

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No more individual queries please. He cannot go on answering every member. You may write to him and then he will tell you the position.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : I have to say something more about it. We have recently received complaints and then the Prime Minister and we ourselves examined the matter. All the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, were asked to go and visit these areas. Now the States have nothing to gain from it. Their report is that invariably these memoranda from the States are exaggerated. Most of the States try to link it up with their general budgetary conditions. We do not accept that. Well, that is what the Planning Commission's analysis shows.

Now, thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me so much time.

17.18 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received a letter dated 2nd December 1987 from Shri Chingwang Konyak, an elected Member from Nagaland constituency of Nagaland, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. The Speaker has accepted his resignation with effect from 2nd December 1987.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 1987-88 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2		3
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
1.	Agriculture	4,66,00,000	11,26,00,000
4.	Department of Rural Development	249,90,00,000	...

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : To which party does he belong Sir ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Congress (I).

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Why did he resign ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not know.

17.19 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1987-88

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88 for which 3 hours have been allotted.

Motion moved :

“That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1988 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof

Demand Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 18, 22, 27, 37, 44, 48, 54, 58, 59, 64, 67, 69, 76, 88 and 93”

1	2	3	
5.	Department of Fertilizers	303,25,00,000	156,50,00,000
	MINISTRY OF COMMERCE		
6.	Department of Commerce	80,00,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS		
10.	Telecommunication Services	...	1,00,000
	MINISTRY OF ENERGY		
18.	Department of Power	...	100,01,00,000
	MINISTRY OF FINANCE		
22.	Department of Economic Affairs	1,00,000	...
27.	Transfers to State Governments	250,00,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE		
37.	Department of Health	1,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT		
44.	Department of Education	3,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY		
48.	Department of Industrial Development	50,00,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF LABOUR		
54.	Ministry of Labour	1,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS		
58.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	...	2,39,00,000
	MINISTRY OF PLANNING		
59.	Planning	1,00,000	...
	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY		
64.	Department of Biotechnology	2,00,00,000	10,00,000
	MINISTRY OF TEXTILES		
67.	Ministry of Textiles	71,00,000	39,00,00,000

1	2	3
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT		
69.	Surface Transport	10,00,00,000
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES		
76.	Ministry of Water Resources	9,52,00,000
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (Vol. II)		
88.	Delhi	1,00,000
93	Daman & Diu	10,04,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Datta Samant has tabled cut Motions to the Supplementary Demands for Grants. Does he want to move his Cut Motions ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Yes.

I beg to move :

“That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,00,00,000 in respect of Department of Industrial Development be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to discourage the giving of subsidy to those industrialists who are closing their existing industries in the metropolitan cities for setting up new industries in the backward areas.] (1)

“That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,71,00,000 in respect of Ministry of Textiles be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for nationalisation of various textile mills facing closure.] (2)

“That the Demand for a Supplementary Grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,71,00,000 in respect of Ministry of Textiles be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Mismanagement in National Textile Corporation.] (3)

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY (Visakhapatnam) : We had just now a discussion on natural calamities. The problems of the people in the drought and flood affected areas are continuing. The reply given by the Minister is also incomplete. Even as the cup of suffering of the people of the drought and flood affected area is full, the Government may raise some additional resources and try to offer some relief to the affected people. We have been always harping on and discussing infinitely and indifferently about certain programmes in order to obviate certain hardships to the people in the drought prone area. If we look at the way in which the Budget of the Government is being framed, we can say what importance is being given to the agriculture, the agriculturists and the peasants in the field. For instance the share of agriculture including irrigation which accounted for 37 per cent of the total public sector outlay in the First Plan came down to 24 per cent in the Sixth Plan. That is the importance which is being

[Shri Bhattam Srirama Murti]

given to the agriculturists. Naturally the agriculturists are the most vulnerable sections of the society who are hard-hit whenever there are natural calamities.

In the year 1986-87, the total outlay was Rs. 22,300 crores. For agriculture, the provision was Rs. 917 crores. Now, I would like to point out to the Minister inviting his special attention to the fact that while the provision for agriculture was Rs. 917 crores, the outlay on telecommunications was Rs. 915 crores. So what importance was given to agriculture can be clearly seen from these figures. What has followed in 1987-88? In the earlier year it was Rs. 917 crores; this year it is Rs. 912 crores, i.e. Rs. 5 crores less. For Telecommunications, from Rs. 915 crores it was increased to Rs. 959 crores. So, this is the importance which is given by this Government to agriculturists and to the Department of Agriculture.

Similarly, I can quote any number of figures in respect of Doordarshan, Civil Aviation and various other departments, and show how a raw deal is always being given to peasants and farmers.

At this stage, I may have to point out that because of the policies followed and implemented by Government, the prices are on the increase, and the common man is hard hit. It is very difficult for him to face the future, and the present. For instance, the price of groundnut oil in October 1985 was Rs. 20 per Kg.; it is now Rs. 32. Coconut oil was priced at Rs. 29 a Kg. in 1985; it is now Rs. 43. Mustard oil was selling at Rs. 13; now it is Rs. 29. Vanaspati cost Rs. 17; its price now is Rs. 23-45. Onions were sold at Rs. 2 in 1985; now they cost Rs. 4. Potato then cost Rs. 1.50, but now Rs. 5. Similarly, any number of examples can be given to show that it is impossible for the common man to survive and to make both ends meet. Prices have abnormally increased, and the rising prices have pushed the common man to the wall.

Let me utter a word of caution here: unless the prices fall, Government is also

bound to fall. What is the effect or impact on the 7th Plan, of the rise in prices? Is there any mid-term appraisal? Was it undertaken? If so, will it be placed on the Table of the House? Was an exercise conducted? We are not aware of any such exercise. Why was such a mid-term survey or appraisal given up? This has to be explained.

The 7th Plan, according to me, is now almost as good as dead. None of the targets fixed, will be reached by Government. The other day we saw how Railways and various other departments were running after the Planning Commission and also the Cabinet for proportionate increases in their provisions. Because of hike in prices, they will never be able to reach their targets. And there seems to be no way of reviving the 7th Plan. A high-level review of public expenditure is highly warranted and necessary at this stage.

We may now also look into the value of the rupee, which is on the decline. It is now about 13 paise. The purchasing power of the people is practically eroded. There is no purchasing power. The value of the rupee is on the decline. The rise in prices is there, the problem of unemployment is there, and the people who live under miserable and sub-normal conditions below the poverty line, are also innumerable. Under these circumstances, what is the impact of the present budget? That has to be seen.

Another point I wish to dwell upon briefly is the pre-Budget hikes. With the increasing resort to pre-Budget hikes, the Budgets are becoming a mere farce, and more or less irrelevant. During recent years, the practice of resorting to pre-Budget hikes has perhaps come to stay.

In the year 1984-85, during the budget estimate, only Rs. 431 crores were sought to be raised for raising additional taxation. But if you take the pre-budget impost into consideration you will find that it was Rs. 1125 crores; in the year 1985-86, in the budget estimate, it was only Rs. 480 crores, but, later, it went to Rs. 1800 crores during the budget estimate. Now in 1986-87, it was Rs. 2,268 crores; that is

because recently the government have promulgated an Ordinance with a view to raise additional resources to the extent of about Rs. 550 crores in the name of giving help to the drought affected areas and the people. This is a normal and usual practice of the government which is highly reprehensible, and which cannot be supported through accepted Parliamentary channels.

Now, I would like to mention one important thing. The balance of payment position is likely to be very difficult; that has to be taken into consideration for the import bill on crude which may go up by Rs. 1500 crores during this year because of increase in the average world price of oil and the higher import of oil; that means from Rs. 2030 crores it may go upto Rs. 3450 crores. Similarly, the import of basic necessities like edible oil and food-grains will make an additional dent of another Rs. 400 crores. Even the Prime Minister has stated that as far as possible—the present rate of deficit will be contained; it will not be allowed to exceed; but, then, it is not at all possible; in any case, it is bound to increase by a few thousands of crores of rupees as per the present trend.

Whenever the foreign exchange reserves have declined by Rs. 760 crores or 10 per cent during the current financial year itself, the Reserve Bank of India has warned the government about the fast closing internal debat trap with grave consequences on the economic growth. Now this is the situation which the government has to tackle.

The deficit financing has come to stay, and indefinitely, incessantly, year after year, government has been—even though they are exercising constraint and restraint over the State Governments—resorting to increased deficit financing; and this is a recurring feature. Deficits have triggered off inflationary trend. The actual deficits turn out to be much larger than early budget estimate. The revised estimate has exceeded the original estimate as we could see. In the year 1986-87, as per budget estimate, the deficit was Rs. 3650 crores, but, ultimately it went upto Rs. 8255 crores; in the year 1985-86, it was

originally estimated that Rs. 3349 crores would be the deficit but the actual figure was Rs. 4937 crores; in the year 1987-88, it was Rs. 5688 crores; as I mentioned earlier, it would certainly exceed by a few thousands crores of rupees. In any case, the main point is this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue tomorrow, because now the House will take up Half-An-Hour Discussion.

Shri Virldhi Chander Jain.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

17.30 hrs.

[Translation]

Functioning of Kota Atomic Power Station

SHRI VIRLDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first unit of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station was commissioned in 1973. Right from the beginning till today, the performance of that unit has been very poor. The performance was poor in the beginning and it continues to be so even now. I would like to know whether the condition of Kota Atomic Power Station was bad right from the time the unit was set up with Canadian collaboration? The same question was raised by us in 1981 too. In fact, it was myself who had initiated the half-an-hour discussion on it. That discussion led to an assurance on September 1981, that this unit of the Atomic Power Station would be repaired and set right. It was repaired and put into operation in 1982. But it could not work even for 2 hours a day and in March, 1982 it stopped working again. Later, in February 1985, this unit was started again. After 3 months, it developed leakages and new cracks for which 'end-shield' repairs were undertaken. It was re-commissioned on 1st August. From 1st August till today, it is supplying 100 megawatt of power whereas its generation capacity is 220 megawatt. I would like to know whether there will be an increase from the present output of 100 megawatt? It must increase from 100 to 150 or 180 megawatt because if it continues