influence of big powers. But this should not be done. There is a saying in Gujarati—"Pahlo Rakho Parosi" that means that neighbour is our first relative because he is the one who helps in case of some problem. May wise counsel prevail on them.

Sir, I congratulate the Ministry of Defence on strengthening Army, Navy and Air force. Pakistan has permitted America to set up a military base in Makran sea shore. Sir, my constituency falls in the Kutch range of the sea-shore. If this is right, then from the strategic point of view, Kutch becomes a very sensitive area. Institution like S.S.B. has been put to work in Kutch by the Ministry of Defence. The culture of Sindh and Kutch are almost same. Sindhi people of Pakistan love the people of Kutch very much, but the rules of Pakistan create Problems. Some years ago, on the sea-shore of Kutch near Chhachi village, silver valued Rs. 3.5 crores had been seized while being smuggled. So steps should be taken to check the smuggling of heroine and arms also. Kutch is an international border and one can cross the border on foot as well as by sea. I do not want to repeat, as I have already written to the Minister of External Affairs to keep coastal guards on the sea-shore and we should be vigilant if the coastal line is determined near the Zakho Port, because there is a place called Sanwana Pir and that place is near the Koteswar temple. People of both communities visit that place. But that place is situated a bit inside the sea, so one has to go there on foot. This area falls in Indian territory. The same thing must not happen as it happened earlier in Chharbet.

The 110 km long line has been laid in Bhuj-Nalia from the security point of view. I thank you for it. But I want to get one point clarified and I have written a letter also to you in this regard. But since, I

have got the opportunity today, I would like to submit that the smugglers have constructed a metalled road in Abdasa Taluka. This has been published in the newspapers at the behest of the Opposition. I toured 410 kms. of that area and I was accompanied by the area M.L.A., the Chief of the Zila Parishad, the President of the Taluka Panchayat etc. But we did not find any such road there. When I inquired about it from the D.S.P. of Kutch district, I was told that no such road has been constructed in that area. When such news items are published, doubts are raised in the minds of the people. Hence, Sir, I want to request the hon. Minister through you that he may kindly enlighten us in this regard.

The road which has been constructed recently in Gaduli Santalpur under the drought relief programme and there are other works also undertaken under the same programme, are very vital for the border areas of Kutch. It will check the alkaline content of the soil. I want to request the hon. Minister to allocate funds to convert the same into a metalled road. I want to request once again through you because this is a very useful road.

At the instance of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the Kutch Development Board was constituted in 1976 for the development of Kutch. But I regret to say that when Janata Government came to power in 1977, that board was done away with. I will again request the hon. Minister that Kutch is a sensitive area on the border, and therefore, the board constituted at the instance of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in 1976 should be revived this year. The development of Kutch is vital from the security angle. I will not plead with you more because you are a learned man and a senior Minister and the son of Late Govind Vallabh Pant. I am sure that Central Government will pay due attention to the border area of Kutch.

Now, I will submit a few points about the Bofors issue. It is a hot topic in the Press and in the House. I want to relate a true story. A king ruled in my area long ago. He had an important Minister. He was aged and very clever. The king always consulted him in every matter. But a king is a king after all. He took certain steps

on his own. It hurt self-respect of the Minister and he began putting obstacles in the functioning of the king. However, the king continued to function without his aid. The people surrounding the Minister, said, that the king cannot function without him. In this way, the Minister was brainwashed. The Minister consequently, brought Gulam Kalole from Sindh and the security of the kingdom was endangered. The area Runn of Kutch is such that it is impossible for an outsider to enter it. The king's mother that the Minister will make the country lose its independence. So she removed a white hair from her head and put it into a box. She also put a little soil of Kutch into that box. Then she sent that box to the Minister with the message that she has sent these two items to ensure that her land is protected. This made the Minister realise his error and he sent Gulam Kalole back to Sindh.

Therefore, I want to appeal with folded hands to the Opposition not to play with the security of the country. It is a question of the security of the nation and whatever allegations you are hurling at the Hon. Prime Minister and his colleagues, I went to inform you in regard to him and his family and also in the interest of the country that you very well know the truth and that you are fully aware that his mother and grandfather had donated the Rs. 50 crores worth 'Anand Bhawan' to the nation and even then you are accusing him of having been involved in the kickbacks. You know everything.

I want to humbly request that you should not at least make any attempts to criticise the steps taken for the security of the country. India belongs to you and us equally. I request you once again not to do so.

I feel proud to have been given the opportunity to speak in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence and I thank you for the same.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : In response to a clarification sought by Shri Indrajit Gupta in the debate, I rise to make brief intervention in regard to a press statement issued by Shri V.P. Singh.

Since Shri Indrajitji has raised this issue, I want to say that Shri V.P. Singh has tried to malign the Prime Minister by referring to the discussions held in an informal meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on 10th April, 1987. It is for the House and the country to judge whether a man who has held high office under the Constitution should be allowed to wilfully violate the oath of office by referring to matters which came within his cognizance by virtue of his holding a public office. However, since propriety and adherence to norms of Cabinet form of Government were never the strong point of Shri V.P. Singh, I shall not labour this point.

Shri V.P. Singh has fabricated the account of the meeting. Since I was present in that meeting I state before the House with full sense of responsibility and without fear of contradiction that the Prime Minister did not make the statements attributed to him by Shri V.P. Singh in his lengthy and mischievous statement. The entire discussion was about the meaning of collective responsibility. Since an important decision had been taken by the Defence Minister which had a bearing on the functioning of the whole Government, he was questioned in the informal meeting as to why he had not taken his Cabinet colleagues into confidence. He was questioned by me. Shri V.P. Singh was hard put to defend himself and tried to belittle the importance of the inquiry he had ordered. The Prime Minister did not comment on the conduct of HDW or its alleged agent nor did he suggest that the subject matter of the inquiry should be leaked to the press. Shri Singh may pose to be innocent, but the entire Press had speculated that the inquiry related to the submarine contract with HDW.

I am not going into the details of the inquiry made by Government. Questions relating to that subject will be answered by the Defence Minister. I wish to categorically deny the statements attributed by Shri V.P. Singh to the Prime Minister. This is not the first time when Shri V.P. Singh's memroy has played tricks on him. He is quite used to having his statements contradicted. His selective lapse of memory is not accidental. It is politically motivated and has no relationship to facts or to his publicly proclaimed concern for truth.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Why do you not put all the documents relating to HDW including the message from the German Embassy on the Table of the House ?...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has not made any statement...(Interruptions) He has said what he has to say. It is not a statement.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This is not the only point he has made. We have asked the Government to publish all the documents relating to...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the lady Member to speak.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Are they ready to publish, Sir ? What is the point in issuing a maliging statement ? (Interruptions). You are issuing the maliging statement. The country wants to know the secret...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the point at issue is...

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is not a question between V.P. Singh and Prime Minister. The country wants to know...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the whole issue before this House which was brought by Shri Indrajit Gupta was related to that particular meeting in which Mr. V.P. Singh's action...

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Mr. Indrajit Gupta made the point that the Minister's statement has been contradicted by the former Defence Minister....

S. BUTA SINGH : ...of going to the press without intimation to the Cabinet, without the premission of the Prime Minister on such a vital issue was referred to and that is how I thought it my duty to place before this august House the facts relating to that meeting. Shri V.P. Singh's statement is mischievous because he has tried to twist the proceedings of that meeting. He has gone out to malign the Prime Minister. In this meeting we were also present. Therefore, I went to put the record straight.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I or anybody does not know it. He is stating something about this Committee on Political Affairs. Only Mr. V.P. Singh and Mr. Buta Singh know about that. We, all of us, do not know. Why are you shouting for nothing ? Can you take your seat ?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is making a statement on something about which we do not know. Only either Mr. V.P. Singh or Mr. Buta Singh know about that. We are not aware of that.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : The Ambassador has sent a message over which that inquiry was ordered.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has referred to the meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Everything was covered up.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : When he refers to something about the Cabinet, you and I do not know about that. Why are you quarrelling ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : He cannot escape by making this kind of statement. If you go through Shri V.P. Singh's statement...

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I had raised these issues and they were reported next day in the *Hindustan Times*, I remember, on the 11th—that happened on the 10th April, on 11th of April 1987 the same issue was replied by me. (Interruptions). The same thing I am repeating here, nothing new. (Interruptions). He has brought out a story only to malign the Prime Minister.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Are you ready to lay before this House the whole document relating to HWD ? How can you escape by making this kind of statement ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Buta Singh is Home Minister now, he is not the Defence Minister.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You cannot escape by making the statement. This is wrong.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Mr. V.P. Singh has asked this question.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I will not allow you. Kindly take your seat. He has nothing to do with this. You may put the question to the Defence Minister.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, this will not go on record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Are you permitting discussion on this question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No.

(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. RURIEN (Idukki) : Sir, I am on a point of order. After the Minister's statement, no questions are allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly take your seat.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : No question after Minister's statement, under the rules.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has intervened. So far as we are concerned, he has not made any statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a simple intervention, not a statement.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : I would like to place on record the appreciation...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go ahead.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : I am really surprised. Opposition leaders and Members should have appreciated the fact, when one Senior Opposition leader makes a statement here, the Minister of Home Affairs comes and intervenes and explains the position. They should at least recognise the sensitivity of the Government in this matter. Instead of that, they are drawing conclusions and they are talking about things which are not relevant to the situation. (Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing. It will not go on record. I am only allowing Mrs. Bhandari. Only Mrs. Bhandari will go on record.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the lady Member speak, please. Why are you harassing her ?

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, you are also not letting her speak.

(Interruptions)\*\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Except Mrs. Bhandari, nothing will go on record. That she says will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why are you intervening ? Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : I would like to put on record our thankful appreciation for the Defence personnel who are stationed in Sikkim for lending a helping hand during the 40-day bandh of GNLF during which period Sikkim was cut off from the rest of the country.

I feel sad when I recall the attitude of the Centre towards this tiny but peaceful State, Sikkim which remained cut off from the rest of the country for 40 days. Not

[Shrimati D. K. Bhandari]

a single word of sympathy was there from the Centre, particularly from the Ministry of Home Affairs. In any case, that is past.

Our Defence personnel deserve praise for their splendid response whenever there has been a call from the nation. They are valiantly guarding the frontiers whether it be the difficult areas of Himalayas or the deserts or the Southern shore and even while fighting for the country's prestige in Sri Lanka.

They need every encouragement and support of the people of our country. They are the glowing example of harmony, unity and Indianness. We are proud of them. Continuing induction of latest and the most modern armaments into the neighbouring countries is a threat to the country's security. Hence there is utmost need to arm our Defence personnel with not only machinery but superior weapons. The freedom which we are enjoying today is gained through lot of sacrifices made by our forefathers and freedom fighters. We have not only to save this freedom but also to nurture that also. Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom. Our nuclear policy option should be kept open. Pakistan's trying to go nuclear should be constantly reviewed. We should not be caught napping.

Sir, the youth from the various parts of the country should be encouraged to join the different wings of the Defence Services. Recruitment centres should be opened in Sikkim; in some of the North-Eastern States, to help and encourage the youth from that region to join the different wings of the Defence Forces.

Sir, the NCC is doing well in the area. But I would like to request you to open some Sainik Schools in those areas also. Ex-servicemen personnel who spent their life for the service of the nation should be well looked after. The recent tragic happenings in Darjeeling and Shillong where ex-Servicemen were victims of violence is a reflection on the Centre's attitude towards them. In Shillong and Meghalaya, scores of ex-Servicemen have to leave their hearth and home. They were made refugees due to violence unleashed by some communal

fanatics. Right in the Capital Shillong, a large number of ex-Servicemen were victims. Their hearth and homes were burnt down, which they built with the salary they earned while serving this country. Their homes were burnt and their property destroyed. A Colonel had to run for his life. He and his family members had to leave the home. When all these things were happening, what is the Centre and the Defence Ministry doing to safeguard them, to protect these people and give them relief. I am told that the Meghalaya Government has selected a site, a graveyard, in *Jhalapara* in the Cantonment area for their rehabilitation. Should such a place be selected for this purpose? Could not a better place be given for this purpose? Many ex-Servicemen have left Meghalaya. What the Defence Ministry has done to give relief and to provide shelter to them at least?

The story of ex-Servicemen in the troubled Darjeeling is heart-rending. These people have been passing through very bad days. It is reported that Lt. Gen. Rawat, Dy. Chief of the Army Staff and another senior official recently visited Darjeeling following representation from serving Army personnel. That shows the enormity of the tragedy. I would request the Central Government to minimise such happenings. This will have serious repercussions. Ex-Servicemen should not be left to such fate.

Sir, the morale of our serving personnel should be kept high. If their sisters are raped and if their homes are burnt, then how can we keep their morale high? So, the Central Government should keep in view, all these things.

Ex-Servicemen's Association or League should be strengthened. Those below a certain age should be given gainful employment in areas where they are best suited. Their welfare should also be uppermost in the mind of the Government. Sikkim is a small State. Even then, it has considerable number of ex-Servicemen. I would request the hon. Minister to extend the financial help for them so that they could also spend their rest of the life being fruitful to the nation.

Sir, the relation between the Defence personnel and the local people should be

cordial. Efforts should be made to see that they should not offend the feelings of the local people. Recently, in North Sikkim, one fine morning the tribal people of that area found out that their agricultural fields were taken over by the Army people and they were not informed; not to speak of this that they have informed the State Government. The tribal people of that area made a representation to the President of India who was on a visit to Sikkim at that time. They have made a representation to the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister also. I myself wrote a letter to the Defence Minister explaining the situation. As every one knows, in Sikkim, agricultural land is a scarce commodity since only twelve per cent of the total area of the State is arable. In such a situation, if Army takes away the agricultural land, where will these people go? This could have been sorted out without creating such unpleasantness if the concerned people had taken some care. We are very much aware that they need land to organise for better preparedness and all that. But if they had informed the State Government, those people could have been given alternative land in which case the feelings of the people would not have been hurt in this way.

While I support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Defence, I would like to add one sentence. That is, the grants which are being taken in the name of Defence must be spent in providing better preparedness for the security of our country; the money should not be spent in a way that gives rise to doubts which, in the recent past, we have witnessed. It was very unfortunate for the country whatever have come out by way of proving or denying the allegations. Such things should not recur in future.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank those brave soldiers who are sacrificing their lives in Sri Lanka and in the border areas like Sino-Chen for guarding the frontiers of the country and for following and implementing the policies of the Government.

When we discuss about our servicemen, a picture of such a person is drawn up in

our minds, about one who does not even bother about his own life while protecting the honour of the nation. Every soldier is always prepared to protect the traditions and prestige of the country and it is for this reason that everybody regardless of whether belonging to the ruling party or the Opposition is also giving suggestions for the improvement of the Defence Services and so it is essential to take maximum possible measures to improve the quality of life of defence personnel.

The soldier spends a significant portion of his life as a disciplined person and in a service which demands discipline. When he retires, he finds himself in an atmosphere which is completely different to the one he has been used to for a long time. It is our responsibility as individuals and also as members of society to provide him a atmosphere in which he can feel at home after his retirement and where his capabilities can be better utilised.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Defence has announced several schemes for the welfare of the ex-serviceman and the benefits of those schemes are also reaching them. The ex-serviceman after his retirement wants to invest his life's savings in some industry or in some other useful field. But it has been observed that he is not provided required assistance by the Ministry of Industry and other Department of the Government and by banks and other such financial institutions. On the contrary, he is often cheated. I want to request the hon. Minister of Defence after due consultations with the Chief Ministers of various States, financial commission or such other organisation should be set up in every state which would assist the ex-servicemen in setting up industrial units. They should be assisted in selection of the industry, in matters of production and also of marketing. It is essential to set up such an organisation.

14.55 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN  
in the Chair]

The quota which has been provided for the ex-servicemen in our public undertakings, the para-military forces and in such other organisations, is not being fully utilised. It is essential to utilise this quota fully and also to enhance it. This should be ensured. Whenever such quota exists, unless it is



[Shri Harish Rawat]

utilised, it will not benefit those people. I want to submit that the Defence Minister should ask the private sector also to shoulder some responsibility in this matter should be taken up with the Ministry of Industries as well.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence has mentioned the territorial army. But not much work has been done in this regard. The amount spent for it is also very less as compared to other countries. The territorial army can become a very important instrument for providing employment to the ex-servicemen. I want to submit that Defence Ministry should pay more attention to this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when K.P. Singh Deo was the Minister, the hill areas were considered to be vulnerable from the point of view of environment and therefore, it was decided to set up an environmental task force. It is important to pay attention in this respect as well. Similarly, I welcome the Pension Courts established for determining the minimum pension but here, I want to submit that action should be taken to eliminate the disparities in pensions of the ex-servicemen. In this connection, a high-powered committee has been constituted which has been mentioned by Shri Parashar, and its recommendations should be accepted. I understand your financial constraints and that it is not possible for you to fulfill all these demands at once, but disparities in pension hurts the ex-personnel of Defence services. A number of ex-servicemen who took part in two wars, feel too much when they see some ex-servicemen of the same rank getting more pension than themselves. Their feeling is natural. Therefore attention should be paid towards this matter.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the number of Ex-servicemen in some areas is quite high and I am proud of the fact that one and a half lakhs of them belong only to my constituency. Ordnance factories should be set up in such areas in order to provide them employment.

Border-Road-Organisation has served the country with complete devotion. But it has been observed that construction work carried out by it, varies from place to place.

It should pay specific attention towards the area from Lipu Lake to Nitipass near China border, for, the construction work in this area has not been carried out to the desired extent. China has developed roads, provided short-landing facility and constructed aerodrum in the Taklaknt area. I request you that this area should be considered as sensitive as that of Arunachal or North East.

As I have already stated, a number of ex-servicemen belong to my constituency, but now the percentage of recruitment from this area is decreasing. These are the areas where people feel proud for joining the army. It is therefore essential to get at the roots of falling percentage in those areas. I would suggest that army schools should be opened in these areas, so that the children of Ex-servicemen can prepare themselves for the future and get selected to the commission as and when opportunity is available. Similarly Government has paid attention towards NCC and at present there is strength of nearly ten and a half lakhs NCC Cadets.

15.00 hrs.

But the funds allocated for this scheme are insufficient. I would urge the hon. Defence Minister that if NCC could be made compulsory in all the educational institutions throughout the country it would be quite useful. If it is not possible then it should be made compulsory at least in the educational institutions of border areas or sensitive areas. I would like to talk about mountaineering also. The condition of Mountaineering Institute in Uttar Kashi, which works under the chairmanship of Defence Minister, is not good. Facilities and incentives should be given to them. More equipment should be supplied and scope of their activities should also be extended. A number of undertakings work under Defence Ministry, but the performance of the workers of Ordnance Factories is really appreciating, and we must appreciate them. The performance as well as the production are really applaudable. I would like to congratulate the Minister of State in the Department of Defence Production and supplies along with the members of his staff and request them to maintain the tempo. We should maintain very good relations with the labour for this purpose.

A number of Awards have been given from time to time by the courts or there have been Arbitration Awards also. But the department is collours in implementing Arbitration awards whether it relates to Packers, Store keepers, civil motor driver, Scientific Assistant, or Draftsman. For instance—Arbitration Award of packers was declared on Nov. 10, 1985. Since then whenever any question was raised in the House or any enquiry was made, assurances were given that it would be implemented very soon as it was in final stage of decision. But that stage has not come till today. Packers and workers are still waiting that when the Award will be implemented. Although Government have earned profit owing to their hard work but instead of rewarding the workers, the Government reduced their overtime from 54 hours to 51 hours. The Government is not saving anything in this way because the work which used to be performed by the workers, is now being excuted through the Prive contractors and in this manner lakh and crores of rupees are being spent. Attention must be paid towards this. Standing orders on labour of 1982 are not being implemented. Many casual workers who worked for 90 days, or 180 days, have been retrenched. This is the situation is Muradnagar and many other ordnance depots. Attention should be paid towards this. Besides, workers are being retrenched from ordnance factories in the name of surplus labour. I would like to tell the Defence Minister that the Cabinet had decided that a meeting at department level will be held and its Members will also be coopted and an APEX body will be set up to remove the in consistancies created as a result of recommendation of the Fourth Pay Commission. But the Defence Ministry has not taken any initiative in this regard. There are a number of inconsistencies in our highly skilled grade 'A' category and many other cases, which could be referred. But resentment is growing among the workers as nothing has been done in this regard. The pay of employees has increased, but the evaluation work of their job has not been done in accordance with their revised pay structure. The performance of the worker should be evaluated so that he may get the benefits of the bonus. I request you to pay attention towards this aspect also.

Not only promotion but even recruitment of the workers has been banned in the Defence Department since long. There is great resentment among workers due to this and various posts are also lying vacant in Defence Ministry. I would request the hon. Defence Minister through you, that while millions and billions of rupees are being spent every year on the defence of the country, which is completely justified and the whole country supports it. but proper attention should be paid towards the defence production also. It should not be neglected. You will be definitely benefited by paying that money to the labourers, which is being paid to the contractors by banning promotions and recruitment. So I would request to lift the ban on the appointment of various posts in Defence Ministry, without delay. With these words I support the Demands for Grants of Defence Ministry and express my gratitude for hard work and devotion of the workers of Defence Ministry, for which the nation is proud.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of Defence Ministry. Firstly, I pay homage to these defence personnel who sacrificed their lives in Sri Lanka. Funds allocated to the Defence Ministry have been increased, but in the present circumstance I consider it to be insufficient.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What point of order ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I was not here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, you can't raise it now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Buta Singh strong a surprise on the House by speaking on Defence. I would like to know under what rules...

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per rules, you can raise your point of order only in relation to the business before the House at the moment.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can't raise about anything else. You read the rules.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Under what rules did he speak, I would like to know.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will not go on record. Whatever you say, will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister intervened and he was permitted to intervene and the Minister spoke. You can't raise it like that. Whatever you said, will not be recorded.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : You read the rules.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jaipal Reddy, I have ruled out your point of order.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not permitted your point of order.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, you are wasting your energy. Nothing will be recorded and nothing will be public. Why do you waste your energy ?

*(Interruptions)\**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Was it a statement ?

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Our hon. Speaker very often says, there are rules. You can raise all these problems as per rules.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This will not go on record. The Minister was allowed to intervene. *(Interruptions)* Now there is no point of order.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whatever Madam Shaktawat says will go on record. Other than that, not even a word will go on record...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, I have not allowed him to raise his point of order. So, your reply also will not be on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting you. I told her even what she said will not be on record...

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : It will not go on record...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will read the rules. This is Rule 376 (2) which says 'Point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House at the moment.' Now she is talking on something else. You cannot raise the point of order. So, I am not permitting any point of order and whatever you are saying will not be recorded. Not even a word will go on record and it will not be published even...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dandavate I am not permitting any point of order...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot...

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Can you tell me under what rule you are not permitting the point of order ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have read the rules. You can raise the point of order only on the subject before the House. You are talking something else.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When the debate is in relation to that particular subject, the point of order...*(Interruptions)*... You will have to listen to the point of order.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. I cannot listen...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will be recorded without the permission of the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Unfortunately, you have no right not to listen to me on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can listen to you only if you raise something as per the rules. Otherwise, I cannot.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am raising the point of order under the present debate. How can you prevent it? I have also studied the rules as you have.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Rule 376 is 'A point of order may be raised in relation to the business before the House.' The business before the House at present is the discussion on Defence and she is here on her legs. If you raise a point of order about what she said, then I can listen to you.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : About a debate on defence, I am raising a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the point of order? Yes, tell me how is it related to the Defence?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I cannot silently communicate to you my point of order. A debate is going on Defence, Sir, it is the convention that when one particular item is being discussed and debated—just now we are debating and discussing the Defence aspect—no Defence debate can be intercepted and item cannot be side-tracked by taking some other item. Yes, it is an accepted fact. Unless...*(Interruptions)*

Just listen to me. Who are they to interrupt me?

You listen to my point of order. The debate is going on Defence. The rule of this House is if on any item a debate is going on and if at any point of time the debate is to be side-tracked, and some other item is to be intercepted, in that case it can be done with the permission of the Chair. If a statement is to be made, you will find out, for instance under Rule 372, if the Minister is to make Statement in between he has to take your permission. He has not taken your permission, therefore,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He was permitted by the Chair. How can you say like this?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A Defence debate cannot be intercepted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, if he has finished, I would like to make a point.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He cannot hijack the debate to something else. *(Interruptions)* He did it. *(Interruptions)* If the text of the Statement was sent to you. I want to know whether you have approved that and whether you allowed him to side-track the defence debate and talk about the external situation. I would like to know that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Our submission is that a point of order is raised to see that the proceedings of the House are conducted according to the rules. The point of order cannot be raised to correct what has already happened in the House. Now, Mr. Buta Singh's statement is not really taking place now. It has already been done. The Hon. lady is speaking and if any point of order has to be raised it can be raised with respect to the procedure the lady is following in the House. Sir, if a Minister wants to make a statement, any Minister or any Member can make a statement in the House with the permission of the Chair, the Presiding Officer. The permission was sought and it was given. *(Interruptions)* The permission was sought, the permission was given and now they are trying to nullify the

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

permission given by you. They are wanting to nullify the statement given by you. Such a kind of point of order cannot be raised.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That privilege statement was approved by the Speaker.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, I would like to add what my Hon. colleague has said. It was an intervention by Shri Buta Singh.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : May I please complete what I want to say ? It was an intervention. He spoke like any other Member of Parliament is allowed to speak in the debate. And he took the permission of the Chair. The Chair, called the name.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The intervention is on the same subject on which the concerned Minister is to add something. The intervention in a debate means consistent with a subject on which the debate is going on. The Minister makes some observation, that is called as intervention. It was not an intervention.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me give my ruling.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot probably hear all of you before giving my ruling. I cannot listen to everybody.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Buta Singh sought the permission of the Chair to intervene in the debate and he was permitted. It

was as per the rules. The point of order raised by Prof. Madhu Dandavate is not in order because it does not relate to the discussion in the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Who is correct of the two Ministers ?.. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : But he made a statement. That was not an intervention.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have been repeatedly telling you that Shri Buta Singh was intervening in the discussion. He sought the permission of the Chair and the permission was given.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot question the decision of the Chair.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I can always request.. If a mistake was committed, it can be rectified.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise the matter in some other forum, but cannot raise it here as a point of order.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : That statement was not included in the agenda... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am telling you Mr. Kurup, it was not a statement. He sought the permission of the Chair to intervene in the discussion and he was permitted by the Chair.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Shri Buta Singh must have the courage to come before the House and... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A Minister never makes such a flippant intervention and that too a Home Minister on Defence matters !

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please. Let her speak. Yes Madam, you please speak.

[Translation]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAK-TAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for Grants of Defence Ministry.

Firstly, I pay homage to the defence personnel who sacrificed their lives in Sri Lanka. At present 15 per cent of the total budget is being spent on the defence. In the present circumstances, though our nation is quite peace-loving and believes in non-alignment, yet we need formidable defence power to defend our borders, to maintain peace at national and international level and also maintain unity and integrity of the country. In the present circumstances when Pakistan has acquired atomic power, China is a constant threat to our border, Indian ocean is no longer a peace zone and we are committed to restore peace in Sri Lanka, the expenditure on Defence Ministry is not on the high side. We are aware of the fact that our neighbouring countries Pakistan and China are spending huge amount on defence. In such crucial circumstances when our neighbour countries are supplying arms to the terrorists clandestinely by intruding the border States like Jammu-Kashmir, Rajasthan and Punjab, it is quite essential for our defence personnel to be armed with most sophisticated weapons. I am unable to understand why do the opposition leaders criticize it? When it was decided to purchase a submarine equipped with sophisticated weapons to strengthen the navy, then the opposition suspected to have engaged middlemen for this purpose. The opposition raised objection again when long range guns were bought which were required for the Swampish areas, mountainous regions and the desert areas. They have been acquired with great efforts and they are most suitable for us. I would request all the opposition Members present her, that they are degrading the army, their morale, their morality and their capability. In spite of the fact that members of the opposition knew nothing about the quality of the gun, objections have been raised by them. Even then the hon. Prime Minister agreed to get the matter investigated...*(Interruptions)*...

I never disturb you, why are you disturbing me then? *(Interruptions)* Our Prime Minister himself agreed to set up a Parliamentary Committee to investigate the bungling, if any. The report of that committee has not yet been received and still all the opposition members are raising meaningless objections. It is just the violation of democratic traditions, a contempt of the House, you are questioning the integrity of the

members of the committee. I would urge the hon. Members that such type of criticism will only down the morale of our defence personnel. You must think before you utter such things. Such criticism of Armed forces has never taken place before. But you have been raising meaningless objections regarding defence since last year. You must realise that this is not in the interests of our country.

I want to submit as to how the neighbouring States are keeping an evil eye on India. Pakistan is not having good intentions on Siachen and Western borders. I want to congratulate to the hon. Minister of Defence for having personally visited an inaccessible area like Sia-chen and boosted the morale of our defence personnel. I want to congratulate you very much for it because our defence personnel stationed in such difficult terrains have received considerable boost of morale by this gesture.

I want to submit that China under its expansionist policy today, is in occupation of 14 thousand square miles of our land and in view of this, it is essential for us to be quite vigilant. I would also like to state that our army deployed in Sri Lanka has a very high morale despite of being in an alien country. We not only pay tributes to our soldiers who have become martyrs there but we also thank our forces for enabling us to fulfill our commitment of establishing peace in that country as per our agreement.

15 29 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would also like to submit that now the whole world has achieved nuclear capability. Every big power has nuclear weapons today, and even our neighbour Pakistan has got them. In such a situation, our country should also deliberate on this matter and should decide not to lag behind in this regard. I want to congratulate Hon. Prime Minister for saying that if the need arises, we shall not delay in making use of nuclear power. I want to submit as to why U.S.A. wants us to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty? We did not sign it because it would have been an instrument to exercise control on our independence. Therefore, we did not sign it. Today, there can be no doubt about the bravery and valour of our

[Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat]

defence forces. Our forces enjoy enormous prestige in the world. But I want to mention some of the problems which they are constantly facing.

I want also to submit that the condition of the defence personnel is not very comfortable and though their allowances and salaries have increased yet they are in need of more facilities. For example, they are facing shortage of houses. Only 14 per cent of the Defence personnel in the cantonment areas and in the border areas are in possession of houses. You are aware that the joint family system is breaking down and under such circumstances, we should provide housing facilities to them. Sainik schools have been opened to adequately equip the future generations. There are 18 sainik schools in the country today and one such school is located at Chittorgarh as well... (Interruptions) The examination results of these schools are quite good. I have stated earlier also that Rajasthan is the land of brave men and women. Hence, it is imperative that a sainik college should be opened and it must be established in Chittorgarh. It will enable the sainik school students to continue further studies, because normally they do not continue their studies after school education. It is not necessary to increase the number of soldiers to a large extent. We have to prepare the second line of Defence and for which we have very capable students coming from the Sainik schools and colleges... (Interruptions)... I do not follow as to why people interrupt while I am making my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Shaktawat, please sum up now. We do not have time.

[Translation]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Speaker, Sir, I am summing up. I want to submit that the families of our Defence personnel fighting in Sri Lanka and in the border areas, are the responsibility of the Central and the State Government. We should pay attention towards them. Especially when our servicemen go home on

leave, they are under great strain because their land is occupied by others illegally. As a result of this, they spend their holidays taking rounds of the Revenue Office. Therefore, the Central Government should issue special directions to the Revenue officers to ensure that land owned by the personnel of the Defence services are not occupied by anyone and in case it so happens, settlements should be made at the earliest. Those who spend their entire lives in serving the nation should be given protection after they retire. In order to provide them employment after their retirement, special quotas should be reserved for them in the Private and Public Sector Organisations. I want to draw your attention to the plight of war widows as well. Their condition is miserable. I will conclude within a minute or two.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is all, Madam, Your remarks will not go on record. That is all, down now; take your seat...

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Now Mr. Tanti. You can speak for four minutes. Make your points.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : One minute, Sir. We have a copy of the statement, about which they say it is not a statement. It starts with : 'I rise to make a statement.'

MR. SPEAKER : Don't disturb me now.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Why this hair-splitting—whether it is a statement or intervention ?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Dandavate, please sit down. It is all right. Don't interrupt Mr. Tanti.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let them not mislead the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, please examine the record. You said it was a statement. He says it was an intervention. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will see later on. Don't interrupt.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing goes on record now, without my permission. Yes, Mr. Tanti.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down. Will you please sit down? I have asked you to sit down. I will see later on. Don't disturb me please don't interrupt me now. Please sit down. I request you to sit down at the moment. I will see later on.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor) : I support the Demands of for Grants of the Ministry of Defence. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : A member, or a Minister can intervene.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will see. I can see it. It will not be carried away. I will see.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : We are very much concerned with the Defence of the country. We have a right to mention about the security. (Interruptions) The country's security is most important. If the country is properly secured, if the country is secure, then only we can live. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : If the security of the country is at stake, the country cannot progress. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him speak. The hon. Member is speaking.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are always welcome. When have you been denied? Yes, please, Mr. Tanti.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I am coming. You are taking to them, Sir. That is why... (Interruptions) I am silent.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not. I am just making them silent.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We succumb to your pressure.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : So far as the Defence Budget is concerned, we have nothing to oppose it because the security of the country is very important and everybody is concerned about it, but the tension which is going on in the Pakistan border and in Arunachal Pradesh border by the intrusion of China is very dangerous. We are raising this matter in the House times without number. The Government is promising to take up the matter with the respective Governments, but no positive action appears to have been taken.

For example, the Chinese are disturbing the Arunachal border. They are forcibly taking persons and occupying those areas. Pakistan is indulging in extremist activities, along with some extremist forces of the country and our Government is busy in maintaining relations with Sri Lanka by sending our poor soldiers there to protect their country.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : They are not poor, they are brave.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : As a result of it we are losing our brothers there. Hundreds of innocent soldiers of our country have been killed, for no fault of their own I do not know what will be the outcome. These are very serious things. On the other hand, the Government has been scandalised and the people of the globe have come to know that the Government is indulging in corruption, so far as these deals with Bofors and other things are concerned.

The Defence Minister the other day made a statement that they have not engaged middlemen. The next day the Swedish Radio and the papers have confirmed that it was Government of India which engaged middlemen, the Hinduja's. Whether that is a fact or not,



[Shri Bhadreswar Tanti]

it is not know. But the allegation has been made. You are trying to save your neck but you cannot save it. So, this should not be there.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing about Defence ?

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I am coming to it. I am coming for the first time, from my State...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Because nothing concerns more than your State, because you are on the border. That is why I am asking, because you are concerned.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Till now he was going; now he is coming.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting ? All right, come to the Point. Mr. Tanti.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Look to the North-Eastern States where no industry so far as the ordnance factory is concerned, has been set up as yet. Recruitment is almost nil so far as Junior Commissioned Officers are concerned. What to speak of recruitment of senior Commissioned Officers.

You have neglected the North-Eastern region, the people of the North-Eastern region are neglected while recruiting persons into the Army So, you want to maintain unity and integrity. That is your phraseology for political gain. You must look at the problems of all these States. You must recruit persons from all the States. If you go on recruiting people from one or two States only, then we can say, that will not help.

The hon. Minister for Defence is from my State. I am very proud of it. He should also pay some attention to it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : They should also be proud.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Tanti, defence of the entire country is in your hands.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : On the other hand, I am making some serious allegation also. I have got some allegations against the Army Personnel. This has appeared in the paper.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Look here. If you have to make any allegation, you have to give prior notice and there are certain rules and regulations under Rule 353. Anything can be published anywhere. I will not take cognisance of it.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I will not do that. I must be very fair. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have to be, if you want me to be fair to you.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : These serious allegations against some Army Personnel have come very often in papers. Everybody knew about it. So far as the North Eastern States are concerned, very often you will find the allegations against the Army Personnel. So, you must try to see that these nuisances are not committed, and people are refrained from imbibing it. You try to train their mind properly. Simply, if you train them in the parade, that will not do. They must be properly trained to maintain discipline, to maintain their character and probity. It is an allegation, and you cannot deny that. In many places, the tribal women and girls and the innocent girls are being harassed. All these things are there. You cannot ignore this.

MR. SPEAKER : No wild allegations.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : This is not wild allegations. I am having the paper cuttings. You cannot ignore these wire messages...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing doing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : These are very serious.

MR. SPEAKER : Your time is over. Mr. Soz.

[Translation]

Mr. Tanti, please sit down now.

[English]

I have given you more than five minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : I am on a point of order. My point of order is that in the last two three sentences which he has spoken, he has said something about the Army personnel. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Without basis and without facts, nothing is allowed.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : You remove it from the record.

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record and see.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : I do not want to take much time of the House. I thought of making one or two suggestions.

We are safe with Pantji. He is an able Minister. He is having able colleagues also. So, I have no worry. I want him to do something very spectacular in one or two fields, that is what is uppermost in my mind this time.

One is, as far as the weapon systems are concerned, I cannot give the details as I have hardly three or four minutes. I think, we have reached the stage where the stage is set for take off, We have a very good stock of scientists, very good Officers in the Army and by this time, technology has been transferred. Therefore, I expect an able Minister like Mr. Pant to come forward with an assurance that we shall mark a take-off in the production of various kinds of arms indigenously, that will be in the interest of the country and that will be a contribution by Mr. Pant to the defences of the country.

Secondly, there is an impression that the Government of India of late is not talking vehemently or with force about Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace.

There is nothing tangible to support this impression. But would the hon. Minister, when he rises to answer the debate, assure the House that whatever the difficulties created

by imperialists, whatever the dimensions of difficulties, India will stand to this commitment that Indian Ocean will be a zone of peace and it will be a de-militarised zone.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How can India alone do it ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : India will perform its role. India is a leader not only in Asia but it has performed its role in various forums. That is known to the hon. Defence Minister. There is no time to dwell deeper on this.

I was reading this report. There are very good points in it and it is a very good report. The Defence Ministry has rightly asserted in the report that in our immediate neighbourhood there is a war. There was a danger that India could take sides. But India has remained absolutely neutral so far as the war in the Gulf is concerned. It is a very good thing. It is a misfortune that we could not play a part. We did try at NAM and other forums that Iran-Iraq war should terminate and there should be peace. We did not succeed. But one thing is there that both Iran and Iraq look at us for help—not help in arms. But they do not doubt our neutrality. It is a good thing. But whatever we can, we should try to extinguish the fire of war in the Gulf.

Indo-Pakistan border has been sealed. It could be sealed earlier also. But it is a very good thing. In this connection, I have one suggestion. I am satisfied that the border has been sealed. But could the hon. Defence Minister invite Members of Parliament in groups so that we could go there and see how the border is sealed ? This applies not only about the border but in other areas also where there is no vulnerability. We should not be theoretical going into these reports only. We should have understanding of what is happening at the grassroot level, how our defences have been organised. So more particularly, Members of Parliament should be invited in groups to see how the border has been sealed and how the defences have been organised. It is a very good thing.

I come momentarily to Jammu & Kashmir. We have no problems. We have no complaints. Prof. Parashar was wanting to have an ordnance factory in Himachal Pradesh: In Jammu & Kashmir

[Prof. Saifuddin Soz]

we should have many industries. But that is for the Ministry of Industry. Would the Defence Ministry also setting up a factory there? It may not be full-fledged ordnance factory, but a factory where components could be produced there so that we feel that we are also participating in the defence production.

Regarding recruitment from Jammu & Kashmir, the State deserves recruitment for various fields of defences. We deserve pointed attention by the hon. Minister.

I had wanted to move some cut motions, token though but I could not. One was that my constituency is touching the border with Pakistan throughout. Whenever I went to the areas like Gurig, Tangdar, Keran, etc. it was said that their claims so far as acquisition of land by the Army for roads or for other purposes is concerned, had not been settled. There are so many claims pending. I invite the attention of the hon. Minister to that so that these pending claims are settled.

I have a complaint also. Jawans are not receiving better deal. In the British time, the Colonel, the Major or the Captain would deal with them because the sepoy would be an Indian. But here is a captain who is to be captain of the team. They both are interested in the defences of the motherland. Several complaints have come to individual Members of Parliament. I do know about other MPs. They feel that officers from Captain onwards involve jawans in their household duties. It is a complaint I have received. Our jawans feel that they have to obey the orders of the Captain or the Major or the Colonel. They should feel that they are our brothers and they should not be mal-treated.

Then, Sir, in this Report, there are so many laudable welfare schemes. Sir, very laudable programmes are there. But Sir, I would request the hon. Minister kindly to look into those complaints.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I have been a Captain and Colonel and I had never seen anybody working in a household. I do not know who have complained.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, I have heard that some welfare schemes meant for

disabled persons have been withdrawn. I do not whether this is a wrong impression.

Now, finally one word of appreciation must go on record for our armed forces, be it in Sri Lanka, be it on our borders, our armed forces have played a very laudable role and I remember how in Meerut riots, army jawans were preferred to Police and the people of Meerut who gave a Memorandum to the Magistrate, want army contingent to be in charge of there security. So, at this point of time, there is hardly time available to me to speak. But I place on record my deep appreciation for the armed forces who are upright and doing their duty very honestly and chivalrously. Thank you.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, I have been waiting since morning. No Member from the Independent Group has been given a chance to take part in the debate. My name is on the top of the list of speakers.

MR. SPEAKER : Does not matter Mrs. Bhandari has spoken from the Independent side.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, she is not an Independent Member. I have given my name in the morning. You are avoiding my taking part in the debate because I am going to speak regarding Shri V.P. Singh's statement and Shri Buta Singh's statement which are contradictory and that is why you are deliberately avoiding me.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no question. Please now take your seat.

[Translation]

You had requested to be forgiven on one occasion and you had said that you would not disturb again.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am not disturbing. (Interruptions)

[English]

It is my right. Why should I apologise. I have been waiting since morning. My name is there in the list.

MR. SPEAKER : Whether your name is there or not, it is my right to give you time or not. Now, you are wasting my time. Please take your seat.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : No, Sir. You are making unjust to me.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is my decision. You take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I am not going to budge an inch. You are always using your powers. You want to avoid me because I have got the material ...  
*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the time to speak. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Datta Samant, you are barking at the wrong tree. When the debate on the JPC Report comes, you can speak whatever you like.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, you are deliberately avoiding me.

MR. SPEAKER : I ask you to take your seat. Otherwise, I will ask you to withdraw from the House.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I have already given my name.

MR. SPEAKER : Does not matter. It is my choice.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, you are avoiding me ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will name you.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

*(Interruption)\**

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you when the JPC Report comes up for discussion. I have given you promise that I will allow you to speak on that debate.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

*(Interruptions)\**

DR. DATTA SAMANT : This is the highest forum and I am the Member of this House. I should be allowed to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow when the JPC Report is discussed in this House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : But this is an important debate.

MR. SPEAKER : I have told you that I will allow you when the JPC report is discussed.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will name this man. Please order.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : ...He has got the whole mafia ...*(Interruptions)*. You cannot allow him to do this inside the House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : You should not talk about me as mafia.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No question. You cannot call anybody as mafia.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Tewary, it is my duty to call a man to order.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : He is holding the House to ransom.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please sit down. I have promised that whenever the JPC Report comes up for discussion, I will allow you to express your views on the same and then you may speak on the Hinduja Brothers or the Banchchans but at present you should either sit down quietly or you may leave.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I should not be treated like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Colonel, you are starting the same thing once again. What are you doing in spite of you being so wise?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is good to spare a penny sometimes.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Sir, I am walking out.

15.56 hrs.

Dr. Datta Samant then left the House.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. K.K. Tewary should get an opportunity to be named in this Session as well.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : Sir, I should like to thank the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and I would like to begin by saying that I am sorry that I could not be present on Friday when some hon. Members spoke. But I have gone through their speeches and I have taken all the points that they have made.

My colleagues, Shri Shivraj Patil and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev have already spoken. Shivraj ji has covered the area of Defence production and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev has covered the area of ex-Servicemen and related matters.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Buta Singh intervened.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Buta Singh did intervene and I would like to state because Prof. Dandavate is a respected Member of the House, there is no great mystery in this. He would have made a statement if he had spoken after the Demands had been passed. Since it was in the course of the Demands being discussed, he called it 'intervention'. That is all. He spoke with the permission of the Chair. He has a right to speak. (Interruption.). I have explained why. He

would have called it a 'Statement' had he spoken after the debate ended. Because it was in the middle of the debate, he called it an 'intervention'. It is as simple as that.

Sir, the debate was very constructive and I would like to thank the hon. Members for their very valuable suggestions from both sides of the House, I should add. And it was clear that their intention was to strengthen the defences of the country and to see that the Defence expenditure is put to best use. These were the two underlying considerations which were weighing with the hon. Members who spoke.

Many hon. Members have referred to our brave soldiers and have referred to them in glowing terms. I would like to associate myself with these sentiments. And we also like to thank all those who were involved in seeing that the Army, the Navy and the Air Force function effectively because behind every soldier there are production units, there are scientists, there are administrators, there is the whole army of people supporting the Defence Forces and all of them must today be thanked and their role must be acknowledged. I do not want to go into the different areas about which people spoke—Prof. Parashar spoke about the hill people, some others spoke about other people and there was one Member who said that people from all over the country should be taken into the Armed Forces. Prof. Sez, I think, I don't find him here. But that is what is being done and in fact an account is kept of the various States, how many people they contribute to the Armed Forces and therefore, if there is any such complaint, I can discuss it with any hon. Member who is interested in the subject.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, there were some points, some discordant notes I would call them, not one but there were some. I can only say that if there is some misunderstanding, some mis information, some mis-conception, some failure on the part of the Government to put across its point or, in some cases, failure on the part of the Government, then we would acknowledge, we would accept it and we would learn from mistakes and if there is mis-information on the part of the hon. Members, we can hope of rectify it. But, there is also dis-information. All of us are

aware that there are interested parties in our country and there are interested countries abroad, who would like to see the progress of India slowed down, who are not easy at the thought of India rising to its full stature and its full power and who, therefore, lose no opportunity of trying to demoralise us, as a people, who refer to our army and say that the quality of our soldiers is not good, their performance is not good, the products of our production units are not good, our scientists and technologists are doing second-rate work and that there is excess Defence expenditure which a poor country cannot afford. These are arguments which we have heard for years and years. Now, all of us, sitting across that side of the House or this side, are equally concerned about it.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):**  
Who said all these things ?

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** They are many who say that. Let us beware of mis-information that is spread. This is my point.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** But nobody said it.

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** No. I am not talking of anybody here. But I am talking of mis-information because it does penetrate in a very subtle way. It is brought out in magazines and articles. Suppose we are developing a weapon system and there is somebody who wants to sell a weapon system. Then there is certainly over a period of time an attempt to create the impression that the weapon system we are developing is obsolete before we develop it and so on and so forth. That is the general point that I was making and Nirmalaji made the point that we should say nothing that demoralises our armed forces. I think that is a point well taken. I would say that what Tantiji thinks can be attributed to mis-information. But I would not labour the point but I think he should understand what he said about Sri Lanka is not in consonance with the spirit in which the other remarks have been made from both sides of the House.

**SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :** What about Sri Lanka ?

**SHRI K.C. PANT :** I will come to Sri Lanka also. I will come to it.

The important thing on which all of us are agreed upon is that India cannot afford to let it guard down.

We have a long history and that history has been ups and downs. We have known victory and defeat. We have known colonialism. As a nation-State with 40 years history, we have seen many wars. Against this background and the current geo-political realities to which many hon. Members referred, nobody can deny the need to build strong defences in India. That is the one point on which I think we are all agreed and I think all of us know by instinct and by analysis that if we leave a window of vulnerability open in this country, it is the surest way of inviting aggression. That has been our experience and it is the one thing we must avoid at all costs.

The other point on which the House is agreed is that this is too large a country and too important a country to be subservient to any other country whether in the matter of defence or, in the matter of independence of judgement or expression of views. Therefore, we have chosen Non-alignment in this country since Pandit-ji's day and it has stood the test of time and it has the support of all sections of this House and this country. But one of the prices, if you like, that has to be paid for Non-alignment is that we have to pay for our own Defence, that we are, under nobody's umbrella. Whenever we view the question of Defence expenditure, we have to keep these basic facts in mind.

Prof. K.K. Tewary referred to security in its broader aspects. I agree with him. But I do hope that he will agree with me since I have to cover a lot of ground and may be it is better if I do not get into the other aspects of security which are as relevant as the narrower aspects of Defence. I agree entirely with that perception.

The question of Defence expenditure is raised at every Budget. Shri Amal Datta is not here. He managed his feet by saying in the same speech that Defence expenditures are too high and too little. But he is not here. So, I do not want to refer to him. But the fact of the matter is that there are many...

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** The value of the rupee is going down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : Anyway, I am on a serious point and that serious point is that when we make comparison of the Defence expenditure in our country with that in other countries, then it is not always easy because you are never sure whether you are comparing the like-to-like. But nevertheless if I give you some statistics, you will agree with me that India is a low spender on Defence. We spend 4 per cent of our GDP on Defence. Pakistan is reported to be spending 6.3 per cent of its GDP. 18 percent of the Central Government expenditure is spent of Defence. This is again a modest sum, a modest percentage. We have 15,600 kms of borders. We have a population now of roughly 748 million. This is important. We have one out of 748 citizens in uniform. China has one out of 232 citizens in uniform. Pakistan has one out of 183. We have 64 soldiers per K.M. of border. Pakistan has 80 ; China has 214. These are objective indices. There is no question of fiddling with the budget or with the figures or including certain budget heads and not including certain other budget heads. I give you these objective figures so that we can make a comparison both in relative terms and absolute terms. You will again come to the same conclusion that our Defence spending is modest. Now, the reason for this is not far to seek. While I agree with Shri Jaipal Reddy entirely that we have a certain responsibility to maintain a certain strength of our Defence Forces by virtue of our size, by virtue of our geographical situation, perhaps by virtue of our history and perhaps by virtue of our own conception of the contributions we can make, with all humility, to the rest of the world in terms of peace, in terms of ideas which the world may need today, which have been given in the past by this country, all these things are only possible if we survive as a nation. For that survival, we need a certain strength. He also referred to domestic cohesion. He referred to the fact that there should be pride in the country and if the country is strong that too is a factor for unity and cohesion. I agree with him. I think while we are not developing our Defence Forces, for that reason one of the spin-offs and one of the side-effects of strong Defence Forces is that the unity is strengthened, the unity of the country is

strengthened. But one thing we have always avoided. We have avoided seeking or pursuing the military path for its own sake. Our founding-fathers had not believed in it and we have not followed that path. We have also accepted that concentration of defence to the exclusion of the socio-economic factors and others, to which Prof. Tewary referred, again, does not serve the cause of security in its larger sense.

We are conscious of the need, for instance, of our Defence contributing, in a drought year, to the country when so many States are suffering from drought, when tubewells become important, when there is no fodder for the animals.

Defence is not an ivory tower which is unconnected with all that is happening in the country. Therefore, we have reduced, we have willingly given up, a part of the Defence budget last year. This is a point which Mr. Amal Datta raised. Well, we agreed to give Rs. 500 crores because we are as much concerned, and so are the defence forces—I speak for them because I spoke to them, and willingly and readily they said, "Yes; we will reduce our expenditure this year if it is needed for these purposes". So, we are conscious of all these things. But it is important that we maintain a minimum level of defence preparedness. It is also important that we maintain the momentum of modernisation. While one may cut down the budget, there are limits beyond which it will begin to hurt defence preparedness. It is because of these considerations and the changing geo-political situation which does not allow us to become complacent or even to relax in our defence preparedness that we have settled on a certain figure for defence expenditure this year.

Some criticism is made of the annual budget in relation to the last budget. It is legitimate; comparison is also legitimate; but I would request hon. Members not to go by year-to-year comparison but to see the trend of expenditure because one has to take a slightly longer term view of defence expenditure. For instance, in 1984-85, our defence expenditure stood at the level of Rs. 7136 crores and this year we come to the House with a proposal of Rs. 13,000 crores. Similarly, there was a reference to the capital side against maintenance expenditure. I think, Shri Amal Datta, again, raised that

issue. Between 1984-85 and 1987-88, the expenditure on capital outlay increased from 10.14 per cent to 22.79 per cent. The investment on Research and Development, the House will be very glad to know, has witnessed a phenomenal expansion of over 152 per cent during this period. Today we are spending about five per cent of our defence expenditure on Research and Development. The only...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us what will be the import component of our defence equipment as compared to the indigenous component in terms of value ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will have to collect those figures, but I can say this. Today one important figure is that, based on our own research and development, we have a production of about Rs. 1600 crores. But if you want to know the exact component, the figure I will have to collect...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : In terms of percentage.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I take the point, and I have no hesitation in saying that in many of our defence factories what we are producing does contain imported components also, sometimes a fairly large quantum of imported components, but then there is a progression in the indigenisation, from CKDs to SKDs to indigenous production; and in some cases, one goes up to a high percentage. In some cases the end product is never a hundred per cent for the simple reason that it is not worthwhile to produce some items of which we need very small quantities. But if specifically you would like to know, I will get those figures.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : May I remind the Hon. Minister regarding the Editorial of 'Patriot' dated 12th March, 1988 where it has been said that ordnance factories could not use Rs. 254 crores out of Rs. 680 crores and, therefore, had to content with Rs. 338 crores. So, was the case with DRDO which could not spend one-fourth of the...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You should not say like this.

[English]

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will come to DRDO and Defence Production later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : The Hon. Minister of Defence mentioned yesterday regarding the performance of ordnance factories and DRDO. Would you clarify the position ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : He has dealt with this. Last year, he dealt with it at a great length. Even the point which was made by Professor Dandavate was dealt with last year by Shivrajji.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : I am trying to deal with this year's Budget first. I shall deal with any point, which you have, later.

Another point which was raised by Shri Amal Datta was with regard to defence planning. He said : "there is no defence planning." I would submit that defence is one of those areas where you have to have a long-term perspective, you have to have a medium-term perspective, you have to have a short-term perspective. You cannot but have that. Now we have Five Year Plans for defence. And we have about three decades of experience in defence planning. And since May 1986, we have the concept of defence planning staff in which there is a greater intergration.

Another point he made was about—I think, there is some validity in that—that greater integration between three services, between R & D and the defence production people. So, this has been done. At the secretariat level, there is a Committee on Defence Planning and the overall political guidance is by the CCPA, by the Political Affairs Committee.

16.17 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM in the  
Chair



[Shri K. C. Pant]

Having said that, if Shri Amal Datta or any other Hon. friends have some other ideas, have some proposal, some suggestions, I would be open to any suggestion that you have. There is never a last word in these matters. If you can suggest some other formulation for better planning, certainly we can look at that also. So, in these matters, there is no rigidity. We are all interested in that. And if you have any suggestions, I would welcome that.

Modernisation in the armed forces is extremely important. Some Hon. Members referred to it pointedly and referred to the rapid changes that are taking place. Now, today obsolescence is so fast that we have to continuously up-date the weapons and equipment. And if you allow any significant gap to develop between the sophistication of your own weapons and that of your adversaries, then it certainly demoralises your armed forces. And then in the case of war—God forbids—if there is a war—but in case of war for which the army has to be prepared, then they may have to pay dearly for any lapse in this matter. So, this problem of modernisation through indigenisation of production and R & D work within the country is one of the most important foundations of our entire defence effort.

And as many Hon. friends have pointed out, the acquisition of a defence aircraft and other equipment and weapons by Pakistan creates new compulsions for us. I would not like to go over the entire area of new acquisitions by us. But, I think, most Members already know that our major programmes like the Main Battle Tanks, the BMP II, T-72, M-I Tanks and other weapons and equipment which are meant to increase the fire power of our army are all being made in this country. Production units are coming up. Some have already been tried out.

On the naval side, some reference was made to the nuclear propelled submarine, INS Chakra which we have taken on lease and which has been very warmly welcomed in this country. We have taken it from the Soviet Union and it is in our waters. We have also inducted aircraft for naval defences and hull-mounted sonars, torpe-

does and other sophisticated equipment. The Air Force has acquired the MiG 29, MiG 27 and additional Mirage aircraft. In the transport fleet, IL 76, AN 32 and Dornier 228 have been inducted. So our modernisation programme has a very wide scope and all the three Services are involved in materials, systems, weapons and equipment and of course, the corresponding training that has to go with any improvement in any of these areas.

I must pay also my tribute to our scientists, engineers and other specialists who have contributed significantly to this programme to which I will come later.

Shri Jaipal Reddy referred to the rifles. He will be glad to know that 5.56 rifles have been developed and it is undergoing intensive trials. Some orders have already been placed by the Army on our Ordnance Factories.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Do you mean to say that we have developed it ourselves and we are not going to purchase it ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes. It is our own. About night vision, Prof. Dandavate tried to prevent him from going too far; but still he went too far. That is sometimes dangerous; he should listen to senior people. Night vision binoculars goggles and other equipment are being produced by a number of factories in the country. They are continually inducted into services...*(Interruptions)*...Wherever needed. Once you have it, you can use it where you want. If the equipment is there, wherever you need, then you can use it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The point that I want to make is that the night vision equipment required for infantry is qualitatively different from the night vision equipment required for tanks.

SHRI K.C. PANT : But you have not heard me. I said binoculars, goggles and other equipment.

These on-going programmes and preparations for national defence are based on our perception of our national security.

Gen. Sparrow, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Ayyapu Reddy and others spoke about our security environment and our threat perceptions. I have had the benefit of the

analysis of our security environment and threat perceptions in relation to our geo-strategic situation. This of course is perhaps the most important contribution of this debate.

All my friends have agreed that the Indian sub-continent as well as the Indian Ocean is not free from security threats today. We have been for the past few years increasingly drawn into the vortex of international rivalries. Many Hon. Members have taken note of the positive developments of the signing of the INF Treaty between the USA and the USSR. In this respect I think we should take note of the role of the Six Nation initiative of which India and our Prime Minister was a part which certainly helped to encourage as well as to find solutions to some of the trickier problems and generally help the cause of signing this INF Treaty, the cause of peace, nuclear disarmament to the extent that this went forward. The extent to which it went forward may be limited in numbers and percentages of weapons; but in terms of a break-through of the attitude and the mind, it is a big step forward. Since it also involves agreements of verification, it opens a door to further agreements. This is a very important contribution of the INF Treaty. In our own neighbourhood, the agreement on Afghanistan is welcome and the initiative of the USSR in withdrawing troops from Afghanistan is also to be welcomed.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : What about the arms from Pakistan ? They flow to India for terrorists.

SHRI K.C. PANT : There is no doubt, there are a lot of arms floating around...

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : There are arms on the border. Why don't you go and find out and get them eliminated ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I think, you have chosen a wrong career.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : I mean it.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes, I know, you mean it.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : Kindly go by his emotions. Don't go by his advice.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I take one point seriously and that point is that in this whole region, we have a piling up of weapons and armaments on an unprecedented scale. Certainly, lots of those weapons are going to be floating around, lots of them are going to get into wrong hands. I think, the other day, Prof. Dandavate made this point. It is a valid point. I said so, during question hour. I am prepared to concede that what you are saying also is a point to be seriously by considered. But as I told Prof. Dandavate, it is not easy for us to control the situation in other countries. On our borders, you know, we are taking certain steps. But within other countries, the inventory of arms is growing and the development in the next few months will show what the final shape is. I don't think that we should be unmindful of the consequences. But, at this stage, we should welcome the fact that so far at least progress has been made in a certain direction which we welcome. But the conflict potential remains. The conflict potential remains although the nature of the conflict may change. I think that is the point which you are making.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Yes, Sir.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I may not comment on your solution but I agree with the concern that you have expressed about the piling up of weapons. Pakistan even without this peculiar situation, even otherwise, Pakistan is getting through US Aid, weapons and equipments which are very sophisticated. This House has very often discussed the implications of the inflow of these weapons into Pakistan. As Shri K.K. Tewary said. Pakistan is regarded as a frontline State in the world security apparatus or conception or blueprint or what have you of the United States and the western powers. So, this inflow continues. And we are told that even after the Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan, this inflow will not stop. That is the present position. That's why it becomes even more important for us to see that we do not like this window of vulnerability to develop. It is more important for us to be clear that our defence preparedness is maintained at a certain level at which no one is tempted to start any aggression against us. Our intentions may be peaceful. They are peaceful and our actions have been peaceful. But

[Shri K. C. Pant]

in spite of that, our defence preparedness has to be such that in case of aggression, the end-result must be favourable to us. That is the litmus test of our defence preparedness. And all that we are doing is aimed at this objective.

Sir, Shri Ayyapu Reddy, Shri Jaipal Singh...

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Shri Jaipal Reddy, not Jaipal Singh.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sorry, Jaipal Reddy, not Singh. There are Jaipal Singhs also but he is not one.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He is from a different tribe.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Gen. Sparrow and others have taken note of lengthening shadows of nuclear weapons in the sub-continent. I have dealt with this question last year. Mrs. Bhandari also spoke about it. The fact is that Pakistan's clandestine efforts are going on at a feverish pitch. They want to acquire a nuclear weapons capability and a number of Pakistanis have been arrested in other countries smuggling out sensitive components and technologies. These have not deterred them. The newspapers talk of her already possessing a few nuclear weapons. I want to assure all the hon. Members that we shall take all necessary steps to ensure that our soldiers in our country are not put to a disadvantage. The House does not expect me to spell out in detail what our response would be, suffice it to state that our response would be decisive and adequate. Sh. Jaipal Reddy referred to another development, which I think the House should take note of, and that is the stationing of long range missile in Saudi Arabia. These missiles are of Chinese origin and they have a range of 2000 miles. I think he mentioned a slightly higher figure. They have mentioned various figures in various magazines, say around 200 miles, and all concerned with these missiles have been assuring the world that they do not have any nuclear war heads. But I think, so far as the countries which come within the range of these missiles are concerned, alarm bells have been ringing. And it is quite natural for all these countries to be concerned about this development.

There are other possible developments, but I think I should not refer to them too explicitly, but all of you understand what I am driving at. I refer to these developments, because I think the House should be fully informed of the present threat and the potential threat to our security, not only by the induction of new arms, but new technologies and new capabilities into our neighbourhood.

A reference was made to Siachen. I have been there, as some of the hon. Members were good enough to mention, and I have seen the conditions there. I must say that I belong to the hills, I have seen the snow which very few people in the country have but the elements are very cruel in Siachen, at a height of about 20,000 feet and the temperature goes down as much as minus 35 or 40 degrees. Winds are icy and no amount of clothing is enough to keep you warm, lack of oxygen comes in the way of sleeping for long hours. If you expose your skin, there is always the danger of frost bite and you may lose your fingers. Conditions there are difficult and in these conditions, our soldiers whom I met, inspite of all these difficulties, were in a state which I can call as high morale. This is something which puts new life into me, puts new spirit into me, seeing these people fighting those elements in those difficult conditions without a shadow of doubt in their minds and determined in case of any aggression as happened in the past, last year to see that they protect our territory; to see that they give a fitting reply; to see that they repulse every kind of attack that is a kind of morale in which I found our men. And I feel that our borders are very safe in such hands. Sir, the Siachen situation is one which caused some concern because there is a certain amount of artillery fighting going on. No major military action has taken place after September October but we keep an eye, we keep a watch over it and at the same time we are trying to see that the next meeting at the Defence Secretaries level takes place soon. There has been some discussion also and the dates have been discussed. Some dates were suggested which did not suit us. In fact because of the Defence debate, we felt that the Defence Secretary should stay here till the Defence debate. Then their Defence Secretary is busy just now because

of the explosions they have had. You know, the explosion of ammunition dumps that they have had in their country and so they have suggested slightly later date, but the exact date has not been fixed. I would only like to say that, so far as we are concerned, when the date is fixed, then we shall certainly try to come to some understanding and we seek as always to live in peace with Pakistan. We are maintaining a continuing dialogue with them and in the spirit of the Shimla agreement, we are seeking cooperation and understanding. And interactions are taking place at various levels, and I can assure the House that efforts on our part to improve our relationship with that country will continue. But I am afraid that the evidence of Pakistan's support to the terrorists in Punjab has been one of the most important factors for creating a very adverse impact on the popular minds of this country and all of us. That is a kind of thing which must be avoided, if we are to make a real break through in our bilateral relations.

Some reference was made to China. The Prime Minister the other day dealt with it at length, about the 8th round of border talks held in an atmosphere of friendship. While we naturally take note of the force levels of China along our borders when they increase, we take a note of that also. Similarly, with the Tibet, when they increase we take a note of that factor also. That in any case we have to. But we still feel that if there is greater understanding then we would welcome it. If the outstanding issues can be resolved through dialogue and discussion, that is where this country has always wanted to go.

Now, Sir, there is a lot of reference to Sri Lanka. Now, the Sri Lankan situation today is very different from when the IPKF had moved or when the Accord was signed. So, it is important to remember that the Accord was signed at the 11th hour, so to speak the Accord was signed at the time when Sri Lankan troops were moving into the Jaffna Peninsula. At that stage we were asked, we as a country, were asked to play a role in bringing about a greater sense of understanding between the Tamils and the Sinhalees. It is to build a bridge between the two ethnic groups and to try to bring peace back to the

strife-torn island. And we accepted that. We accepted that partly because we have had excellent relations with Sri Lanka, age old relations, cultural relations, linguistic relations and ethnic relations. We have had a common history of colonial rule and since gaining Freedom, we have been close to each other. We wish Sri Lanka well. We will all sections of the population of Sri Lanka well. We wish the Sinhalese well, we wish the Tamils well, we wish the Buddhists well and we wish the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians and all of them well. We hope that they can live in peace in Sri Lanka. This is the basic objective with which we have been functioning over the years. In this particular case, there was some doubt about the ability of Sri Lanka to survive as one country. There is a question about the unity of that country. India certainly would like Sri Lanka to continue as a unified country and this become one of the objectives of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord signed by the President of Sri Lanka and our Prime Minister. It is for the protection of the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. Secondly, the Tamils of Sri Lanka are also close to us and it was again to create conditions in that country in which the Tamils can satisfy all their legitimate aspirations within the framework of a unified Sri Lanka, that we signed the accord. And Sir, it is to achieve these two objectives that the Indian Peace Keeping Force went to Sri Lanka and the movement of our Forces there was at the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government. Also, it is a part of our larger security concern because our security concerns there in Sri Lanka are themselves a part of our larger perception of the geo-political realities in this part of Asia. We are not indifferent to it and our security concerns are intimately bound with it. Let us be clear on that point. A stable and unified Sri Lanka at peace with herself is in our interest as well as hers.

Then, Shri Somu of the DMK Party spoke. I do not know whether he is here now. Yes, he is here.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North) : I am quietly watching Sir.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, I am always grateful to those who watch quietly, in this House at least,

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I will take him back to the time when the IPKF soldiers landed in Sri Lanka. They landed as missionaries of peace. They did not go there with blazing guns. Let him not get a wrong impression and let him not give the country a wrong impression. After going there, they have had the best of relations with the LTTE boys also.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Can the hon. Minister say as to how many Tamil were killed after the IPKF started its operations ? It is only a clarification.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Sir, the Tamils, unfortunately, have been killed in Sri Lanka before the IPKF went and even after they went. What I am trying to point out is that when the IPKF soldiers went there, they did not go with blazing guns, they did not go with violence in mind and they did not go with any animus. They went as messengers of peace from this country. They went and established good relations with the LTTE.

There was a clause in the accord that the LTTE should surrender all its arms. It surrendered some arms but it did not surrender other arms. IPKF still maintained very cordial relations, trying to persuade them to surrender the arms. The IPKF negotiated with the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government and the tripartite negotiations led to the...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : How could the IPK Force kill the innocent Tamils ? That was my question and it was not answered.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Don't you want to know how many of our soldiers were killed ?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : It was because of the government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It was all because of the ego of the Prime Minister.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : What are you talking ? There is no question of any ego.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Why are you attacking him ? He is not a terrorist.

SHRI K.C. PANT : He is not a terrorist. But I think he is somewhat nervous to hear the truth. After all, I am not saying anything which is even one inch away from truth. There is no deviation from truth. What I am telling you is, because of the negotiations between the IPKF and the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE, the proposal was mooted and agreed upon—almost agreed upon—to form an interim administration in which the LTTE would have a majority. Let us remember it. They would have seven out of 11, if my memory serves me right. Not only that, when they wanted two names to be changed, Sri Lankan Government has been persuaded to accept the change. It was only when the administrator's name was changed that the negotiations fell through and a stage was reached where an interim administration was not set up. I ask Mr. Somu, as to what more the IPKF has done.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Why don't you order ceasefire ? You had called Shri Prabhakaran umpteen times before signing the accord. Now, he is ready for talks. Why don't you call him for talks ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I will come to that part, *i.e.* the political part also. But first, I wanted to make it clear. Secondly, Shri Prabhakaran was in Delhi and discussions were held with him before the signing of the accord. Shri Somu knows that. These are facts that I am speaking about.

The third point that I want to make is that it is only when uncontrolled violence erupted, threatening Sri Lanka, that the IPKF started acting. And that they had to do. Because under the terms of the accord, they were expected to do that. Now, I would like to ask him this. If one Tamil Group kills another, who is to blame ? If one Tamil Group kills all the leaders of another Group, who is to blame ? Therefore, we are not taking sides. We are for peace. We would like all the Tamil Groups to lay down the arms. We would like to offer protection to all of them. We also have in mind the fact that there is, after all, a large Tamil population in Sri Lanka. They have been living there for centuries and how do we not have to keep in mind the interests of all Tamils in Sri Lanka, not

only of one Group or the second Group, but of all the Tamils ?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Shri Prabhakaran had categorically stated that he had not accepted the accord and that the terms of the accord were not shown to him. He had categorically stated so last year.

AN HON. MEMBER : How do you know ? Had he spoken to you ?

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : It has come in the press. How do you know everything else ?

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : It does not behove a Member of Parliament to speak like this.

SHRI K.C. PANT : About the soldiers, Shri Somu has asked as to what the soldiers were doing. I can only tell you one thing. When the IPK Forces were entering Jaffna, they sometimes faced walls of women and children as shields for the LTTE boys. I am not speaking with rancour. I am not speaking with ill-will. But our soldiers preferred to take casualties, rather than fire at these women and children. They preferred to take casualties ..(Interruption.).

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : Mr. Jonny, the lieutenant of Prabhakaran was killed by IPKF. He was taken to have a dialogue with Prabhakaran. He was killed midway, by IPKF. What do you have to say to this ? ..(Interruptions).

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, they are treating Mr. Somu as if he is an LTTE man, and they are IPKF people.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : You should be proud. Everybody is. At least once you should say so.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : You can be proud, because IPKF is not killing your people. They are killing Tamils. They are not killing your people. (Interruptions.)

SHRI K.C. PANT : I can well understand the sentiments of our hon. friends. We salute these brave soldiers. They are, after all, there for the cause of the country. (Interruptions)

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Don't yield to Mr. Somu.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Many of them have lost their limbs. Many of them have died, They have died for the country. We salute them, and we shall always remember them with gratitude.

Shri Chiranjil Lal Sharma said that there was a lack of coordination between the Defence Ministry, External Affairs Ministry and the IPKF. (Interruptions) That is not correct. There was very close coordination between the two Ministries.

The political solution of the problem was the aspect which was raised by Shri Indrajit Gupta. I cannot but repeat what the Prime Minister has said, viz. that if LTTE agrees to surrender arms, support the Accord, they are most welcome to join the political process. Elections are round the corner. Let them participate in the elections; and if they have the support of the people, then the logical conclusion will follow. So, this appears to me to be a good opportunity and we have, at the level of the Prime Minister, made this position clear. So, Mr. Somu and other friends are most welcome to help in this process. Why don't they take a constructive line ?

Shri Indrajit Gupta and I think Prof. Soz referred to the fact that some concessions which had been made earlier, have been withdrawn. I shall look into that. I am not aware of that just now. But I shall look into this matter.

Now a word about Indo-Soviet cooperation in the Defence sector. This relationship has grown over the years, and it has stood us in good stead in strengthening our Defence industries, and in enabling us to achieve a high degree of self-reliance in the matter of weapons and equipment used by all the three Services.

I am glad to say that high-level consultations have taken place in the recent past. As the House knows, Soviet Union and India share many perceptions, and Indo-Soviet cooperation in Defence will continue to deepen, with emphasis on joint effort and development, collaborative production arrangements, technology transfer and greater self-reliance for India, through indigenization. This relationship has now stood the test of time, and we continue to go forward in a number of key areas where

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Soviet collaboration is beneficial to our country.

Recently, we had consultations with the U.S. Government, as a sequel to the dialogue initiated during the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S. earlier. The United States has a strong scientific and technical base in Defence; and in many areas, they are leaders of weapons and equipment technology. Many countries have Defence cooperation arrangements with the U.S., including Socialist countries like China. The U.S. Government indicated its willingness to give us access to some of their advanced technologies, and we think it is in our national interest to acquire these technologies on terms which are advantageous to us. The Light Combat Aircraft and Super Computer and other areas of high technology have been specifically identified for such cooperation between India and the United States. I wish to make it clear that this growing association between our two countries is not at the expense of any other existing relationship, or at the expense of our indigenous scientific and technological capabilities. Indo-U.S. Cooperation in the Light Combat Aircraft project and other areas is still in an early stage, and it is our intention to nurture these incipient collaborative arrangements with great care and attention.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I want to seek a clarification. You have purchased the Miraj-2000. The company offered us the licence for manufacture from the raw material stage onwards. Why did we not avail of it? I put this question, but his not been answered.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I have not come to Defence Production, yet. But as far as I remember, a Committee of Secretaries went into this and found out that it was not cost effective. But that I have to check with the record. This is, as far as I remember it.

General Sparrow and others referred to Defence Production and Defence R and D. Shri Jaipal Reddy referred to the need to consolidate technological growth which is what Prof. Dandavate also probably has in mind. And both would not like to import, they would like us to consolidate technology rather than import.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Does he know his mind ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I know it better than you know yours.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Shri Harish Rawat spoke of workers in the Defence Production unit. Shri Shivraj Patil has already dealt with Defence Production as such. But one point was made directly or indirectly, repeatedly and I think I should deal with that. And that is, as to why we have been importing and continue to import equipment and weapons. I have explained that we cannot allow too much of a gap to develop between our weapons and the weapons of our potential adversaries. I am sure, the House will agree with that.

Now, the other part of it is, that why do we not straight-away import technology and manufacture? We must realise that we are a country which has a certain background and in that background you not find sophisticated industries except in the last couple of decades. You need the workmen, you need the craftsman, you need the scientists, you need the engineers and others who are attuned to certain sophisticated work, the work certainly of precision, and so on. Therefore, you have to build up this kind of body of men. Now, initially this applies to other sectors also.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : Has America refused the use of technology? Has America refused the supply of material used in light combat aircraft?

SHRI K.C. PANT : This is a continuous dialogue. Whenever they say, "No, if you want it badly enough," we will try to get from them. Wherever we need it from somebody else, we try to get it. We have to keep our national interests in mind and we persist where it is necessary. We are not sensitive in that, if national interest is involved. The important thing is that we have been buying foreign know-how for producing more hardware and sometimes in our eagerness to industrialise or eagerness to be self-reliant, we have imported know-how. If some friends say, why do you import know-how and we do not produce it in the country, by implication we had to import the equipment or the weapons. Is that the preferred alternative? I think

Prof. Dandavate also would agree that the preferred alternative is to import know-how, rather than to import a finished product. Then the other question is, that if you import know-how, why do you go in for next generation, again of imported equipment or imported weapons? I agree with that, in broad terms. But we have got to again take into account the fact that people who supply know-how to this country do not necessarily supply complete know-how.

17 00 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In fact, they may very often be interested in building know-how, taking money from us, but see to it that we cannot absorb know-how and build upon it, because they are interested in continuing exports. So, we have to bring in the latest technologies if we can and you know very well that the exporting countries try to give you the second latest technology and not the latest. It is a matter of policy for them. It is up to us. If we have the basic knowledge, then we can tell them 'No, we will not take this, we will take only the latest'. In many areas, we reached that stage and we get the latest technology for defence research.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Defence research will have to be made.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Prof. Ranga, I quite agree with you.

We also find that we buy something and we find that the country which has sold us the particular technology has already gone in for the next generation of technology. So, there still use to be, to some extent, a continuing race and we are trying to catch by with the leaders. So, it is not that this is not known, but it is that sometimes we are not in a very favourable position to extract what exactly we want and the best we want. But, I can assure you aware of these factors and that we have steadily improving our capacity to produce on the basis of our own R & D; our capacity to absorb the technology that we import; and our capacity to build on that technology. I cannot say that we will not import anything. That is not possible. Self-sufficiency

is not the goal, self-reliance is the goal. In that context,...*(Interruption.)*

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : My point is that whatever technology we have asked from them, will it be used in the Light Combat Aircraft ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : You see, composite electronics, metals, computers—all these are different aspects of any collaboration. What we need, we try to get. I cannot give you a total list here. If you are interested, then I can certainly try to give you more information on that. I am trying to give you the broad approach to the question of transfer of technology, because transfer of technology is difficult. What I was trying to say was, we do not even get fully engineered information, and all of you will agree that our production units are not always attuned to manufacture in the most sophisticated manner, because the manufacturing process has also changed abroad. So, the only thing I can say is that I will give you examples after this, that we seemed to have got over many of these problems in some vital important areas. I shall refer to the areas. I shall refer to the precise product, so that you get a picture. I am glad to say that in some important areas, we have moved, to what I can call, to a state of our technology, that is indigenous. One such instance is "Indra"—a low level radar 'Indra', to which you have referred and another hon. Member has also referred Bharat Electronics is now manufacturing it and it is manufacturing it in numbers, and by the end of this decade, the value of production of this radar alone will be worth a few hundred crore of rupees. Our Air Chief went into this. He considered this radar the best compared to the ones available from elsewhere. Now this is important. I want to underline it. The Air Chief has given the certificate after comparing it with similar radar systems from other countries. This is what I regard as the success of our R & D.

Similarly, in the field of Navy, it is getting indigenously developed torpedoes, sonar, electronic warfare systems from our own production agencies. But the one which has been referred to by Shri Jaipal Reddy—FSAPDS project that is important because it can penetrate the thickest of armours and it is capable of being fired from



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our tanks. Therefore, on these two counts, it is a very important development. I think, he knows this has been developed by the DRDO and has been accepted by our Army. Once again, the Army has very rigorous tests before it accepts weapon like this. So this is another achievement in the ammunition sector which, I thought, I should bring to the notice of the House. Now DRDO is going to produce this in collaboration with the Defence Production. They are going to help in setting up this factory. Afterwards, when the factory is set up, they will transfer it to the Defence Production people. But here I would like to tell Shri Jaipal Reddy and my other friends that it will be one of the most modern production units of its kind in the world when it is set up. It will be fully automatic and it will have robotic control. I think, this is something which the House should be glad to know. I will not give more examples. But this will enable you to get a picture of the wide range of production activities in which technology transfer has been achieved, in which our own R & D has contributed to the production effort, which is the real strength of the country. The Services are cooperating fully with this effort. I would like to tell the House with a great sense of satisfaction that the Services are fully in tune with the thrust of indigenisation. Without the help it would not have been possible. But they are encouraging and helping the scientists and engineers in this task.

There are still some areas. Industrial and engineering is one of them which need further development. I think, within a very relatively short time in some areas we will develop design skills and industrial engineering skills. But still there are many areas where more needs to be done. I think, we may not be so good at copying as the Japanese are, but in the original work, our people are doing some excellent work. I have been to many of these laboratories myself and I have been struck by the originality of some of the work that they are doing. On your behalf I would like to congratulate all the scientists and engineers who are engaged in this task.

Briefly I would like to refer to the missiles programmes in which the whole

House is interested. Hon'ble Members have congratulated the scientists and engineers on the successful test firing of the *Prithvi*. Shri Jaipal Reddy and General Sparrow also referred to the *Prithvi*.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Do not refer to him so many times, otherwise, Prof. Dandavate will not allow him to speak next time.

SHRI K.C. PANT : We do not know, but Shri Jaipal Reddy is a very good Congress man.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : My only complaint is that Pantji has failed to be a good Congress man.

SHRI K.C. PANT : I think the House would be interested in knowing that after the results of the *Prithvi* firings were analysed, the performance was found to be very good. I can go so far to say that our expectation and performance have matched so well and so fully that perhaps, we may not have to test as many missiles as we originally envisaged prior to induction into the service.

I would like to assure you that we will continue with this programme. I would not like to deal specifically with the point of the range of precision which, I think, is a subject which should be left out of the discussion for obvious reasons.

Now I may refer to surface to air missile and then anti-missile to which Shri Jaipal Reddy referred. *Trishul* is already on trial and we hope to induct it into the service by 1990. Even an informed member like him did not know that actually this much progress has been made. One should acknowledge it and be satisfied by it. The other important thing in the missile sector is that even while this R & D projects are under development, the production side is geared up to take over, the moment the R & D people are ready, and this has cut down the time between the R & D development and productionisation. This is one of the important points that has been made by some of the hon. members. By the end of the decade, I hope some of the missiles will be put into services. I can assure the hon. Members that guided missiles is one area, where we want to be totally self-sufficient, and fortunately our missiles programme is more or less on schedule.

The other programme, which I want to refer to briefly, is the MBT Arjun, because here you know MBT Arjun was shown in the Republic Day Parade and most of you might have seen it, this is important; we are now carrying out extensive trials from the stand, recently there were many tests on its fire power and the results are very good. They are now planning to conduct the extensive mobility trial this summer. So, this is the progress made by MBT. I could give you more details. But I don't think more details are necessary. This broad development in the R & D sector and its productionisation across a wide sector in many areas of great importance to the three Services, that I want to bring out very briefly.

Similarly, on the LCA programme I want to make one point. This is an Indian plane. This is not an American plane, this is not a French plane and it is not a copy. It will be an Indian plane and the Government is determined to see that we push through this programme.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is Indian about it ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : The design, the concept is Indian. After all, it is not that anybody has today invented the aeroplane for the first time. But certainly on the material side, in its configuration, in its requirements; in its adaptation to the particular roles with the FRX-I, in developing an engine not straightaway to be used in the frame, but later on straightaway of course you have to use the trialed engine. Later on you will develop an engine and use it in all these sectors and it is an Indian effort.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is GTX engine.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes, GTX engine is being developed.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What about stagnating.

SHRI K.C. PANT : It is not stagnating. It is under development and it is not an easy thing and please remember that when you are trying to develop you must remem-

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI : What about shedding of 200 Kg. of weight GTX ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Well, I think the best to answer that would be that I will pass on your suggestion to the designers. I know what is behind the question. So, it will go to the design people because they will be the best people to evaluate that. You have to make high trade-offs both in terms of weight, in terms of fuel and in terms of weapon system and so on and how much power you have in the engine this is what designing is about. Therefore, I say I will pass on this suggestion to the designers. But the point I want to make for the benefit of Prof. Madhu Dandavate and other colleagues here is that when you say that you don't feel demoralised and they go ahead and we go ahead with this programme and produce LCA in this country, it will be a great achievement. It will be a great achievement.

One point was made by Mr. Ajay Mushran about the expenditure in R and D. Some time ago this complaint had come to me and I had set up a Committee to go into this. Prof. M.G.K. Menon has already seen some establishments and he has sent in a report or two. I think these reports point a reasonably good picture in terms of achieving targets, but he will look into the other units also and I can assure Shri Mushran that the question of getting value for money is extremely important and it is always foremost in our mind and we shall continue to pay attention to it.

I am done, Sir. The only thing that I would request this is to give...

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Before you finish, I want to ask something.

SHRI K.C. PANT : Yes, certainly.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : We have a very cross-section of the House who made a lot of points about ex-Servicemen, and we have been making them for the last three years. The major point was about the actual implementation of the recommendations of the high powered Committee and in this whether it is the same ranking same pension or whether it is implementation by the Central or the State Government of those recommendations which really matter

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

ex-Servicemen, they have not been gone into. Let me recollect that I had even pointed out the progress as given by the Ministry of Defence in July 1987. No further progress to it had been added. Will the hon. Defence Minister like to say something about the ex-Servicemen's plight?

SHRI K.C. PANT : Oh yes, this is important.

Sir, the hon. Member has raised this issue here and earlier also and he knows what the Government is doing in this area and how keen it is to do all it can for ex-Servicemen. It so happened that while he was not in the House today, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev when he spoke dealt with this point. For good reasons he was out, I know the reasons. But he dealt with this issue and he had dealt with it already. But this is a continuing dialogue where certainly we can get together and try to see what more we can do. You know that most of the recommendations of the high powered committee have been accepted and in a few cases we are still looking at them, but he is fully aware of the picture. So, I don't think I can say anything more at this stage, but I assure him that we will look at the problems of ex-Servicemen sympathetically. Not only that, but the other issues that have been raised about those who are serving now, their housing and other problems, we are acutely aware of the fact that we owe a duty to Defence personnel at all levels to see that their problems whether it is housing, whether it is pensions, whether it is the other facilities to which a reference was made earlier, whether it is a question of their getting back their land and houses after retirement, all these are problems which...

: RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh) : One point about serving officers. The hon. Minister has mentioned that he would also look into the problems of serving officers of the Defence Forces. I would like to point out, Sir, with your permission, that officers in the Defence Services also belong to a Central Service just like other Central Services—the Indian Police Service and IAS. And the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that whereas for a Defence Officer—for instance take the case of Army, it takes about 18 years to reach the rank

of it. Colonel and now to get command of a Unit he has to be a full Colonel, not a Lt. Colonel. But equating this rank in the Indian Police Service an IPS officer with 5 years' service only can become a Superintendent of Police, and he is equated with Lt. Colonel. What is the Government doing to try and remove this invidious disparity that exists between different Central Services, on the one side, the Defence Services and, on the other side, Services like the IPS and the IAS and what is being done to try and compensate Defence Officers for the disadvantage which they suffer through their career in the matter of promotions vis-a-vis the Civil Services?

SHRI K.C. PANT : I am sure the hon. Member who is a very knowledgeable Member knows that at the time of the Fourth Pay Commission, a deliberate attempt was made to reduce the distance and successfully, between the Armed forces and the others to whom he referred.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Estimates Committee has recommended.

SHRI K.C. PANT : A deliberate attempt was made and, if my memory serves me right, we went beyond what the Pay Commission had said in this respect and with a running pay scale introduced on the recommendations of the Pay Commission every Officer is now assured of salary of Rs. 6,200 PM. (*Interruptions*). Let me also say something in favour of the Government. Now, the question of the Command level is a more complicated one because if you have a larger number of Superintendents of Police, you may get a day when Thana will be under a Superintendent of Police.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : As we all know, there is stress on using youth far more active roles. But in the Army, the Colonel when he takes over Command of the units would be generally over the age of 45. He will not be a youthful person whereas a SP at the age of 25 would be commanding a district and Deputy Commissioner with about the same period of service of six or seven years would be senior in status to even a Colonel.

SHRI K.C. PANT : This discussion may be difficult to conclude here but all I can say is whoever gets into the Army or when he gets into the Police, knows that

position. It is not as though we are creating the situation now. So, therefore, I did not want to accept this position after a point. But beyond that point, I think, people make their choices and, therefore, one can know the terms and conditions of service. They go by that. This does not mean that I would be indifferent to any suggestions made by hon. friends. Certainly I am open to suggestions. But he also knows the limitations within which we function. He is one of us. He knows very well the limitations and the functions in the Government.

The message which I hope this debate will give to the country is one of confidence, confidence in the Defence forces, who have always acquitted themselves with distinction, whether within the country or outside, whether during peace time or war and they should certainly get the unreserved support of this House.

Secondly, the large team of scientists and engineers who are functioning and Administrators and orders in various areas who are putting their best in the maintenance of this Army and Defence Forces also deserve our thanks.

Most of all, the inventive people in the laboratories, those highly skilled manpower which we have, which is the real strength of this country and which is what we depend upon to lift us from the status of a developing country to a developed one, must get a feeling of appreciation from this House for the work which they are doing in the laboratories. They must also get the feeling of appreciation from this House for the work that they are today doing in the laboratories. And with this, we can move ahead with confidence and I would like to

get the feeling that this House would like us to go ahead as fast as we can within the resources that are made available to us.

[Translation]

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is essential to pay attention to Punjab. The situation in Punjab is very grave at present and it is becoming increasingly difficult for people to live there. Will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us in this regard? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence to vote together, unless Shri Syed Shahabuddin desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately.

All the cut Motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Defence to vote.

The question is :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 12 to 18 relating to the Ministry of Defence.”

The motion was adopted.

**Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of Ministry of Defence Voted by Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Names of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 18th March, 1988		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by Lok Sabha	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Ministry of Defence</b>					
12.	Ministry of Defence	102,68,00,000	28,21,00,000	513,39,00,000	141,05,00,000

1	2	3	4
13. Defence Pensions	183,26,00,000	—	916,29,00,000
14. Defence Services- Army	1145,83,00,000	—	5729,14,00,000
15. Defence Services- Navy	130,12,00,000	—	650,61,00,000
16. Defence Services- Air Force	298,72,00,000	—	1493,61,00,000
17. Defence Ordnance Factories	20,65,00,000	—	103,25,00,000
18. Capital Outlay on Defence Services		643,24,00,000	3216,18,00,000

[English]

**Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 37 and 38 relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies for which 4 hours have been allotted.

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

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions 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.

Motion moved ;

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amount on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 37 and 38 relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies.”

**Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies, submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha**

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 18th March 1988		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the vote of the House	
1	2	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
<b>Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies</b>					
37.	Department of Food	406,37,00,000	20,81,00,000	2031,93,00,000	104,04,00,000
38.	Department of Civil Supplies	8,10,00,000	71,00,000	40,51,00,000	3,52,00,000

**SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY** (Nalgonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to make a few comments on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry consist of two parts—the Food part and the Supplies part. When we think of Food first, it comes to everybody's mind the Food Corporation of India, which is a public sector undertaking. The Food Corporation of India has become a white elephant to the Government of India and to the people of India. Many times on the floor of this House many questions were raised and many replies were give on the subject. The Food Corporation of India has been set up in 1964 by a comprehensive piece of legislation. The prime object of this Food Corporation of India was to purchase, and to undertake the work of storage, movement, transportation and distribution of food-stuffs, all over the country. But the Food Corporation is not working properly in spite of the many concessions given to it.

Sir, the Authorised Capital was increased from Rs. 550 crores to Rs. 1000 crores. They have converted Rs. 3350 crores of loan into equity. A lot of concessions was given and easy loan facilities were also given to it. A soft-loan of Rs. 1200 crores was given to the Food Corporation of India. In addition to that, for the purchase of foodgrains. Rs. 3900 crores were also given to the Food Corporation of India. The rate of interest is 14 per cent as against 17-1/2 per cent to other institutions. In spite of all these things, the Food Corporation of India is not working properly, is not making any profit, is not coming to the rescue of the consumers. The purpose of the Food Corporation of India is to procure and distribute. But that is not being done properly. They are not procuring properly. Many hands are changing in procurement. They are not giving remunerative price to the farmers and they are not giving foodgrains at cheaper rates to the consumers. In between many things are being done.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that the losses during handling and on other accounts are about Rs. 600 crores for the five years : in 1980-81 Rs. 100 crores; in 1981-82 Rs. 116 crores; in 1982-83 Rs. 143 crores; in 1983-84 Rs. 140 crores; in

1984-85 Rs. 122 crores. Wasted food-grains are losses on other accounts are : in 1980-81 6.43 lakh tonnes; in 1981-82 6.53 lakh tonnes; in 1982-83 7.4 lakh tonnes; in 1983-84 6.74 lakh tonnes; in 1984-85 5.57 lakh tonnes. This is the fate of handling done by the Food Corporation of India.

Actually the major function of the Corporation is to procure and distribute. The subsidy on foodgrains given in the last year was Rs. 2,000 crores and this year it is Rs. 2142.64 crores. The distribution system may be varied for the poverty alleviation scheme—that is also not effective. The total turnover of the Food Corporation is Rs. 10,949 crores and the total food-grain turnover is round about 4.15 million tonnes. New dimensions have not been given to the system. The system is not working.

Coming to construction of godowns, the Food Corporation have constructed some godowns, but many of them, they have taken on hire. As on 31-3-9986, the FCI's capacity was as follows : owned 103.66 lakh tonnes; hired 102.9 lakh tonnes; total 207 lakh tonnes; CWC—owned 36.121 lakh tonnes and hired 17.35 lakh tonnes, thus totalling 53.47 lakh tonnes; SWCs—owned 44.52 lakh tonnes and hired 34.60 lakh tonnes. This is the position. If the Food Corporation is working for the welfare of the people, they should have constructed their own godowns. In the name of hire, they are paying a huge amount at the cost of the common man. Every paisa which they are spending is at the cost of the common man. Therefore, this attitude should go and they have to construct more godowns in the rural areas; either the SWCs or the CWC should own them.

Coming to the construction also, many loopholes are there and they have to be plugged. One or two cases came to my notice. They are giving a hundred per cent extra over the estimated rates while in the State contracts they have given only 10 or 15 per cent. I do not know the reason why they are giving a hundred per cent here. Also there is the sub-contract. They are giving to the registered contractor, and registered contractors are giving it to sub-contractors thereby incurring huge loss on the construction.

[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

Coming to the storage methods CWC and SWCs have not constructed storage houses. Wherever the storage houses are there, the construction capacity is also low and thereby they are hiring the godowns. I would urge upon the Government to suggest to the State Governments to construct more number of godowns so that wastage can be minimised.

The maintenance is also very poor in CWC and SWCs. And there is adulteration also. Where from is the adulteration coming? There are number of loopholes. The act is there but nobody is using it. We have to put some teeth in the Act so that adulteration is stopped.

The central vigilance should be strengthened and the culprit should be brought to books. These things should be taken care of by the Government of India as well as State Governments. Then only we can solve this problem.

Coming to the distribution system, food is a primary input for everybody. But for the last three or four years—I do not know where this Green Revolution has gone—year to year the production is coming down from 1983-84. The highest level was 152 million tonnes. Last year it was 144 million tonnes. I do not know, this year, it may be 133 or 140 million tonnes because of severe drought and floods. Even the procurement is very bad. Up to January, the rise procurement was only 4.7 million tonnes as against the last year figure of 9.21. During 1985-86, it was 9.5 million tonnes. Regarding wheat, it is 7.85 million tonnes as compared to last year's figure of 10.54. Even in coarse grains, there is shortfall. Even edible oils and other oils, it is very low. I do not know what is the plan of the Minister. Is he going in for imports or is he going to enhance production? Of course, it comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. How are you going to solve this problem? How should we feed the nation? In edible oils and other things, we are going for imports. Last year we had imported 14.57 lakh tonnes of edible oil. We are importing sugar and we are also importing coarse grains and all these things. How long will we go in for this? The rates are very high. Pulses have increased to 32.7 per

cent, cereals 10.8, vegetable specially potatoes and other things is as high as 53 per cent, onion 41.9 per cent, oil 21 per cent, groundnut 25 per cent, mustard oil 44 per cent. How are they going to supply the essential commodities to the common man at the cheaper rate? What are the methods? How are you going to control the prices?

For procurement of wheat also, they have raised the rates from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. The prevailing rates are Rs. 131 whereas when you give something to farmer, it is only Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per quintal. What is the rationale? Why is this discrimination? Why is there discrepancy? There are heavy demurrage charges, storage losses and other things. All these things you are adding to the cost of the essential commodities which will be a burden on the common man the consumer. Neither it is useful to the producer nor to the consumer. Somebody in the middle is eating away the vitals, putting the consumer and the producer to loss.

Increase in sugar is 15%. Sugar production is good this year. But enhancement per tonne is only 50 paise and we are importing sugar. We have 10 million tonnes capacity mills. But we are not making use of the sugar cane grown and we are importing. I urge the Minister to take necessary steps to produce more sugar.

When we come to mills, for modernisation purpose of rice, wheat and flour mills only a little amount has been provided. Will this amount be sufficient to meet our requirements? Is there any new technology developed. I would like to know whether the R & D Department under your Ministry is working properly, whether new techniques have been developed and whether the cost of this has been reduced. Even the per capita consumption of oil, pulses everything is far behind when compared to international average. When are we going to reach this level? Are you able to supply good nutrition to the people belonging to weaker sections and tribal areas? How are you going to face these challenges?

In respect of warehousing, there are many problems. There should be a uniform code for warehousing the goods of both essential commodities and other marketing materials.

When we talk of the public distribution, it is a general subject. Everybody can speak on this subject. For strengthening of the public distribution system you have opened 3.40 lakh outlets all over the country. Will these outlets be sufficient to distribute the essential commodities? With the help of the State Government you have to open more number of outlets, so that you can solve the unemployment problem also. There are many unemployed educated youth available in every village, in any nook and corner of this country. Either you yourself or the State Government have to take up this problem and employ the youths so that these schemes are monitored properly with the help of the vigilance and the good administrative cell.

Now I would come to the subject of horticulture. Last year we had an enactment about the processed food. In India we are producing as on date 58 million tonnes of fruits. We are extracting pulp of about 5.5 million tonnes. We are exporting to other countries as well. We are nearly getting Rs. 50 crores out of this export. We have to enhance this. Are we equivalent to other countries? Do we have sufficient technology that other countries have? We are exporting pulp. In between many growers, registered persons are actually harassing the farmers. They are not paying the farmers who are supplying fruits and who are extracting the pulp. They are not making payments. Why don't you help them? Why cannot you intervene in this? You can indigenise this also. You can replace the soft wings if you can increase the pulp with the latest technology, bottling it nicely and having marketing facilities. If you can develop these things, then only we can help this problem thereby encouraging the cultivators also. Cultivators will get good results, they will get good income. Where there is no water, where water sources are not available; there we can take up the horticulture programme. We can enhance the agricultural production. Then, we can get extra pulp. We can change the dietary habits of the common public. We can supply more nutritious food as required by the human body.

I once again request the hon. Minister to streamline the administration of Food Corporation of India. It has become a white elephant. I request the hon. Minister

to constitute a committee of this House to go into the working of the FCI.

There were many reports. Many people have been placed under suspension. Many inquiries were there. But there is nepotism. There is corruption; everything is there. About 7,000 low cadre employees are working in the FCI. They are put to harassment. Some people are taking advantage of other things. Employees are also facing the problems, which should be looked into sympathetically. Nepotism should be removed. There should be a permanent managing director, a permanent chairman, so that they can streamline the administration. I urge upon the Minister to constitute the House Committee to go into the working of the FCI.

I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to appoint a technical committee to go into the working of Food Corporation of India and to suggest suitable measures to revamp it.] (1)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct more rural godowns to store foodstuffs.] (2)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure of Food Corporation of India to minimise the storage losses.] (3)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure of Food Corporation of India to minimise demurrage losses in railways.] (4)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to have proper "Save Grain Programme."] (5)



[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check malpractices in Food Corporation of India.] (6)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the adulteration in foodstuffs.] (7)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

["Failure to check under-utilisation of the personnel available in the Food Corporation of India.] (8)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reduce the expenditure on Food Corporation of India establishments.] (9)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to minimise the imports of sugar, edible oils, and other foodstuffs.] (10)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up adequate number of food processing units.] (11)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate storage facilities for fruits, vegetables and fruit juices.] (12)

"That the demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to export sufficient quantities of fruit juices, pickles and cooked foods.] (13)

"That the demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to streamline Public Distribution System.] (14)

"That the demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the quota of Sugar and edible oils to States.] (15)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open more outlets of retail shops under the Public Distribution System in the rural and tribal areas.] (16)

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

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effective and periodical checking of foodgrains stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India.] (17)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to remove Central Government's restriction on States for procuring more rice.] (18)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to bring down the prices of foodgrains and vegetables which have increased abnormally since March, 1988.] (19)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to review the diminishing stocks of foodgrains with sugar-cane.] (20)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix up the price of sugarcane at Rs. 350 per tonne to give incentive to formers to grow more sugarcane.] (21)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to release more food-grains for distribution through National Rural Employment Programme.] (22)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reduce drastically the subsidy of Rs. 2000 crores to Food Corporation of India.] (23)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the installed capacity and utilisation of the fruit and vegetable processing industries.] (24)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to include more items of mass consumption under the Public Distribution System.] (25)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open more fair price shops in rural areas to make food-grains available to rural folk at their door-steps. (26)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effective enforcement of Consumer Protection Act, 1986.] (27)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to educate the consumers about their rights under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and to take adequate steps to safeguard their rights.] (28)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for effective steps to reduce the import of edible oils.] (29)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure enough supply of pulses, vegetables and edible oils at reasonable rates through Public Distribution System.] (30)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to include fertilisers, pesticides and cooking gas under essential commodities so that the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Food Adulteration Act may be applied with regard to these commodities.] (31)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give vanaspati at ex-factory price to State Governments for sale to public through Public Distribution System.] (32)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : I beg to move :

"That the Demand under the head Department of Food be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide sufficient funds for rehabilitation/modernisation of all the old sugar mills particularly in Bihar and West Bengal.] (33)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

[Need to maintain a steady supply of edible oils including the imported rapeseed oil as per monthly allotment for the Public Distribution System in West Bengal.] (35)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to maintain regular supply of wheat under NREP/RLEGP in West Bengal.] (36)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve a comprehensive programme for Public Distribution System all over the country.] (37)

"That the Demand under the head Department of Civil Supplies be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to maintain regular supplies for Continuance of the Public Distribution System particularly in West Bengal.] (38)

**SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry has really to perform mainly three types of roles. I will refer to those roles and express my views regarding the performance of this Ministry in that respect.

Public distribution system has to be looked after by this Ministry. With that system and with the other powers, which the Ministry has, it should also succeed in holding the price line of the essential commodities. This is the second role which this Ministry has to perform. The third role, according to me, which is also the most important, is the role to protect the consumers and protect their rights as consumers of this country.

As far as the public distribution system is concerned, no doubt, at present, there are about 3,40,000 fair price shops in this country. If we fix up the target as one fair price shop for 2,000 people, then also,

they fall short of this target. And at least four lakh fair price shops will have to be established in this country, if we want to achieve the target of one fair price shop for every 2,000 people.

I would request and urge upon the Government to take prompt steps to increase the number of fair price shops as early as possible. Through these shops only, the public distribution system can work. We can reach the nook and corner of the country with all the essential commodities which are required for a common man.

Another problem with respect to these fair price shops, which I would like to put before the Government is that, at present, the fair price shops have not become a viable proposition. As far as cities like Bombay are concerned, where we call them ration shops, nobody is now coming forward to take charge of any ration shop or to open a fair price shop. We call it ration shop in Bombay. Therefore, a re-thinking will have to be done in order to make these shops more viable. Some more margin will have to be allowed. Some more facilities will have to be given as far as Bombay is concerned. The question is with respect to the fair price shops and the shop premises which are not available in Bombay where there is large population. In this respect, re-thinking will have to be done and more and more fair price shops and ration shops will have to be encouraged and established. In view of the time which is at my command, I will not go into the details of this but I may urge upon the Government that production of bumper rabi crop may not generate a sense of complacency and we should still concentrate on these fair price shops as far as the whole country is concerned. The most important subject which prompted to speak on this is the rights of the consumers which are not properly protected at present by this Department. We passed the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and it came into force from 24th December 1986. I would like to know whether every State has established these Councils which contemplated under Section 7 of that Act and what is the state of the National Council which was supposed to be established under Section 5 of the Act? I am told that the Councils which are formed are so unhealthy with the result that I do not think hardly any meeting are held by these

Councils and no purpose is being served by establishing these Councils. Therefore, I will urge upon this Government to look into the matter and to implement the provisions of this Consumer Protection Act, 1986 more carefully and with more vigour. As I was saying, the most important subject which I want to touch today is about the distribution of the contaminated Irish butter in the cities like Bombay and Delhi and it has been very serious, which the Government should take a very serious note of. The unfortunate accident took place in Ukraine, as far back as 25th April, 1986 with the result that the countries within that zone which had the radio-active fall out, the European economic community countries, recognising the intake of even lightly contaminated products, immediately banned the consumption of these articles, where we have been freely accepting by way of aid from the European community, with the result that there is a greater danger of cancer and other maladies by consumption of these articles. I am told, and I am sure that the Supreme Court has now decided and cleared, that there is no danger about the consumption of these articles. I would point out that in the first place, nothing has been decided by the Supreme Court as far as the consumption of Irish butter is concerned. They have expressed certain views but ultimately the whole writ petition has been dismissed or decided on the ground that the judicial proceedings of the nature initiated is not a proper remedy for determining of such matters and therefore, really speaking, the Supreme Court has not decided these matters, though they have expressed certain views.

Secondly, I would also like to point that in that matter also, free experts who were appointed by the Supreme Court had no knowledge about the technical subject which was before them.

The three experts which were appointed by the Supreme Court are, Shri P.K. Iyenger, Shri G.V.K. Rao and Shri M.G.K. Menon, though they were experts in their own ways, they were not specialists in the biological effects or medical toxicity of radiations and, therefore, really they were not competent to give opinion on this point as far as the bad affects of the consumption of this contaminated Irish butter is concerned. And, therefore, even though the Supreme

Court suo motu appointed them and the parties who appeared before the Supreme Court protested saying that they were not the real experts but the Supreme Court unfortunately did not uphold their contention. I would also point out here that 2 other experts having noble prizes have clearly stated that this is not the correct thing to consume. And, therefore, I would point out that Linus Pauling, a Noble Prize winner has clearly stated and I note every person is exposed to high energy radiation from cosmic rays to natural radioactivity. This exposure cause birth defects, cancer and other diseases. Additional exposure to high energy radiations increase the incidence of birth defects, cancer and other diseases approximately and in proportion to the added levels. I am sure that it is not true to say that the permissible levels of Cesium-137 and Strontium-90 mentioned in your letter are safe and harmless. This matter was referred to him and he has clearly stated this.

Another expert George Wald has also stated in his opinion that the simple reality is that no threshold exists for damaging effects of ionising radiation or radioactive materials injected or inspired. Any level may do some damage. More dose, more damage. From that point of view "every dose is an overdose." He further says that as far as so-called permissible levels of radiation are concerned, they compromise with the convenience. Government and business interests and economics super imposed on of the concern with health, "I would not be guided by them." So, the two experts having Nobel Prize have given opinion against this consumption. And, there has been also a resolution passed on 24th February, 1988 in the House of Commons of U.K., where 59 M.Ps. have protested against the distribution of this and they have stated that this House notes with anxiety, reports that a consignment of dairy products was recently returned from Mexico to Ireland after the Mexico authorities claimed that these were contaminated with the radioactivity notably with Cesium-137 in all probability of fall outs following the Chernobyle nuclear plant accident. Further notes that similar claims for radioactive contamination of EEC dairy products have been made in Ghana, India, Brazil, Euthiopia, Somalia, etc. Therefore, it calls

[Shri Sharad Dighe]

on her Majesty Government to initiate an investigation to ensure that no radioactive contaminated food products have been or will be shipped from the United Kingdom to the Third World countries or from other European countries to the United Kingdom to ascertain what has happened to all such contaminated foodstuffs and to report its findings to the House at the earliest date.

So, this resolution has been passed by the House of Commons on 24th February, 1988. We are not taking a note of all these experts opinions and all these actions which are being taken by other countries and therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take a very serious note of this and not to distribute or stop distributing this contaminated Irish butter either at Bombay or Delhi. Or at any place as far as this country is concerned.

18 00 hrs.

Lastly, I will point out that it is the right of a consumer to choose. Therefore, the demand is at least label them so that I as a consumer will decide whether I should consume this contaminated butter or not. At least that right should be given to the consumers when we are trying to protect the consumers' right. And if that right is denied then I will say that you are denying a fundamental right to a consumer to say that I am not going to consume this. Let me know what butter you are supplying. But according to the Supreme Court Judgment I think the Government is following a very wrong precedent, a very wrong practice—even in not labelling, this Irish butter as Irish butter so that the consumer may choose and have a right of choosing whether he should consume it or not.

Lastly with all the force at my command, I would urge upon the Government to ban immediately this distribution of Irish butter contaminated in this country completely.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : If the House agrees we may extend the sitting of today upto 7 P.M.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time of the House is extended upto 7.00 P.M. Shri Syed Hossain.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while presenting their Annual Report for this year, the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies have given a pat on its own back. They have stated in the first page of their Annual Report that :

[English]

“The biggest challenge of the year for the Department of Civil Supplies came in the form of a severe drought in a large part of the country. Some other parts were affected by floods. With the cooperation of Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, State Governments, their agencies and the people, smooth and uninterrupted supply of essential commodities was maintained in all parts of the country.”

[Translation]

But this claim of theirs is totally baseless. In this connection, I want to quote from a journal :

[English]

In the *Yojana* Magazine of March 16-31, 1988, in Page 6, it is mentioned and I quote :

“Prof. Atmanand : The per capita availability of foodgrains is only a paper exercise, for the actual availability to the people in the state is much lower. It is estimated that more than 50 per cent of the people live below the poverty line, and income distributions are so uneven that only the top few avail the most what is available.”

[Translation]

This is true that the country has witnessed an unprecedented flood and drought this year. As a result, the agricultural labourers did not get work in the villages and the price index also rose considerably. The Government has promised in its 20-Point Programme that a fair price shop will

be opened in every village. But contrary to it, you have raised the price of rice, wheat and sugar under the Public Distribution System. On the other hand, the increase allowed in the procurement price payable to the farmers has been so small that it did not result in any benefit to them. It is true that the production has gone down considerably but procurement has also been less due to the low procurement price fixed by the Government. As the Government opened very few outlets under the Public Distribution System and also raised the price of sugar, the availability of these essential commodities to the weaker sections of the people and those living below the poverty line in the villages become difficult. I do not want to go into the production figures. Everybody knows that production this year has been very low and procurement has also been less as mentioned in this year's Annual Report. But at the same time, I would like to point out that your system of procurement is also not proper. This is no secret that shortage of pulses and edible oils is more acute. This fact has been admitted in your Annual Report at page 27.

[English]

“(vi) In view of high prices of pulses and its tight position, Government has reduced the stock limits of pulses recently. Earlier the stock/limits for oil seeds and edible oils had also been reduced.”

[Translation]

Thus the Government does not want to increase the procurement of pulses, edible oils, rice and gram for making these commodities available in the villages at cheap rates.

With regard to sugar, I would like to say that while the price of sugarcane has been increased only by 50 paise per quintal, the price of sugar has been raised by 25 paise per kg with effect from 1st January. At the same time, I would also like to say that though in the wake of fall in the production of sugar, the Government does import sugar from foreign countries, but it does not have any intention to distribute this sugar at cheap rates through the Public Distribution System. A large portion of imported sugar is sold to the

traders in the open market. I would also like to avail of this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Minister that the number of sugar factories in West Bengal is very small. One sugar mill is in Ram Nagar and the other is located in Ahmedpur. Another sugar mill which is located in Beldanga in my district is lying closed since long. If some money is made available by the Sugar Industry Development Board under the rehabilitation scheme, this mill can be re-opened and production of sugar can also be increased there.

This is true that there is shortage of edible oils in the country. But this shortage notwithstanding, you will be surprised to know that the average per capita per annum consumption of edible oils in India is 6.72 kilograms as against the world average of 11 kilograms. So low is the average consumption of edible oils in our country. You know that in 1986-87 the production of edible oils in the country was 34 lakh tonnes and our imports were of the order of 15 lakh tonnes. Thus, the Government had to depend heavily on imports. But I want to point out that we cannot imagine the large scale irregularities which were committed in the distribution of imported edible oils. As the indigenous production of edible oils fell, the quantity of imports also fell although at the end of the last year when there was an uproar, the Government increased the quantity of import. Prior to that, very small quantity of edible oil was being imported. A large portion of imported edible oil is supplied by the Government to the vegetable oil mills. To whom do you supply this edible oil and what benefit do you get from those to whom it is supplied? You have imposed levy on sugar mills. My submission is that similar levy should also be imposed on the oil mills, which are producing vegetable oils.

I would also like to make a submission before you about the I.S.I. mark. It is obligatory on the part of the edible oil mills to get I.S.I. mark for their brand. Before 1985, when the price of edible oil was Rs. 15 per kg., the fee for the I.S.I. certificate was Rs. 30 per tonne. This fee was reduced to Rs. 20 with effect from 1st October, 1985 and subsequently to Rs. 12 w.e.f. 1st August, 1986. Going by the

[Shri Syed Masudal Hossain]

earlier ratio between the certification fee and the price of edible oil, the certification fee at present should have been Rs. 50 per tonne, but you have reduced it to Rs. 12 per tonne.

Why have you done so? The Government is giving Rs. 1 crore 52 lakhs as grant to the I.S.I. to enable them to offset their recurring losses. On the one hand, you are reducing the certification fee and on the other, the Government is giving grant.

There is one more point which I want to raise before the House. The Government has entrusted the responsibility of increasing the production of edible oils to the N.D.D.B. which has set up their projects in 16 districts but none of these projects relates to vegetable oil. I want to present before you the picture of my district. The production of oilseeds in my district in 1978-79 was 23,000 tonnes whereas in 1987-88 it was 7275 tonnes. The yield per hectare in this district is higher than the national average by one quintal. Against the national average of 611 the average in my district is 735. There is a mill named Bhagirathi Co-operative Mill in my district Murshidabad. If the production of this mill is added to the total production of the district, I am not sure whether the Central Government will give any incentive. There is a vast scope for increasing production of edible oil and for bringing more area under cultivation.

With regard to storage, I have to say that you do not have your own godowns even today. Whatever little storage capacity you have got of your own is totally inadequate. The result is that you have to store the commodities in hired godowns and your officers like this arrangement. You can see that the losses due to shortage in handling which stood at 20.71 crores in 1971-72 have increased to Rs. 115.60 crores in the year 1986-87. It means that total losses in F.C.I. godowns during the last 16 years amount to Rs. 1,222.81 crores. All this is shown against shortage in handling but the fact is that rotten foodgrains are purchased.

Your department is not fulfilling the objective of the Public Distribution System. The aim before your department was to remove the middlemen. It was hoped that when the Government would buy the foodgrains direct from the farmer, the latter would get a higher price. But when we go through the Annual Report, we find that in 1985-86 an amount of Rs. 21 crores was paid to the middlemen in Punjab and Haryana alone for procurement of foodgrains. When such a large amount has been paid to the middlemen as commission, what is the necessity of your department?

In the end, I want to make one or two submissions about West Bengal. West Bengal is a deficit State, you all know it. The total requirements of the State per month are: rice 1.5 lakh tonnes, wheat 1.3 lakh tonnes, sugar 40 thousand tonnes and edible oil 15 thousand tonnes. In regard to edible oil, a tussle is going on with your department for the last one year for the clearance of backlog, but without any result. The most astonishing of all things, which I am compelled to raise in the House today is that we had sent a telegram to your department to meet the shortage of wheat in Murshidabad district during the months of January-February. We were given assurance that wheat would be supplied. But what do the 'Action Taken Report' of your Consultative Committee says.

[English]

For March 1988 four wheat rakes have been planned for Berhampur Court which will be despatched as and when the Eastern Railway relaxes the restrictions. At present the movement of for entire West Bengal is restricted.

[Translation]

This is beyond my comprehension. Has this restriction on the movement of wheat, sugar and rice to West Bengal been imposed by your department or by the Railways? Even if it is by the Railways, it the responsibility of the Central Government to remove it. If it has been imposed by your department, there cannot be anything more shameful than this.

In the end, I would request you to give some money to the Beldanga Sugar

Mill under the rehabilitation scheme. In order to increase the production of the Bhagirathi Co-operative Mill, the matter may be taken up with the N.D.D.B. The exemption from I.S.I. certification given to the vegetable oil industry should be enquired into. The Government should also try to find out as to why the restrictions on the movement of rice, wheat and sugar to West Bengal have been imposed. I hope the hon. Minister will reply to all these points.

With these words I oppose the Demands for Grants and conclude my submission.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. The efficiency with which the hon. Minister has handled the work of this Ministry is praiseworthy. The country was affected by droughts and excessive rainfall and in spite of that, fair price shops and depots were opened in the rural areas for the distribution of foodgrains to provide relief to the people. The hon. Prime Minister has stated on the floor of the House that the people will not be allowed to die of hunger and accordingly we ensured that grain depots are set up everywhere. Foodgrains stocks were sent all over the country which provided relief to the people. In every region of the country whether the plains, the hill areas, or even the rural and the urban areas, appropriate arrangements were made for the distribution of essential commodities. We have also successfully dealt with a challenging situation created by one of the worst drought countries. So far as the enhancement of agricultural production is concerned, it will be enhanced only in case a good rainfall is there. We cannot fight with nature. If the monsoons fail it is unlikely for us to achieve our target.

But I would like to congratulate the Government, especially the Ministry of Food for its tackling the situation very intelligently. Even after 40 years of independence there are places in the hill regions where foodgrains are transported by goats and sheep. There is no road in those areas and horses and mules cannot reach there. There are many such remote areas in Himachal Pradesh where people take the help of goats and sheep for the transportation of foodgrains. Pangi and Kinners in

Himachal Pradesh are very remote places. In Uttar Pradesh Garhwal is also such an area. But there is not a single place in the country where foodgrains have not reached. It is possible that the State Government or officials might have indulged in malpractices. The State Government is also responsible for this. There have been instances where the Central Government allocated funds and the State Government misused them by providing the benefits to its favourite people. This is what is happening in West Bengal. In West Bengal only those people who are favourite of State Government get foodgrains, and the other people do not get. They have a feeling that only their party workers should flourish and all other parties should lose their existence. This is the reason that the people of that State mostly take to agitation. They do not undertake farming and due to this the production falls. The production falls down in the mills because workers resort to agitations and do less work. In view of this no progress is made. The red flags command authority in the State and the people are instigated and nothing else. The Government of India should pay attention towards it and keep a close watch on those people who create obstacles in the path of progress of the country and take commissions and want that people should die of starvation. The hon. Minister comes after having been elected. But efforts should be made to tighten the inspecting machinery so that it may work properly. I would like to draw your attention towards one thing. It is a fact that we should get the remunerative price for our produce. People producing wheat, rice and potato get remunerative prices of their products. But the people producing fruits in hill regions do not get remunerative prices for their products. The Government should, therefore, formulate a policy for them so that they may get support price for their products like apple, potato and pear. The hon. Prime Minister is aware that it is the main source of income for the people living in hill regions and their economic condition is dependent on the prices of apple and potato. The rats eat away foodgrains worth crores of rupees in the godowns. Certain Government officials also indulge in pilferage.

In the railway stations the railway employees are always on the look out for a



[Shri K. D. Sultanpuri]

chance to make pilferage of coal. Even if each of them pilfer 2 to 3 kilograms of coal, they accumulate huge quantity. The Government will have to keep a watch on these activities. It is alleged that foodgrain supplied by rural areas to cities are adulterated with rubbish. It is because no action is being taken against them. Our opposition parties vehemently criticise that people are being supplied sub-standard food articles. When we supply good quality of foodgrains it is alleged that the quantity is less, when they themselves supply, they say that the food articles are adulterated. Nobody can make them happy. Even God cannot make them happy. There has been no rainfall this year in the States governed by the opposition. These people have brought everything in the country to standstill. I would like that at least for the sake of God, opposition people should extend their co-operation to our scientists and technical personnel who are engaged in research work for raising the agriculture production in the country. They should appreciate them so that we may get good yield by dry farming. I would like to submit that Government should monitor the distribution of foodgrains in the States where it is not done properly.

The practice of taking godowns on rent should be done away with. This causes huge loss of money. Instead of taking godowns on rent, Department of food should make arrangements for 2-4 godowns at every central place. The hon. Prime Minister is very kind to us who selected the Food Minister from among the MPs of Himachal Pradesh. The hon. Food Minister has thorough knowledge in this regard. Through you, Sir, I would request him to construct more and more godowns in Himachal Pradesh, hill regions of Uttar Pradesh, and all other hill regions like of Nagaland, Mizoram etc. so that foodgrains could be preserved at less expenses.

I would like to submit further that no depot should be allotted to any shopkeeper. The businessmen try to keep everything under their control. Their brothers or other relatives happen to be in Government service and working as Inspectors. They connive so cleverly with each other that the country's progress comes to a standstill. People start blaming Department of Food

for this. I therefore, request that no Government depot should be given to a shopkeeper. Rather these should be given to poor people, Harijans and tribal people. In the cities also there are people belonging to the weaker sections of the society. I had been to Tamilnadu yesterday. I saw there for myself that poor fisher men are living in the streets and they do not derive any benefit from our schemes. They have to stand in queue before big businessmen and face a number of other difficulties. They do not get their due share of foodgrains. The Government should, therefore, pay proper attention towards it and ensure that the people, whose standard of living the Government want to improve get the benefits of various schemes launched by it.

So far as I know, a number of middlemen have been engaged in Punjab in the procurement of foodgrains. The Government should exercise strict vigil on them. The Government should find out the officer who appoints these middlemen and the manner in which he takes commission. I demand that action should be taken against those people who take profit in foodgrains. It is only due to this malpractice, the people living in the cities, poor people and people belonging to the weaker sections of the society do not get their due share of foodgrains and suffer. These middlemen have been sucking their blood. In this connection I would like to cite the example of one Mr. Jain who used to mix beef tallow in ghee in Bhatinda. He was apprehended and arrested. An enquiry was held against him. But it appears that it has no effect on him. On the other hand there are reports that the country is experiencing shortage of dalda. Only such people are behind such shortages. In this connection I would like to request the Government to make the dalda ghee production licence-free as in the case of setting up of flour mills. Anybody who wishes to produce dalda ghee may do so without a licence. This will help produce required quantity of dalda ghee in our country. People have made it a practice to take commission at the time of issuing licences. This restriction on manufacturing ghee must be removed immediately.

The Government propose to hand over Dalda Ghee Industry to the co-operative sector or to the State Governments. There are proposals to ask the State Governments

to manage the Dalda Ghee Industry and run it. In this connection I would like to urge the Government that it is well and good if the Government can run the industry itself, or otherwise it should be handed over to the private entrepreneurs.

This Industry cannot be set up in West Bengal. Even if it is set up, it will be difficult to manage it. It is because the trade union is very strong there which will not allow the industry to run.

The rich people should have a free hand to manufacture dalda ghee and set up dalda ghee industry so that those mills could meet the requirement of dalda ghee in the country or at least they can make efforts in that direction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to express my views. The hon. Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is sitting here. I would like to request him to pay special attention to the various suggestions made by me and ensure that people producing apple, potato and small seeds get support price. I oppose the views of the opposition and express my support to the Demands of Grants of this Ministry.

[English]

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a few remarks on the working of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. Sir, I have great personal respect to the hon. Minister who I know is very honest. But the system under which his Ministry is working has completely failed. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Panigrahi, don't question like this. What do you want to say? I know the procedure and I know whom to call.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I wanted to know when my name will be called.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you that one Member will speak from this side and one Member from the other side.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has completely failed to hold the price line. There has been continuous price rise in all

essential items. Of late, there has been a phenomenal rise in price. It has touched the highest mark according to their own figures. When we ask the Government to say about the price rise, they always give us only the percentage of price rise in respect of the whole-sale index. But they never give the price index in retail price. If you take the price rise in retail market I do not want to repeat once again what my friend Shri Raghuma Reddy said—it is really impregnable and it has become more difficult for the poor and middle class to make their livelihood. I am not exaggerating. I am sure all of you know that if the poor and middle-class cannot make both the ends meet, what about the 40% of the people who are below the poverty-line who cannot have even a square meal a day. We should think of them. Sir, we know that almost all the essential items right from wheat, rice to soap, from Dhal to mustard oil, everything has increased by 10% or 20% or even 50% in the case of edible oil. I do not think it is the problem of the Government alone. I say it is a national problem. We should put our heads together and solve the problem and see what is to be done. I was very much shocked when our Prime Minister said in Madras yesterday that giving subsidised rice by the non-Congress Government in South is a populist measure. He ridiculed that. I do not really understand why the Prime Minister said so because helping the poorest of the poor by giving rice at subsidised cost cannot considered as a populist measure.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : On a point of order, Sir. They are misquoting the Prime Minister, what the hon. Prime Minister has told is a reality. He said that certain State Governments are making political capital by selling rice at a cheaper rate out of the rice made available to them by the Central Government to gain popularity. Whereas the public Distribution System... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : How much you are giving, how much the States are giving.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : They are not giving.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. Let the Minister reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are mistaken, the Minister will reply.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, he is unnecessarily casting aspersions on the State Governments.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Sir, let me finish first.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I have not yielded. Let the Minister reply, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister will take care of it. Don't worry.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, What the Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Governments are doing is for the poorest of the poor.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : The Prime Minister said that the plan expenditure is being cut by the State Governments and they are gaining cheap popularity.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, he is coming in the way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, I am not allowing any one. Please take your seat. He is there. Why are you doing this ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I think what they are doing is, they are giving at subsidised rates for the poorest of the poor. Is it wrong, Sir ? And they are continuing to do that. The Government of India itself is giving at subsidised rate... (Interruptions). The Government of India itself is giving at subsidised rates for the tribal people. Is it a populist measure ? Is it to be condemned ? Of course, probably on returning, the Prime Minister welcomed the mid-day meal scheme of Tamil Nadu. On the one hand he has ridiculed the non-Congress governments for that, and on the other hand, leaving the Madras city, he has welcomed that scheme.

He said that it will continue. So, Sir, it is really paradoxical, we don't understand. But I think the Government should appreciate the action of the State Governments who are giving foodgrains for the green card holders in our State at the subsidised rate. Sir, you are giving Rs. 2000 as subsidy for the foodstuffs, Is it to be condemned ? So, Sir, I am sure the hon. Prime Minister will see that whatever wrong impression that he has created in the minds of the public is removed because it certainly hurts the people. Certainly, the State Governments should not be criticised, they should continue to help them because you know the purchasing power of the people is very low. You have got food stocks. You had 24 million tonnes of foodgrains as on 1.1.1987. Now, of course, it has come to 14 million tonnes. Why do you have bufferstock ? Is it because you are growing plenty ? It is not so because many of the people cannot purchase it. If every one purchases it, do you think that you will have that stock ? You will have to produce much more. That is the position.

Now, Sir, I will make only a few suggestions. I want the hon. Minister to note how to cut down the price line. It is not only in respect of foodstuffs. What about other prices ? Even the prices of drugs are high. Of course, you are not in charge of drugs. Even the prices of soaps are high for the poor and middle class people. The Finance Minister says that he has given so many incentives for the mass consumption industry, but the benefit has not been passed on to the consumer. Everything is absorbed by the industry itself. So' it is necessary that Finance Ministry, Industry Ministry and your Ministry, should coordinate. All of you should coordinate and see that at least the existing prices should be continued at least for one year. That is not happening.

Another suggestion I would like to make is, I think that as an experienced legislator, I said it on the floor of the Legislature of Karnataka also—I represent an urban constituency, but I have studied the prices. While fixing the prices, I find between the procurement price and the issue price the gap is very wide. If I remember rightly, even the Prime Minister in one of his addresses asked the scientists and the

economists to see that it is reduced. That is very high and a special study must be made about this. I don't have the data at present in my hands, but it is necessary that it should be reduced. The cost is too high, it should be reduced. You should always think and see that the priceline must be held, all steps must be taken for that. With pomp and publicity, we passed many laws last year pertaining to consumer protection. There are many laws with regard to the food articles. You have got the Prevention of Blackmarket Act, Anti-corruption Act, Prevention of Adulteration of Essential Commodities Act and the latest Consumer Protection Act. I am sorry people are not conscious of the consumer movement. That has to grow. You have not made use of the media. It is absolutely necessary that the radio and the newspapers and Door Darshan are made use of to see that the people become conscious of their consumer rights. It is absolutely necessary and I am sure the hon. Minister will see to it. No follow-up action is taken at all. Of course, the State Government can do it but it is the responsibility of the Central Government because the management of the food economy is the responsibility of the Department of Food and the Ministry of Food. I request the hon. Minister to see that Consumer Protection Councils at the district level, State level and national level are formed immediately. How many States have formed those Councils? How many of them have been punished under the Act? It has completely failed. Not only Government but everybody is responsible for it. I request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting of the Food Ministers immediately after the Session and tell them that it is their bounden duty and it is the duty of any civilised Government to see that the people get quality food supplies at reasonable rates. It is the primary responsibility of the Government to tell the people about it. Adulteration of food stuffs is continuing. You do not get quality. You say that you have got some quality analysing centres. The whole of India got only three centres. For a big country like this, for the food-grains which you procure, how many centres are there for analysis? It is not sufficient. I request the hon. Minister to see that stringent measures are taken. They are very necessary even now. If you take the statistics in the entire country, I find

that the number of those punished under the Essential Commodities Act or the Food Adulteration Act or the Consumer Protection Act can be counted only on one's fingers. How many have been prosecuted? How many cases have been filed? How many were convicted? It is negligible. It is not taken seriously by anybody.

You must ensure that the public distribution system works effectively. You must see that some more articles of mass consumption like dal, soap, baby food and other essential articles necessary for the poor are brought under the public distribution system. These are essential for the poor and the middle-class.

In Karnataka, we have got Akshaya Store. They sell clean and packed articles. They have become more popular. The Civil Supplies Corporation are running these depôts. We should encourage it. You must encourage and see that many of the articles like wheat, flour and dals and pulses everything are cleanly packed. It may be a little more costlier but it will be very much liked by the consumers.

Finally, the administered prices. As a matter of fact, the sugar production has been a record last year. It is 87 lakh tonnes. You have increased only about Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 for the cane grower. But, you have increased by 25 paise a kilo which is very high for levy sugar. That is wrong. You also increased the administered price of rice. The Government itself is doing this. You have taken from the buffer-stock. Buffer-stock is old stock. What was the reason for you to increase the administered prices? It is very bad, particularly on the eve of the Budget, you have increased the administered prices.

Sir, Finally, I would request, on behalf of my State about which you are very well aware, one thing. Sir, we need only another 5000 tonnes more of rice because we are feeding the Green-Card holders. You have given us 55000 tonnes for which we are thankful to you. You have been very kind enough to all the States. I know of that. I would further request you to see that it is increased.

Sir, Palm-oil is becoming a mirage. Demand is there almost in every state for this. It is absolutely very necessary for

[Shri V. S. Krishna Iyer]

the people. About kerosene oil, I would like to say that what happens is at times it becomes evaporated and actually it disappears from the market. Therefore, you should have proper check.

I am sure that this is a very important subject. But, unfortunately, at the far end of the day we are debating this subject. For want of time, I could not give any more suggestions. I would like to stress here that your aim should be to maintain the price-line. No further increase should be there. When we speak on the Demands for Grants of this Food and Civil Supplies Ministry during the next budget debate, there should not be any increase in the prices. You must see to that. That is very important. You must also see to it that the PDS is extended all over the country, particularly in the rural parts and the people should get good quality stuff at time, in-time. You must see to it that nobody starves and dies out of hunger and see that the subsidised supply of such items continue eventhough the purchasing capacity of the people is not there.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate. I am sorry, if I had hurt you. You made some observations about me. When you called somebody from the other side, I thought probably—whether it was correct or by mistake—that that was the turn of this side. Anyway, I thank you. According to the procedure, three Members generally are called from this side and one Member from the other side. Now I come to the main subject.

Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. I congratulate the Government for managing the food economy of this country nicely in a very difficult year. We had the worst drought of the century and in that background it is very difficult to ensure food supply to all sections of the people in required measures and at reasonable prices and also to maintain the price line. Because of the sincere efforts of the Government, the prices have not risen

beyond a certain level considering the seriousness of the situation. There has been inflation and the inflation has not touched the double-digit figure. Sir, you know, in the 1979-80 drought; there was an inflation, as high as, of 22 per cent. Compared to that, the Government really deserves to be thanked and congratulated.

Sir, the responsibility as well as the duty of the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry is two-fold, as it seems to me. It has to help the consumers, particularly the poor consumers by way of supply of consumer goods including foodgrains and other things like oil, sugar and all those things. There is a list of items. At the same time, it has also to help the producers, the farmers with a minimum price which is ensured to them. When there is a surplus year, really the situation becomes otherwise. There is complaint from the peasantry that they are harassed and they are not given the minimum procurement price, floor price with rampant distress sale. When there is a drought, really the Government faces a difficult situation in the matter of supply of foodgrains. Therefore, Sir, this will indicate how serious the situation is. The distribution of foodgrains reached a new record level of 18.37 million tonnes in 1987 upto October as against 17.60 million tonnes last year. Upto October it was 18.37 million tonnes and from October onwards it was a more difficult period. And this difficult period will continue upto the next harvest. If God wills and if there is a good monsoon, there will be a good crop, and after the harvest only, the situation will improve. Therefore, the foodgrain supply will have to be continued. The stock of foodgrains as on 1-1-1988 was 14.14 million tonnes as against 23.63 million tonnes on the same day last year. This means that the demand is higher and the procurement is lower this time. I will give an example also. In Orissa, in 1987-88 the procurement of rice has been as low as 33.2 thousand metric tonnes as against 123.1 thousand metric tonnes in 1986-87 and 139.6 thousand metric tonnes in 1985-86. So, that State is also very severely affected by drought. The Department's responsibility is to procure foodgrains, to store them and also to supply them to the State agencies.

As regards procurement, what is the duty? The duty is to mop up procurement,

to go for higher procurement, procurement on a massive scale, on a large scale, in an easy year, in a comfortable year, and keep the foodgrains under proper conditions, in safe custody, so that they will not be destroyed. Because of poor godown facilities, quite a lot of foodgrains get destroyed. That is our experience. Therefore, it is necessary to procure foodgrains and store them under proper conditions for release in difficult years. There are certain categories of people, poor consumers, who have to be provided foodgrains even in a good year, and in a bad year, naturally, the pressure is more, the demand is quite challenging and we have to meet that. Because there was a stock of more than 23 million tonnes—sometimes 28 million tonnes and sometimes 30 million tonnes—we did not have any anxiety; without going in for import from abroad, we could manage the situation. But that has gone down now. I would like to know whether for the rest of the difficult period also we can manage with whatever we have or we are going in for some imports. Now, what is the lesson of this year? When there is a surplus crop, bumper crop, we have to mop up procurement; we have to go for procurement on a large scale—that will help the producers also to get the minimum price—and store the foodgrains under proper conditions for supply during emergencies.

About procurement, I have a few suggestions to make. The procurement price in respect of paddy is Rs. 150 per quintal. This is not adequate. This is not sufficient. The cultivators are still aggrieved. The consumers are also suffering under inflation. Now, there has been a price rise in respect of other commodities which the cultivators are depending on. This rise is not at all proportionate. That is one thing.

Secondly, between procurement price and issue price there is a big gap. I would like the Government to apply their mind to this. If the procurement price is Rs. 150, then the issue price is almost double—sometimes more than Rs. 275 or something like that. There is an element of subsidy. But the recovery percentage is 66 or something like that. But it can go as high as 82 per cent. That is what is happening exactly in Japan, the recovery percentage from paddy to rice is more than 80 per cent. Here also, in

modern mills, it will be above 70 per cent. But how is it that in Government records, it is as low as 66 per cent? There is a lot of wastage on this. Naturally, the economy has to be gone through in it and an expert committee should be appointed to go into this. If for Rs. 150, we have one quintal of paddy then how is it that for one quintal of rice, it costs above Rs. 250? It should not be that much.

Again, this transport charges. If this operation is done properly and wherever there is procurement if it is kept nearby, then this cost will be lessened. That also should be done. Now what is done is that from hundreds of miles from the interior place, foodgrains or paddy is brought to mills, towns etc., and from there it is again sent to distant places. Something should be done about that.

And again, about quality, I would also request that Government should arrange procurement, not only in the form of paddy but also in the form of rice. There is some provision which is very meagre. By that farmers will be benefited.

I will come to quality. When we release, sometimes, corrupt businessmen indulge in all these types of adulteration. I would tell you one thing. This FCI stands for Food Corporation of India. But jocularly—because there is rampant corruption—sometimes it is referred to as 'Food Corruption of India.' I tell you, in some places, not less than Rs. 10 is demanded by the agents for releasing a bag from the FCI godowns. There are so many things. And if you insist for weightment of sugar bags, they never do it. I do not know whether people in the highest level, at the helm of affairs know it. No sugar bag is weighed when it is released from the FCI godowns. It is our experience.

As regards sugar, I will give some points. This is a good year from the point of production of sugarcane. We have this double pricing of sugar and partial control in the matter of sugar. Government should consider it whether it should be continued or not. Since now the position is comfortable, wherever there is double pricing policy and partial control, that becomes very congenial atmosphere for corruption. So, we have two kinds of sugar and the colour is also the same. Sometimes, the same

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

retailer deals with both these things. When there is free levy sugar, the price is more. It requires strict control.

Now I come to FCI. About the Procurement, in Punjab etc., it is done departmentally. But in Orissa, procurement is actually done through miller agents through the businessman. That should be done directly by the department.

19.00 hrs.

Now, regarding the public distribution system, it should be widened, it should be expanded. I would suggest that Panchayat and cooperatives should be encouraged to man the public distribution system as far as possible so that the possibility of black-marketing is reduced considerably. In that matter there should also be a provision of bank finance to these institutions. Although they are willing, they don't have money to handle this business. When Panchayats or cooperatives are not coming forward, then the unemployed educated youths should be given preference with bank financing support.

I will now come to my own State problems. During the months of January, February, March and April, although the State Government demanded 40000 metric tonnes of rice—this is a very difficult year and I gave you the figures that the procurement is only 33000 metric tonnes as against more than 100000 metric tonnes in the previous years. As against this demand, the quantity released was about 20000 metric tonnes. For the month of May it is increased to 25000 metric tonnes. The State Government wants 50000 metric tonnes of rice per Month for the rest of this difficult period till October. The Government should consider this request.

The Orissa Government wanted to purchase rice in the open market. The Karnataka State Corporation came forward to sell rice to Orissa. But the quota for the Karnataka Government from the Centre is higher ! Judged by any standard, going on the basis of population, they are getting much more than what Orissa is getting. See the peculiarity of the situation ! There the Food Corporation was ready to sell rice to Orissa Government.

Now they are getting higher allocation from the Centre,

As regards palm oil, Orissa was getting 4500 metric tonnes earlier. Now it is drastically reduced to 500 metric tonnes, with 1000 metric tonnes of rapessed oil which is not popular. The earlier level of supply of 4500 metric tonnes should be restored.

We have a very good modern FCI mill at Hirakud. That is now defunct. That is going vacant. There is no business at all going on for the last several years. Why the FCI is not having any activity there ? Why are they not going into procurement directly and see that the mills are operating ? Otherwise they should sell it. Why should they sell it; they should run it properly. FCI mill workers are there. There is a Supreme Court judgement also that in instalment as early as possible they should departmentalise this.

These are some suggestions. I want to congratulate the Government for they have managed the food economy quite well and they are trying hard. About the consumer movement we have passed a legislation about consumer protection council. The country actually requires a strong consumer movement which can be built with public support. With the social workers coming forward, it is not the endeavour of the Government of India only. After all the Government of India has to function through the States. It is a dual responsibility. They procure and supply to the States. The rest of the things is to be done by the State Government.

I again emphasize that what the Prime Minister has stated is right. In the food front when we have scarcity if some State Governments try to resort to populist measures that won't do, that won't solve the problem. They have to think of programmes like irrigation, putting up dams etc., so that production is stepped up. That will solve the problem.

With these words I support the demands for grants and request the Government to consider all the points that I have highlighted here.

[Translation]

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN** (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies for the year 1988-89. I would like to speak about three major problems which are faced by this department. Firstly the public distribution system, secondly the price rise and thirdly the problem of consumers protection. In addition to that I would also like to mention about the achievements of the corporation.

At the outset I would like to say that quota of wheat under the public distribution system in Rajasthan has been increased for the last two months which has provided great relief to the people. In Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts which are worst affected by drought, 10 kg. of wheat per head is being given instead of 5 kg. In this connection I would like to say that in Adivasi areas wheat is supplied at the rate of Rs. 1.64 per kg. but drought condition in our area is even worst than the Adivasi areas. Recently a study team visited that area, so you can get information from them or you can ask information from the State Chief Minister or you can yourself visit the area to see that the people living there have lost their purchasing power. At present they are unable to purchase wheat at the rate of Rs. 2.24 per kg. Though the Government has fixed a quota of 10 kg. wheat per head but the people are not in a position to purchase even that much wheat. The main reason behind it is the unemployment at a very large scale. In a family of ten members there is only one earning hand who earns Rs. 7 to Rs 8 per day. Under such circumstances how can one purchase so much wheat. Therefore, it would be a great help to the people if wheat is provided to them on the same rate as is provided in Adivvasi areas. You may select some districts for this purpose which are worst affected by drought and this subsidy may be withdrawn after 30th September 1988 because by then Kharif crop will be ready. It is a critical time and every possible assistance should be rendered to the affected people on humanitarian ground. We seek your assistance only for coming few critical months and we must get it.

**SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :**  
The hon. Minister should himself go there.

**SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** The hon. Minister should go for himself and assess the situation. At present wheat is being supplied there but as requested by the Chief Minister and I also would like to say that millet which is our staple food should be supplied there. It would provide great relief to the people. We like millet and it also contains more calories than wheat. Millet should be procured from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh or from any other State and be supplied there at a cheap rate. We are passing through a grim situation of drought and any assistance rendered at this critical time would give new life to the people who are going into the jaws of death. Infact the prices have gone up but it is unavoidable because of the drought situation. The hike in respect of essential items is too much. The farmers eat bread with onion because under the prevailing conditions what else they can eat. It has been told that there has been a 45 per cent increase in the wholesale price of onion but actually the prices would be doubled in the market. The price of potato has also been doubled. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that in drought affected areas onion and potato should be made available at subsidised rates. If you do not subsidise these items what the people would eat because the prizes of pulses are also very high. I, myself have seen the people taking their meals with Chilli as a result of which they have lost their working energy too. Therefore, such assistance must be provided to them. I would also like to say about the buffer stock. There was a question listed for today on this subject. It was told by you on Ist March, 1988 that one crore and thirty lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain were there in the buffer stock but in April 1988 it has been reduced to even less than one crore metric tonnes. Buffer stock is must, otherwise it would lead to price rise and we would have to import foodgrains from other countries. There is no other alternative. The Government should have atleast two crores metric tonnes of foodgrain in its reserve stock. Wheat and rice must be there in the stock which is at present not in your stock in sufficient quantity. Therefore, immediate arrangement should be made to stock these items. Wheat and maize should be imported because they are essential to save the life of the people in difficult time. Generally I



is a fact that even after allotment made by the Centre, the States did not lift their quota. You may take the instance of wheat, rice, sugar, anything you like. In spite of that the State Governments indulge in propaganda in their States which is baseless. I definitely remember that the Government of West Bengal did not lift several commodities allocated to them by the Centre. If you want, I can furnish the figures, our hon. Minister will give the figures. When something is sent at state level and some problem arises then we have to become practical about it and then the question of State and Centre relations has also to be kept in view. Hence, simply sending directives to States will not serve any purpose, the Government must evolve some monitoring system. The Department of Civil Supplies should make such arrangements in which foodgrains supplied from the Central pool to the States could be effectively controlled. To-day I feel distressed to disclose that palm oil is being sold in the market openly and it is not available to villagers. The same is the position with regard to Janata cloth. It may be Bengal, Andhra Pradesh or any other State but I would like to see....

**SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN :**  
Have you not sold imported edible oil in the open market.

**SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :** What I mean to say is that foodgrains and other commodities allocated to States are not being made available to the people. The Government should ensure that various commodities allocated by it reach the common man. I know that directives are issued to States by the Central Government from time to time. Letters are also sent by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies. But the States do not pay any heed to these directives. Our former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had formulated a 14 point programme with a view to strengthen the public distribution system. But I am sorry to say that several State Governments do not pay heed to this programme. There are clear instructions from the Central Government that a fair price shop should be opened for every 2000 units. In spite of that there are several tribal, difficult and remote areas where this policy is not being followed. Due to this the poor people do not get the

benefits of our policies. Our Prime Minister and the Government said that foodgrains will be provided to tribals and poor people at cheap rates. The areas having more than 50 per cent tribal population get ration at cheap rates. But the areas having a little less than 50 per cent tribal population do not get any such facility. I demand that all the Harijans, Girijans, people belonging to weaker and backward sections must get these facilities on a uniform basis. Foodgrains should, particularly, be made available in those 6 areas *viz.* Hill areas, desert areas, drought prone areas, cyclonic areas etc. which have been identified by the Planning Commission for this purpose. I know that the Government has also some limitations. There are certain States which have not so far issued ration cards to every family in the State. It is my own experience. When I asked people they said that printed ration cards have not so far been made available to their block offices. The people are being exploited in this way. In these days, we should ensure that commodities of basic needs are made available to the people. Ration cards should be given to each and every family in the country and all families should get regular supply of kerosene, gas etc.

Recently an announcement was made about the transportation charges of kerosene. The intention was to provide kerosene to people living in hill areas at reasonable rates. I may make one thing clear here that the State Governments have totally failed to supply kerosene to the poor consumers at the rates decided by the Central Government. The Central Government cannot be a silent spectator. Our prime Minister wants that poor tribals, people living in forests and Harijans should be supplied kerosene at reasonable rates. But the State Governments do not follow their directives. They are not implementing orders to that effect. Now it is not the question as to which Government is in power. The States which do not follow the Centre's policies should be dismissed. Now it will not do.

Just now the hon. Prime Minister said a very good thing in the House that there are some States which do not implement various major schemes cleared by the Centre. Those major schemes relate to irrigation, power, industry etc. and they would

is a fact that even after allotment made by the Centre, the States did not lift their quota. You may take the instance of wheat, rice, sugar, anything you like. In spite of that the State Governments indulge in propaganda in their States which is baseless. I definitely remember that the Government of West Bengal did not lift several commodities allocated to them by the Centre. If you want, I can furnish the figures, our hon. Minister will give the figures. When something is sent at state level and some problem arises then we have to become practical about it and then the question of State and Centre relations has also to be kept in view. Hence, simply sending directives to States will not serve any purpose, the Government must evolve some monitoring system. The Department of Civil Supplies should make such arrangements in which foodgrains supplied from the Central pool to the States could be effectively controlled. To-day I feel distressed to disclose that palm oil is being sold in the market openly and it is not available to villagers. The same is the position with regard to Janata cloth. It may be Bengal, Andhra Pradesh or any other State but I would like to see....

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[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

have done a lot of good to the people. Instead they are interested in gaining cheap popularity by selling rice at Rs. 2 per k.g. Let them continue to do that, for how long they will be able to give. In West Bengal only those people possess ration cards who belong to their party. Even petty shop keepers belong to their party. In the service also their party people are being given jobs. The Selection Board has been suitably instructed to issue appointment letters to these people only. They are openly issuing appointment letters accordingly. In spite of this they claim that their Government is democratic.

Three Ministers of their Government levelled charges openly that rigging was done during Panchayat elections. If any of our Ministers does like that, then he will not be allowed to continue as a Minister in our Government. They cannot even dismiss these Ministers because they know their loopholes. If these Ministers are dismissed, it is possible that their Government may fall. If there is such a Government in any part of the country, how could it be called a national Government. How could we expect that it will fulfill people's aspirations.

Sir, you know the condition of poor people. These people are trying to malign our Government. I request you to pay attention towards the few suggestions made by me. These people are hatching a conspiracy to blame the Government unnecessarily. It should not be so. Drought is a national problem. The distribution system is also a problem of the central sector. The Central Government has been trying to supply kerosene and other essential commodities at reasonable rates under this system. These Governments should manage to run the show smoothly. The Central Government is doing everything in the public interest. At present our country is passing through a very difficult situation. Under these circumstances action should be taken against those State Governments which are not following the policy of the Centre and distributing the essential commodities to the people other than the poor ones for whom these

commodities are supplied to the States, and charging Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per litre of kerosene though the Central Government wants to supply it at the rate of Rs. 2.25p per litre.

We have extended the term of Essential Commodities Act by one year. Due to this the lower level officers harass our people and businessmen. No one has been awarded punishment under the Essential Commodities Act. All those persons who had been apprehended, have been acquitted. That means this Act did not have even 15 per cent effect. I, therefore, suggest that there must be an implementing machinery in order to implement the provisions of an Act passed by the Parliament.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and thank you a lot.

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak even at this late hour. I am supporting the Demands of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. This Ministry has the responsibility to provide food to the people all over the country and I am happy to say that it is discharging this responsibility efficiently.

The Public Distribution System has a great role to play in controlling the prices of essential commodities. This is one of the important items in the Prime Minister's 20-Point Programme. It is the duty of the Government to provide food at fair prices to the poor people and the policy of the Government is to open fair price shops in all nooks and corners of the country. I find that the number of fair shops has steadily gone up over a period of time. For example, in 1979 we had 2.39 lakhs fair price shops which have increased to 3.41 lakhs in 1987. 78% of these shops are in the rural areas which shows the Government's concern about the people in the rural areas. But in this context I want to draw the attention of the Government to the complaints that many things are not available in the Fair Price Shops in the rural areas. Therefore the Government must monitor the distribution of the foodgrain which it supplies.

\*The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

Another point I want to make in this connection is that the Government should increase the number of items distributed through M.Ps. For example, Pulses are very essential for nutritious diet. Therefore, Pulses should also be distributed through fair price shops.

The Central Government has a scheme to provide financial assistance to the Civil Supplies Corporations in North-Eastern States, Sikkim, J & K, Himachal Pradesh etc. for the construction of godowns. There was a demand from Kerala for similar aid. But it has not been considered. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Minister to consider favourably the request from the Kerala Civil Supplies Corporation for assistance to construct godowns in the State.

It is one of the most important duties of the Department to control the prices of essential commodities. I must say in this context that there has been very heavy price rise in respect of fruits and vegetables. The Government must make adequate arrangements to sell fruits & vegetables through consumer shops and other outlets. This problem is very acute in cities. Taking advantage of cold storage facilities the big wholesalers store these items and rebate them bit by bit into the market and make huge profit. There is a monitoring cell in the Civil Supplies Department; but more effective steps will have to be taken to control the prices.

Now, I come to some of the problems of my State, Kerala. The distribution of rice and palm oil is not being done properly in the State. This is causing a lot of problems to the public. When the Government under the leadership of Shri K. Karunakaran was in power in Kerala we used to get 1.25 lakh tonne of rice and 4000 tonnes of Palm oil per month from the centre. There was absolutely no shortage of these items at any points of time then. Now, in Feb. '88 the Centre supplied 1.35 lakh tonnes of rice and 7500 tonnes of palm oil. Even then there is shortage. This only shows that the state Government is not managing the distribution properly. It is not enough that get supplies from distribution has also to be ensured. That is the duty of the State Government; which is not being discharged by that Government. However, I take this opportunity to demand that Kerala should be given 1.45 lakh tonnes of rice and 10000 tonnes of Palm oil per month Adequate.

quantity of Kerosene and sugar too should be supplied. I would also request the Government to see whether the foodgrains and other items supplied by the Centre and being distributed properly. There is a tendency in the present left front Government in Kerala to mismanage the distribution and put the blame on the centre. So the Government should be very vigilant about it.

Sir, when the Karunakaran Government was in power in Kerala they used to supply free ration to the Adivasi in the Palghat district. This was a great relief to them who are badly hit by drought, But the present LDF Government has stopped that. This has increased their miseries. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to advise the State Government to resume the supply of free ration to the Adivasees.

Similarly, under the present practice, 50% of the ration is subsidized by the centre. I have a suggestion to make in this regard. This subsidized ration should be supplied to them at a time. Otherwise, they are not in a position to buy it and the shopkeeper will take all the benefits of the subsidy.

The public distribution system in Kerala has been widely acclaimed. But the State Government is not doing anything to strengthen it. This is evident from the fact that the State Government has made only a very small token provision in the budget for the PDS. This is a politically motivated step because if the PDS fails they can always put the blame on the centre. I would therefore request the Centre to meet fully the requirements of foodgrains and other items of Kerala and strengthen the public distribution system. I would also request the Minister to take step to monitor the distribution effectively. I once again support the demands and conclude.

{English}

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 26, 1988.

19.35 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, April 26, 1988/Vaisakha 6, 1910 (Saka).*