

(vii) **Demand for financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh for development work**

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision to bring the pay scales and pension rates of Himachal Government employees at par with their counterparts in Punjab was taken when some parts of Punjab were merged into Himachal Pradesh. On this very basis, when ever there is an increase in pay scales in Punjab, the pay scales in Himachal Pradesh also increase in the same ratio. The employees of Himachal Pradesh are being paid according to the Report of Pay Commission of Punjab. Besides, the State had to bear additional expenditure of providing relief for loss of crops, damage to roads and houses collapse in villages due to heavy rains. Due to this, the State Government is facing acute financial crisis and all the development works have stopped. So I would like the Central Government to provide Rs. 90 crores as immediate relief so that the development in the State is not hindered.

12.14 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil and seconded by Shri R.L. Bhatia on the 23rd February, 1989:—

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

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 1989."

Dr. Phulrenu Guha.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no need to illustrate the achievements of the Government of India. We are surrounded by strong neighbours but the Government very tactfully handled the situation and improved the relations with the neighbouring countries. Our relations with all our neighbouring countries have improved, and there is a great achievement in the international arena. On the international front, Government have great achievements. The prestige of India has gone up because of our successful foreign policy. India was the first nation which accorded recognition to independent Palestine.

Our leaders have solved the issue of Gorkhaland. There is peace in Nagaland and Mizoram. The entire north-east region has joined the mainstream of the country.

As far as world peace and non-aligned movement are concerned, a beginning was made by the Government of India. Misuse of religious places has already been restrained through legislation. The public sector's performance has also improved. A proper stress has been laid on science and technology. We have solved the problem of food deficiency. But India is a country of villages. Small Scale industries, cottage industries etc. should be set up in all the villages, so that the people in the villages, particularly women, are not forced to migrate to other places in search of work.

The fundamental issue facing us is the integration and unity of the country. The first thing to do is to place emphasis on what unites us, rather than on what divides us. In spite of various achievements, the country is facing serious problem of rising prices and unemployment. Production should be increased, so that prices could be maintained.

The voting age has been reduced to 18 years, because the Congress and the Congress Government have great faith in the youth. In some places, during the time of

enumeration, the lists are not properly made. The personnel in charge are not able to correct the lists, because of pressures of the workers of the party in power. Booth-capturing cannot be stopped by law alone. So, I urge that during elections polling officers should be deputed from the other States.

To tackle unemployment, a well-thought-out programme should be formulated. More thought should be given to its implementation. There are a number of good programmes in our country, but unfortunately all the programmes are not implemented properly. I would like to make a point, viz. that there must be a Cell in the Planning Commission where all the reports on the working of the development programmes for women should be recorded regularly. Otherwise, there are so many programmes for women development, but we do not know how far those programmes are implemented

There is no mention in the President's Address regarding the undemocratic behaviour of the party in power in West Bengal. The Congress workers all over West Bengal, particularly in villages, are being killed and threatened, and their properties are looted. False cases are instituted against them. A Councillor of a corporation was murdered. Even the MPs are physically beaten up. Through you, Sir, I earnestly appeal to the Government of India to find some method by which the Congress workers in West Bengal can live in peace.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH (Bulandshahr); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in his address, the Hon. President has thrown light on the achievements of the Government and the picture that he has drawn of the country and the society is not only satisfactory but also cheerful. But it is right that it is not all a rosy picture. This is natural also because in such a vast country with a number of problems and scarcity of resources, it is not possible that all the problems and griev-

ances of our citizens are solved and all the development works are undertaken immediately.

Yet the works we have undertaken and the achievements we have made in various fields are creditable. The figures given in President's Address as well as in the recently published Economic survey show that our country is steadily heading towards progress under the leadership of Congress Party and Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not have sufficient time to make a mention of all the achievements. Some information has already been given in the House and the hon. Members know about that. At this point I would like to draw the attention of the House about the things which I have termed hazy so that the Government's attention may be drawn to them and the drawbacks existing in our society as well as in our country may be removed.

First of all I would like to submit that the biggest problem in our country is that of increasing population. I am surprised that no mention in President's Address has been made to such a big problem due to which everything that is achieved in our country in 4-5 years gets finished. I regret to say and am surprised as to how this happened. This is a very important subject. Is it not an important subject for Government? I would like to stress on my point that the increasing population is hampering the progress of our country and we are not succeeding in our efforts in this regard. The Government should pay attention to this problem. In this connection I would like to suggest that besides the existing programmes the Government, should encourage the norm of "two children". In my view the Government should make such a provision that only such persons will be given employment and assistance by the Government who follow the norm of two children. I feel that this solve the problem of rising population to a great extent. The schemes already in operation may continue but this scheme will definitely give some results.

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh]

I would now like to say something about the rural areas. I am associated with the rural area and my constituency consists rural areas. Therefore in this connection my submission is that we are an agricultural country and 80 percent of our population lives in villages and engaged in agriculture. In my view, so long as the rural areas are not prosperous, we can not say in the true sense of the word that the problems of our country have been solved and that our country is heading towards progress.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of the farmers and the agriculture labourers. The first of them is that the farmer does not get fair price for his produce. This question has been raised here many a times and we have been listening to its reply as well. The price paid to the farmer is a little higher than his cost of production. But the margin of profit is so low that the farmer finds himself unable to fulfil his needs. This will not remove the poverty of the farmers. He should get fair price of his produce and he should also be paid the same margin of profit which is admissible in other fields. Only then will the farmers prosper.

These days the problem of electricity ad power is critical. I would like to mention at this point that the farmers have to face harassment by the department of power. The farmers are annoyed with department of power the same way people were with the Department Family Planning during the emergency period. The farmers are being exploited and there is no one to hear their grievances. The Government claims that electricity is supplied for 10-12 hours but in fact it is not supplied for more than 4-5 hours a day. There are frequent breakdowns and it takes almost 3 months to replace the burnt transmitters. Due to all these things farmers face a lot of difficulties and their production is adversely affected. I hail from West Uttar Pradesh and can tell that the produce of well to do farmers, who possess all the irrigation facilities, who get water, seeds, fertilizers in

time, is twice as much as that of the ordinary farmers. The main reason is the lack of proper irrigation facilities with the ordinary farmer. The condition of the farmers can not improve unless the Government assures the supply of electricity to the farmers for 10-12 hours. If the supply is not adequate, then the Government should make deductions in his electricity Bill. In case the transformer gets out of order it should be got repaired or replaced within 10 days. Otherwise, the concerned department should be held responsible for the loss suffered by the farmer. This point needs to be paid special attention because the farmer has to face a lot of problem due to this.

Regarding the grant of loan, whether it is a crop loan or general loan, my submission is that the procedure is complicated due to which the farmer has to face a lot of trouble. The Government should simplify the procedure. The existing limit of loan of Rs. 500 per acre should be increased to Rs. one thousand per acre in view of the present day situation. The loan should be granted on the basis of the land records. The price of the land holding should be fixed in the presence of the farmer land loan should be granted to him accordingly. At present he has to run from pillar to post and a lot of time and money gets wasted. This problem should be removed.

Regarding distress sale my submission is that it is a very big problem. 90 percent farmers sell their produce at the time of harvest and get a very low price. In this regard I would like to say that at the time of harvest the price of wheat was Rs. 175 per quintal and at present its market price is Rs. 285 per quintal. The difference of Rs. 110 is being devoured by the middlemen. My suggestion is that the banks or the F.C.I. should maintain godowns where the farmer may keep his produce and loans upto 60-70 per cent of the produce should be made available at low rate of interests so that the farmer may meet his requirement. This will enable the farmer to sell his produce at a time when he gets good price for it. This facility should be available to all the farmers.

In its absence, barring 2-4 per cent, farmers have to suffer loss.

I would like to add that the number of educated youth in the rural areas who are not getting any job is very large. Some provision should certainly be made for them. In this regard my suggestion is that 20 per cent reservation should be made for the youths in rural areas in the subordinate services. This does not include the backward or tribal reservation. There should be separate reservation of 20 per cent for the rural areas.

Similarly licence for setting up small scale industries costing upto Rs. 10 lakh in the rural areas should be issued only to those people who are prepared to set up industries in rural areas or near a town at the block level. This will prove beneficial in the sense that the unemployed youth sitting idle will get a source of employment and the problem of unemployment will get solved to a certain extent. These days the farmer faces a great problem in getting timber. When he is in need of the babool or seesam timber, he is apprehended. There should be no ban on timber of such trees. The farmer should be free to cut timber for his need and he should not be harassed unnecessarily. He should certainly get this facility. The hon. Prime Minister has emphasised a lot on the *garibi hatoo* programmes and we welcome that. He is very much concerned that the population of our country should rise above the poverty line. The schemes under operation in this regard are not functioning properly. The hon. Prime Minister himself felt that the beneficiary is not getting the adequate benefit of the funds which are being spent on these schemes. The middlemen are swindling that money. Some way should be found out so that the beneficiary may be helped directly by this fund. He should be made direct payment. The farmer is granted loan for buying cattle and is directed to purchase it from a certain place. At that place he is exploited. He gets goods worth Rs. One thousand at Rs. three thousand and the margin money is pocketed by the middlemen. The Government has also introduced the "Indira Aawas Yojna" and the

poor people are being given Rs. 6 thousand for constructing houses. This is very good scheme but the amount of Rs. 6 thousand is inadequate. Many a houses have been constructed within the ceiling limit of expenditure of Rs. 6 thousand but they are so bad that they can not tolerate even a mild pressure. The houses which are being constructed under this scheme are not being constructed in the Villages. The persons for whose benefit these houses are being constructed are not prepared to settle outside villages. There are many such places in my constituency where such houses are lying vacant since the last 12-15 years. The expenditure incurred on them is a waste. The beneficiaries for whom this expenditure is being incurred should be allowed to construct their houses where they wish. The idea of constructing houses outside the village is not practical or feasible. Regarding the landless labourers my submission is that they do not get foodgrain for domestic needs at a fair price. There are no fair price shops for them from where they may get foodgrain at a fair price. My suggestion is that some fair price shops should be opened in the villages so that at least the poor population may get foodgrain for their domestic needs. The hon. Prime Minister has decided to strengthen the panchayat raj system and I heartily welcome this step. This is very appropriate step and many a problems of our rural areas will be solved with its help. When plans will be formulated at village level then, it is clear, villages will be paid proper attention. I hope that the farmers living in the villages will be able to build their career themselves. I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and with these words I support this motion.

[English]

DR. G.S. DHILLON (Ferozepur): The president in his Address has covered quite a wide field, but at the same time, he has just made a passing reference to the situation in Punjab.

We are quite happy that the country has made an all round progress in industrial and

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agricultural production. We are quite happy that in the wider field, coal, fertiliser, cement, steel, there has been good increase in production. Also the earning of foreign exchange was more. It was 25 per cent last year and again 25 per cent this year in ten months. So the increase was 50 per cent in less than two years. At the same time, there is an increase in Gross Domestic Product by 9 per cent.

I am quite happy that he has made a reference to the drought situation in the last two years. He has also mentioned that in spite of the serious drought conditions, there has been a growth rate of 3.5 per cent which is higher than the earlier eighties. I must say that the credit for meeting the challenge to face the present situation goes not to one Department but quite a few others. I am referring to it because I was brought in as the Minister of Agriculture at a time when drought started and when the rain started coming I was made to leave Department.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): But you did a tremendous job for the drought-prone areas.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Thank you very much.

I must give credit to the Planning Commission also which its own initiative and on the suggestions of the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, helped, as a lot in implementing various plans. I must also give due credit to various Technology Missions—Technology Mission on Drinking Water, Oilseeds, etc.—because they also helped in increasing the production. The credit also goes to various voluntary organisations which handled the situation in Kutch Gujarat and Rajasthan by spending so much from their own resources. And then it is because of the great interest the Prime Minister himself took in the matter and my colleagues to whom we entrusted part of the work to go to the States and supervise the work. That is in no way less creditworthy. I am not a sy-

chophant by nature. But I must say that we are all grateful to the Prime Minister for his personal effort and the cooperation that we received from him. He gave topmost priority to it. I am quite happy that we did our best. Everybody, when he takes credit of it, whether it is Prime Minister's own speech, or the President's speech or our own experts, our own Ministry of Agriculture, refers to this as a great achievement. I am quite happy that the Government spent so much on drinking water, on fodder transport, in dealing with the starvation of the cattle. I am so happy that the President has recognised all the efforts.

About the other problems this is just passing reference—I think some friends, when they called may not as Minister of Agriculture at that time but as Minister of Drought, then being fair to them, I went along with them number of times to Barmer and Jaisalmer number of times to Gujarat and other places like Kutch. But I am so happy that I was known as Minister of Drought..(Interruptions)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): You came to Kerala as well.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Yes. At the same time, Dinesh Goswami ji yesterday mentioned about the floods. The Government did its utmost in facing the flood situation in Bihar and part of Bengal, Assam and repeated floods in Assam. That should have been mentioned here. The success and achievement is in no way less in this field also. The Government should be proud of that. I am sorry that when Dinesh Ji mentioned yesterday about the flood situation in Assam, I can mention that the floods cannot be compared with the drought. Droughts come only once in a time but the situation of floods in Bihar and Bengal and Assam is almost an annual phenomenon, a recurring phenomenon and, therefore, we should not deal with them on the level of drought, but there should be some long-range plans and projects to divert the water of the rivers and rivulets, to make some other arrangements so that this may not recur from year to year.

Now I come to Punjab. I have been expressing my views on Punjab situation from time to time. I expected that every time we go to Punjab there should be some improvement, and I feel that the Government has done its best to control it. My home is in district Amritsar and my constituency is Ferozepur, and both are border districts. But it is very disappointing to see that in spite of all their efforts—the efforts on the part of the police, the para-military forces and all that—whenever I visit my home, I feel the people keeping out of their mood. They are all depressed and sad. Every time I go there, I see them more and more in this frustration. The people's role is very much disappointing, I have to say. The President has mentioned in his Address: "We are determined to eliminate terrorism. We shall persist and persevere till terrorism is rooted out in Punjab." The most powerful weapon in the fight against terrorism in the people themselves. In the face of threats and provocation, the people of Punjab have stood firm against terrorist violence and maintained communal harmony. Everybody knows the role of the people. In spite of the persistent efforts on the parts of the terrorists, they have not been able to create a tinge of communal disharmony among the various communities. The problem is that in spite of our vigilance on the borders, in spite of some barbed wire fencing being done on the border, groups of terrorists moved about from village to village, openly in day light carrying the most sophisticated weapons to terrorise the people and demoralise the administration and the police. This is a phenomenon with which we are faced in Punjab. Now, only yesterday I was reading the newspaper 'Times of India', an item written by Shri Dinesh Kumar. He has made an overall assessment of the situation in these border areas. He says that top terrorist leaders like Shri Gurbachan Singh Manochahal and Shri Wassan Singh Zaffarwal continue to move about freely and they are taking shelter in Pakistan. Earlier also, he has mentioned that in the case of one group—there are many groups—the infiltration into the border States continues to take place and they smuggle arms into our country. Three other

couriers caught two weeks ago have confessed to having helped to smuggle in a total of 11 weapons including four AK-47s, three Thompson machine guns and four revolvers/pistols in addition to several hundred rounds of ammunition in the first week of this month. The news item also says that another group of terrorists has also brought into our country so many weapons. This is only a solitary case that has been brought to our notice. There are hundreds of cases in Rajasthan border, Kashmir border and in other borders of our country which are unmanned and unorganised at many points. We thought that after the elections in Pakistan, Mrs, Benazir Bhutto, as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, will be able to check these things. The only difference that we have now found is that whereas earlier the Pakistani rangers were directly involved now they just guide them. They take active part by guiding these terrorists. So, there is not much of improvement in preventing smuggling activities and arms infiltration into the country. The only difference is that they have been able to provide to some of the weapons smuggled into the country. This is given out by officials of the Police Department, after sustained interrogation of some terrorists. But the fact remained that the supply of weapons as well as intrusion by terrorists with the complicity of the Pakistan Rangers continues. There is no difference whether it was Zia's Government or Ms. Benazir Bhutto's Government in Pakistan. But so far as infiltration and smuggling of weapons into our country are concerned, there is not much of difference. You must have read here that since last a few weeks, they have been adopting other tactics.

Earlier, there was no police raj at night time. Now even in day time they openly go about in the villages in groups of 15 or 20 with the most sophisticated arms. Nobody checks them. Similarly, they have recently attacked many police stations. As you will see in today's paper, they attacked a police station of Chabhal under the jurisdiction of which my own village is situated. They attacked it not only once, but twice or thrice. So, what to do? The President has sug-

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gested that we can solve this problem by negotiations, by consultations. But negotiations with whom? There are many Akali Dal groups, each speaking on its own behalf. Recently, a unity move was made by some leaders, that has now completely failed. As per the statement of Mr. Barnala their unity is impossible. It came yesterday only in the press. What to do in such a situation? There are so many terrorist—groups Khalistan Commendo Force, Bhindranwale Tigers, Liberation Force and all of them. Though their aim is just killing and terrorism, yet they differ in the way of the control of their own groups, each have their own programme. So, with whom to talk to? Under such circumstances I think the Prime Minister's announcement in Jalandhar in last September that he would call a meeting of various Opposition parties, is the only course left, it should not have been delayed. Even now is not too late if he invites all the Opposition parties and I think when he meets them and lays down the situation before them, discusses what has happened and what is the latest position, there should be no complacency in our minds about the change of Government in Pakistan. So far as the border and terrorism are concerned, I don't feel any change. He should clearly mention it, he should lay the bare facts before them and consult them. Now, if all the Opposition parties unite and make a common front and appeal to the people to come forward and face this terrorism, something may come up. But if we say that as the President has said, we can go by accord, we can go by negotiations and discussion, it is impossible. With whom to negotiate? The alternative is, whether we are willing or not willing, we must face it. If you have read the history of terrorism—Sir, after this Punjab situation, I just read the history of various terrorist movements in other countries. In North Ireland, I have read that it has been coming for the last few decades. I read the history of Basque movement, the Basque terrorists in Spain, and then Kurds. Kurds are divided in four parts. They are a source of terrorism not only to Iraq and Iran, but to Turkey also. Some of

them are helping them and some of them are condemning them. But the history is quite long and I do feel that the terrorism as it is going on in Punjab may not stop immediately because as we say, terrorism has become a business with many people. They loot, the robberies are committed, and sometimes enmities result in result in murders. These things, in the nature of their arrangement, are continuing matters. The only alternative to that is to create confidence amongst the people, to protect them, to fight for them. They may differ on other policy matters, may be economic or political. But here all the parties should combine together and face terrorism. If at all, any time, the Akalis unite, if the Barnala and the UAD groups are united, it is very well. They should also be invited for consultations. But one thing should be made clear. Government should ask them, where do they stand. If they are within the Constitution and arms are fore-sworn, they should be invited. Let us know what they want whether it is United Akali Dal or Longowal group of Istri Dal or so many other Dals. We must know what do they want by remaining in the opposition. If they do not help terrorists, if they do not want anything else, then their minor or major grievance must be removed. They should be welcomed to join the consultations which the Prime Minister has proposed. It is already built-in. I was present in Jullunder when the Prime Minister spoke and said, "Within four or five days, we will invite them for consultations." I do not know what happened later on. It is better known to Mr. P. Chidambaram and his colleagues why there is delay. I know some problems arose after the P.M's speech. But the matter should not be left unattended. It is not a matter which should be decided keeping an eye on the future elections. All political parties should be consulted. The problem is immediate. In Punjab, everybody wants peace. Everybody on the street asks us, what will happen to Punjab; what is your solution; what is your Prime Minister thinking; what is your Government doing. So, Sir, we are trying to do our best to satisfy them. Steps are taken to control terrorism. The policy is to curb it. After all, practical steps should be taken so

that the people may think that there is something which is being done. There should not be complete lethargy or inaction in this matter. We should assure the people that we are with them. We are consulting each and every party. We are evolving a strategy which may help the people against terrorists.

About the panchayat elections, I am happy that age limit of the voters has been reduced to 18. It is done in many countries. We have to see how far it will be proper in our country. Already legislation is passed. The voters' list for the coming panchayat elections or the Assembly or Parliamentary elections should include all these youngmen so that they may be involved in the political process. In Punjab also, the Governor announced elections. The Prime Minister announced elections for the panchyats. But later on, they were postpend. All the parties were opposed to panchyat elections in Punjab. It is because, in the villages, the terrorists move from village to village and give a list to the villagers that these are their candidates. If we hold the elections, in my opinion, and if the terrorists are successful, they will have regular base at the local level, terrorists' base at Panchayat, Samiti and Zilla Parishad levels. But how long do we go on fearing this? That is the problem. Now I have changed my opinion. earlier I also thought that it would provide a base for the terrorists. But how long can we avoid it? Now it is time that we should entertain no such fears. We should straight-away go ahead with the elections. Let anybody come. But those people should not be in a position to say that they are holding the Government at ransom; they are not allowing the Panchayat elections. We should clearly face this challenge.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was listening very attentively to the speeches of the Members of both the ruling and the opposition parties for the last several days. Sir, we are very glad that in his Address the hon. President has almost

touched all those important factors which have greatly contributed to the development of the country and which brought prestige for the country and which is instrumental in uplifting the condition of the poor people of our country. At the very outset his reference to Pt. Nehru, who had laid the foundation stone of development of the country, is very timely and proper as this year is the centenary year of Pt. Nehru. After this, mention have been made about Smt. Gandhi and the ways she had shown to us. Therefore, it is but natural that this House express its gratitude to the hon. President.

I strongly support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil and which has been also supported by other hon. members.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn for Lunch to reassemble at 14.00 hrs. You can continue your speech after Lunch.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the clock.

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

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

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was submitting that in his Address the hon. President has mentioned the basic policies of Government in the form of direction. There are 51 paragraphs in it and all subjects have been covered precisely in these paragraphs. As this is the year of Nehru Birth

[Sh. Ram Pyare Panika]

Centenary, therefore it was natural that in his Address he made a reference to late Shri Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, who laid the foundation stone of country's development. In course of his Address, he also referred to the achievements of Smt. Indira Gandhi. Therefore, it is natural that we should also pay our gratefulness to him for his Address he delivered before us.

It is a matter of great happiness that the world's all great economists, the World Bank, the Reserve Bank of India and the top most economists of our country have opined that during the last four years the country's economy has made unprecedented progress than ever before. It is more so that despite the unprecedented drought of this century our economy has shown a growth of 3.6 percent. Not only this we have been successful in carrying our economy even beyond those targets fixed for the Seventh Five Year Plan. We have made achievements in agricultural and industrial fields which has definitely increased our enthusiasm and has strengthened us to formulate our Eighth Five Year Plan. I want to say that the way our Government and the Prime Minister have monitored the country's economy is commendable. Of course, it is a unique achievement. Despite general favourable condition during the last 40 years, our economy did not make much head way as it achieved during these four years. Therefore, it would be pertinent to compare our achievement with these of achieved during the period of 21/2 years of Janata Party's Government during which agricultural production had gone down by 5% and that of industrial production by -0.41 percent. As compared to that period, despite the unprecedented drought of the century, the industrial production has increased by 12 percent and average has also gone up by 8 percent. Even the production in agriculture sector has registered a tremendous growth. It is a high time that we should be proud of our achievements and I want to convey my thanks to the President for his Address in which he has presented a true picture of our country before the country

and the world. I want to say that resilience shown by our economy is a direct bearing of drought. We have shown to the world that our country can face every situation. You might be remembering that Sudan, Ethiopia and other countries were also suffered with such a severe drought. But our Government made such arrangements to deal with the problem of drought that no person starved to death. While in other countries, a number of people died of starvation due to drought but we can say with pride that even a single person was not allowed to die of hunger in our country. Today our Government deserves congratulations for the way it has managed to grow the economy of the country and we also thank the hon. President for mentioning Government's achievements in his Address.

Not only this we have made our marks at international front too for which credit should go to our foreign policy. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been successful in establishing good relations with its neighbouring countries and reducing tension, be it Pakistan or any other country, by treading the path of our basic principles and foreign policy which was framed by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and propagated by Indiraji and now by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. A new Government has been formed in Pakistan. The visit of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to Pakistan has created a new atmosphere and after a gap of 34 years relations have now started improving. Our relations with China have also improved due to our friendly gesture to them. The decisions which our country had taken with regard to Afghanistan and Shri Lanka have been successfully implemented. You will see that a democratically elected Government has been established there. Definitely, these are the good achievements of our Government.

As far as our country is concerned, the hon. President rightly pointed out in his Address that during the last 4-5 years the atmosphere in North Eastern States like Mizoram, Nagaland has improved and with our efforts and policies these small states have been brought in the mainstream of our nation. We can say with pride that today in

these North Eastern States the Government of Congress party is functioning there. Is it a smaller achievement? Similarly, in the last four or five years the evil designs of all separatists forces to divide the country have been foiled by our Government and the problems of those states have been solved. Our Government have tried to solve all issues whether it is of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram or it is a matter of some parts of Kashmir.

Our Prime Minister as well as our President have visited a number of countries in order to improve our relations with foreign countries. They exchanged views with the leaders of several countries. As result of which our bilateral relations have improved and trade and commerce have also increased.

It is a matter of great happiness that despite this unprecedented drought, our export has increased during the last two years. Export has increased by 25 percent last year and this year also it has increased by another 25 percent over the last year. Thus exports have increased by 50 percent. Our leaders and our Government were concerned for not increasing our exports which was putting obstacles in our way. We have simplified our industrial policies and have been able to increase the agricultural production and we have got success therein. Still some people say that the economy of our country is not sound. I want to tell you that our Government and our leaders are very much concerned for the removal of bottlenecks and defects noticed in some sectors of our economy. The Government is seized of our critical balance of payment position and sustained efforts are being made to set it right by increasing export. Due to drought, inflation has increased in other developing countries also but our country has been successful in controlling it in a much better way than those adopted by those countries.

Sir, you may recall that last year when the country was in the grip of acute drought, the Hon. Prime Minister had given an assur-

ance in the House, as well as outside, that the Government would try its utmost to bring the rate of inflation below two digits. I am pleased to know, that because of the efforts of Government, rate of inflation has not crossed beyond two digits though it is true that during the last two months, it has increased a bit. India is a large country and there can numerous reasons for price rise. Would it be inappropriate to say that the Government has not succeeded in controlling inflation? Other countries in the world are impressed to see, how India, a developing economy has succeeded in controlling inflation.

Sir, the Hon. President has mentioned in his address the fundamental issues that concern the country. He has hinted at the main targets and suggested the ways of improving our economy. On one side, we are treading on the path of development while on the other side we continue our efforts to eliminate social disparity. The Government have spent a huge amount of money during the last four years to alleviate poverty. It is quite possible that there may have been some lapses. The hon. Members of the House have been drawing the attention of the House towards those lapses and shortcomings from time to time. I am glad that the poor in the country have benefited from the anti-poverty programmes. The entire house and the nation is happy to know that the Government have achieved the target of Seventh Five Year Plan within a period of four years and we are accelerating our efforts for crossing that target and reaching a new high.

Our Government does not claim to have removed social disparity completely. But it is our firm resolution to tackle the problem and we are going to fight for it.

Sir, the Government is engaged in finding out a solution to all the problems confronted by the country. But certain separatist forces are active in the country. The Hon. Prime Minister was not at all wrong when he said that some elements in the opposition parties support terrorism. Is it not true that an

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hon. Member of Janata Party in the Upper House has supported the Khalistan movement. There is nothing wrong on the part of the Hon. Prime Minister to apprise the people of the facts.

What is the policy of the Opposition parties? Sir, they have no specific policy or programme. Their only motive during the last four-five years has been to defame the Government. The achievements of Shri Rajiv Gandhi would be written in golden letters in the history. When he became Prime Minister, people had doubts about his ability because he had no experience. But under his leadership, the country has achieved great heights in national as well as international affairs. The effective launching of the programmes meant for removing social disparity and other evils, would glorify the historical events. The actual position of the opposition parties have become evident in the last four years. They do not have any principle. They intend to form a national front by organising communal and regional parties. They have been engaged for the last five years in uniting Telugu Desam of Andhra Pradesh, communist and other parties. I congratulate our leader for having welcomed the idea of creating a national alternative. But what is their basis? The activities of these opposition parties reveal that they have neither any issue nor any programme of their own. Their only purpose is to defame the Government which has taken the nation on the path of progress and development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President's Address has 51 paras which mention various Government policies. It is just an indicator of Government's performance and besides making an analysis of the economic situation it does not hide any shortcoming. Prior to this the economic survey has already been released and detailed discussion on Budget shall follow. This Address provides an opportunity to evaluate national problems and discuss lapses in various projects. The problem of balance of payment and import and export

have also been mentioned in detail and nothing has been kept secret.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of national shame that the Members left the House during the discussion on President's Address. Nothing so serious had happened. Moreover the Hon. Prime Minister clarified his position later.

In the end, I express my full support to the Motion of thanks.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, we are very grateful to the President of India for having addressed both the Houses of Parliament on 21st February 1989. In the Address of the President, I find no important schemes coming forward in order to eliminate poverty and terrorism in this country. On page 2 of the Address given by the President, he has stated: "Our frontal assault has been on poverty." So far as poverty alleviation programmes are concerned, we are having the IRDP, and NREP and other programmes. But after 40 years of Independence, we are unable to eliminate poverty in this country. What concrete programmes is the Government having to eliminate poverty? That has not been mentioned in the Address.

Another very important thing on page 3 is: "We are actually determined to eliminate terrorism" From 1985 onwards, I have been going through each and every address given by the President of India. It talked about eliminating terrorism in this country. But for the last four years, the Government has been unable to eliminate terrorism in this country. The terrorism is growing like anything. We must have a time-bound programme for all these things whether it is poverty or terrorism. We have to eliminate these within a time-bound programme. Are you having any concrete proposals in order to eliminate poverty in this country? So far as poverty in this country is concerned, the number of people below the poverty line is increasing. The IRDP and the NREP are not

helping the poorest of the poor. Whether it is reaching the people who are below the poverty line, I would like to know. Of course, we are having the statistics that millions and millions of people are being helped: But even after helping the people below the poverty line, their number is increasing. That trend is always there.

Two or three other important things have been mentioned. With regard to reducing the voting age, I welcome the Bill which was brought before the Parliament. This was done much earlier—in 1982—in Tamil Nadu when my lamented Chief Minister MGR was there. We had reduced the age for the civic polls. Of course, the Government has come forward in order to reduce the voting age from 21 years to 18 years. It is a welcome feature. By this, the aspirations of the youth of the country would be met. It is the participation of the youth which the country must see. Actually, the aspirations of the youth are being fulfilled by means of reducing the voting age. Another welcome feature is the Electoral Reforms Bill which our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has brought in his tenure.

With regard to the drought and floods, they are repeating every year. Is there any permanent funding made by the Central Government in this regard? We are facing drought and floods repeatedly. By these two natural calamities, people are suffering and properties are being damaged. Even in the President's Address, I do not find any concrete proposal for drought and floods and no permanent funding has been created.

As far as the farmers are concerned, no assured prices have been given for the farm products. Farm products can be sold outside. Even then, the farmers are unable to get proper prices for their products according to the cost of production. This is a very important thing because we are mainly depending upon agriculture. Farmers are working hard the whole day but they are unable to get good prices for their products. There is no mention regarding that. There is a mention that the banks have been asked

to give credit upto Rs. 10,000/- . What is the use of giving Rs. 10,000 to those who are having ten to fifteen acres of land, those who are growing sugarcane and paddy in their land? I know that for sugarcane, the cost of production per acre will be Rs. 800 to Rs. 9000. But you are giving only Rs. 10,000. If I am holding a land of ten acres, at least, you must be able to give Rs. 1 lakh. Why can't it be possible? It is mentioned that the farmers are allowed to get loan only upto Rs. 10,000. So, with regard to loan, the amount should be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

Because of the indebtedness, most of the farmers are unable to grow their crops. Loans must be written off. What concrete proposals are there for writing off the loans? The Chief Minister Mr. Devi Lal of our neighbouring State, Haryana has come forward to write off the loans. Why can't you do it? You have to do it for the farming community who form the backbone of our country. Are we helping the farming community? No. We are not at all helping them. Therefore, I request the Government to come to the help of the farmers by writing off the loans.

Regarding unemployment, there are millions of educated people who are unemployed. There is no concrete proposal in this Address with regard to eradication of unemployment. You have not come forward to say as to how many jobs have been created for the educated and the illiterate. Even after the formation of the food processing industries, the Government has not assured the prices for farmers and the cost of production as also the inputs for the farmers are going up like anything. You have brought in a new seeds policy. Regarding the seeds policy, it is only on paper. There is a wide gap between the pronouncement of the policy and the implementation of it. That gap is always there. In order to implement your programmes, you must take concrete steps. Though everyday you are pronouncing so many policies to achieve your objectives, but those policies are not being implemented.

For economy, two things are very important. One is the prices and the other is the

[Sh. P. Kolandaivelu]

balance of payments. The prices are going up everyday and you are not able to contain them. The prices of essential commodities are increasing without any check. As regards balance of payments, we know how much money we have borrowed from other countries. We have borrowed thousands and thousands of crores of rupees. The position regarding balance of payments is very very poor.

According to the statistics, millions of farmers and agricultural labour are being helped under the IRDP and NREP. But that is only on paper. The benefits reach only a few of the people and not to all. These programmes and their implementation needs to be reviewed by the Government.

In the President's Address, a mention has been made of the National Housing Policy. However, this policy has not been discussed by the Lok Sabha so far; it was actually discussed in the Rajya Sabha only. It has not been accepted by the Lok Sabha as yet. You have mentioned about it as if it has been passed by the Parliament. It is not so. Only Rajya Sabha has accepted it; but the other House, Lok Sabha, has not accepted it. The mention of National Housing Policy in the President's Address is wrong. I request the Prime Minister to immediately take this paragraph out or amend it suitably.

Then, the National Policy on Education. You have mentioned that 256 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened so far. For the last few years, you have been able to open only these schools. What about others? You are following now three-language formula and most of the States are agitated over it. Tamil Nadu is following two-language formula of our late lamented Chief Minister and the founder of the Dravidian movement Anna. Unless, there is two-language formula, we will not accept the Education Policy. I request the Prime Minister to give an assurance that as long as the non-Hindi-Speaking areas want it, Hindi will not be imposed upon those people. That assur-

ance must be made constitutionally, and there should be an amendment in the Constitution itself.

You have mentioned about the preparation of Eighth Plan on page 11 and that the planning would be upwards from the district level. Even the Prime Minister was insisting about the district level planning I request him that we should have planning from the village level upwards, not only from the district level. That will help the poor farmers and the poorest of the poor. I request the hon. Prime Minister to act immediately and dynamically to make the country richer.

The President's Address also makes a mention of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for having brought about this agreement on July 29, 1987 between India and Sri Lanka in order to solve the problems of Tamilians in the north-eastern provinces of Sri Lanka. Elections have been held there and a new Chief Minister has come. Parliamentary elections have also been held. But at the same time, whatever the problems of the Tigers were, those have not been solved, even though a period of seven years has elapsed. LTTE problems have not been solved. Everyday 'Tigers' are being killed; IPKF men are also being killed. The problem is going on. This problem has to be solved. Since the initiative was taken by the Prime Minister, he has to solve this problem and he has to settle the issue immediately.

There was no mention at all with regard to the drinking water facilities to be provided in the rural areas. The President has not stated anything about it. It is a very important thing because we have lakhs and lakhs of villages where there is no drinking water facility. This problem has to be solved immediately. Immediate steps should be taken by the Government of India to solve this problem.

There are serious lapses between the policy pronouncement and its implementation. You are announcing a number of policies but whether these policies are being

implemented fully or not is the main thing. You are not implementing the policies with the same speed at which you are announcing them. I request the Government of India and the Prime Minister to come forward to fulfil the aspirations of the people. When he took over as the Prime Minister of India everybody thought that here is a young and dynamic Prime Minister who will fulfil all the aspirations within a short span of time. But they are not being fulfilled. You must go to the village level and help the poorest of the poor then only the problem can be solved.

With regard to the Congress Party, I would like to say that our Prime Minister happens to be the President of the Congress Party. I agree that it is a great party but let not the Congress Party come as a regional party. The infighting in the Congress is going on. Why don't you solve this problem?

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): How are you concerned about it?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Yes, I am concerned with this because as the President of the Party and as a Prime Minister he has visited Tamil Nadu 13 times., of course as a well-wisher or as a friend. But in order to strengthen the party when you are misusing the fund or misusing the position, then I am concerned. As a common man, I object to it. That is what the Prime Minister has done. But what is the position of the Congress in Tamil Nadu? You wanted to re-establish the Kamraj rule in Tamil Nadu. At the time when the Bill with regard to reducing the voting age was introduced, I spoke here and I told the Prime Minister that not only in this century, even in the next century the Congress Party cannot become the ruling party in Tamil Nadu. So, what is the position of the Congress party in Tamil Nadu now? The Congress Party is in the third position.

SHRI A. CHARLES: We got 26 per cent votes.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Yes, but you are in the third position. In spite of the repeated visits of the Prime Minister to Tamil

Nadu, in spite of his addressing the public gatherings so many times there, what happened to the party. The Congress candidate lost the deposit. What do you have to say for this? That is the position of Congress in Tamil Nadu.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): How about your party there?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: My party is very strong. We are the main Opposition Party and we got about 50 lakh votes but you were able to get only about 40 lakh votes. You are in the third position. Well, I am not blaming this Government or the Prime Minister but the people who are around the Prime Minister are misleading him. That is what I would like to say. Umpteen times I have told that unless there is some alliance with other party, you cannot come to power in Tamil Nadu. Is it not a reflection in Madhya Pradesh? Is it not a reflection in Gujarat? Is it not a reflection in Rajasthan? Please think over it. Congress is a very big party. You fought for the freedom of this country. At the same time, I would like to warn you that you will be nowhere if this infighting goes on. As far as the other party the Janata Dal or the National Front is concerned, it is in chaos and confusion. I know fully well that there is no alternative to the Congress. But if this infighting in Congress is allowed to go on, the party will be nowhere. So, my sincere advice to the Congress is to put a stop to this infighting. I advise you because I was myself a Congressman once. I was in the Youth Congress in 1953-54. You must behave well before the people.

SHRI A. CHARLES: We are waiting for the return of the prodigal son.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: I cannot, I am in the Dravidian Movement. Sir, this year happens to be the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Year. Before beginning the day's work, Pandit Nehru used to read four lines from a poem, written by a very good poet. Let me quote those lines:

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"The Words are lovely dark and deep
But I have promises to keep
And miles to go before I sleep
Miles to go before I sleep."

What does the poem mean? You have made so many promises to the people. We must meet the aspirations of the people and fulfil the promises that we have made. And this must be done immediately.

After the elections in Tamil Nadu, our wonderful Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi assumed office on 28.1.89. Soon after assuming the office, his first work was to wind up the inquiry commission, the Sadasivam Probe Panel. Just within three days after assuming the Chiefministership, our hon. Karunanidhi wound up the commission on 2nd February. This Commission was set up to examine a scandal in which the Chief Minister was involved during the years 1969-1976. There was yet another Commission set up in the year 1981, headed by one Mr. Ray, retired Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. With the connivance of one of the M.P.s of the D.M.K., he appealed in the High Court. The High Court stated that the Commission set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu was valid. Afterwards, he made an appeal to the Supreme Court and the case is pending. Now, he has wound up the commission. I request the Government of India to appoint an Inquiry Commission against the Chief Minister immediately under Section 3 of the Inquiry Commissions Act.

What is Shri Karunanidhi doing? In order to strengthen his party....*.... Immediate steps have to be taken against the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu by appointing a commission to go into his**....during 1969 to 1976 in connection with the spirit scandal.

While winding up my speech, I request the hon. Prime Minister to make some concrete proposals for the benefit of the Commonman. It so happens that this year we

have to face the elections also. The Finance Minister is very much here. Tomorrow he is going to present the Budget. Please make it a poor man's budget and a farmer's budget. That is all I want to say.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): Mr. deputy speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion moved by my friend Shri V.N. Gadgil.

Ours is a vast country. We are inheritors of 5000 years of civilisation. there are a large number of problems in this country. There are so many religions. there is no religion on earth whose followers are not there in this country. there are as many as 2000 languages and dialects in this country. So, even in the midst of so much diversities we have been able to carry this country forward unitedly towards progress. We have been able to overcome all difficulties, all issues and the very fact that we stand united as a country of integrity is one of the marvels of modern history.

We were under colonial rule for 200 years. During that period our past glory ceased to shine. Our economy was totally destroyed and the masses of our country dehumanised. So, when we attained freedom we were faced with stupendous problems-an uphill task for development. Even then whatever we have achieved in the forty years of freedom is unique and there is no parallel in history. I would like to say that no country of comparable size or similar historical background has been able to achieve as much as India has achieved in the last forty years. This is a record of which we are all proud. The President rightly stated at the end of his speech and I quote:

"We will succeed, and succeed soon, because we build on firm principles, principles bequeathed to us by our millennial civilisation, principles steeled in the furnace of the freedom struggle, principles tried and tested in four decades of nation building."

He has correctly summed up the total achievements of this country. It is only

because the Congress has got a very clear out ideology, clear policies, well through-out programmes and a direction from leadership that we have been able to achieve so much in only 40 years of time. That is what I want to emphasise. Now they have combined this kind of unprincipled combination of forces and elements however powerful they may look outside, suffer from internal weakness of incoherence, instability and incompatibility and can achieve nothing. Everyday we are seeing what is happening in the Opposition camp. Such an artificially patched up Front is bound to break down at the slightest touch of hard reality. We have not forgotten the experiment of 1977.

Some people try to run down the achievements of this nation under the congress rule. Those who ridicule the progress made so far actually insult our *Kisans*, working class, artisans, teachers, engineers, scientists and technologists whose toil and sweat have made what India is today. That was possible only because of the correct direction provided by the Government.

The President has given a detailed account of our progress and I do not want to repeat them. We have made great strides but still there are problems ahead. I do not deny that. The Government deserves congratulations for its great performance in drought management in 1986 and 1987 and for being able to raise the growth rate from 3.5 per cent to 9 per cent this year and to lower the rate of inflation from 10 per cent to 5 per cent on Wholesale Price Index and to 8 per cent on Consumer Price Index. The way the unprecedented drought situation was managed has established a record and has earned approbation from all over the world. There are no mean achievements. It is true that agricultural and food production have contributed most towards the rate of growth, mainly because of good monsoon. It is quite correct; but monsoon alone has not produced the result. Monsoon, coupled with correct Government policies, and the assistance given by Government to the farmers—all that has produced the result that we are seeing today. The policies of the Govern-

ment have played a major role in raising the level of production.

Some hon. Members have complained about price rise. My friend Mr. Kolandaivelu has just now spoken about it. Yes; it is true that the poorer sections of our society are suffering very much because of this; but it must be noted that in spite of so many difficulties and problems, as I said, the rate of inflation has come down from 10% to 8%—on the basis of the consumer price index, and this is no mean achievement. This is to be noted. As long as the rate of inflation can be kept within a single—digit level, there is not much to worry or cry about.

Still I submit that vigorous steps should be taken to control the price rise, at least in the case of essential commodities of mass consumption. The public distribution system should be strengthened; Government expenditure on non-Plan sectors should be kept down; conspicuous consumption should be strictly and strongly discouraged; income and expenditure should be put under a ceiling; the Budget deficit should be reduced. I do not know what the Finance Minister is going to do tomorrow. Fiscal and monetary policies should be directed towards price reduction and reducing the economic disparities in the society.

Above all, I would submit to the House, and mainly to our Finance Minister, that they should come forward with a comprehensive income, wage and price policy. I have been saying this for a long time, but nothing has been done in this regard. It should be done as early as possible.

While the overall economic situation in the country is quite bright and promising, the political situation also has more or less come under control. Accords signed by the Prime Minister have borne fruit, except in Punjab, in the sense that they have by and large brought about peace and normalcy in the disturbed areas concerned, and the democratic process has gained a fresh momentum in those areas—like Assam, Mizoram, Darjeeling and Tripura. The Prime Minister

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deserved the congratulations and gratitude of the whole nation for his achievements in this regard. It was his sincerity and determination that brought these long-standing problems to the path of a peaceful solution.

The Punjab problem has not yet been solved, and terrorism continues. But it must be admitted that the situation has very much improved, and it is under control today. The terrorists may not be on the run, but certainly, they are now operating with their back to the wall. The occasional desperateness shown by them is a sure sign of their gradually weakening position. In any case, the policy pursued by the Prime Minister and the Government in regard to Punjab is the only practical and viable policy; and nobody else has suggested any alternative policy in this regard.

I need not go into the Shri Lanka Accord now; I will go into it later on. It has also borne fruit, and the three main objectives of the Agreement signed between India and Sri Lanka have been more or less fulfilled.

The only disturbing development that has taken place in recent months is the Bodo movement in Assam demanding a separate State. Some people are accusing the Home Minister and the Minister of State for Home Affairs, of inciting the Bodos. They have not been able to substantiate this charge. There is no basis whatsoever. The Intelligence Department of the Government of Assam has not been able to produce any evidence in support of their charges against Mr. Buta Singh and Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Shri Dinesh Goswami read out some news item from *Assam Tribune* of 23rd February in support of his allegations against our Ministers, but he did not read out the next column of the same paper where the government has categorically denied these allegations, because there is no truth. Uptill now, they have not been able to produce any single evidence in support of their allegations. There is no evidence, no ground for making a charge against our Ministers at the Centre.

The demand for a separate State for Bodos is not a new thing. The PTCA led the agitation before. The Central Government categorically rejected their demand. Their agitation was peaceful and PTCA leaders did not advocate violence. But why is it that the leadership has now passed into the hand ABSU (All Bodo Students Union) and that they have taken recourse to violence? Why? They have simply taken the cue—this is my assessment—from the extremist section of AGP and AASU and are imitating more or less the same method and technique in launching their agitation. What AASU did in the six years of the movement, the Bodos are exactly following the same path. The extremist section of AASU and AGP is still committing violence in Assam. They have committed as many as 12 political murders and the government have not been able to apprehend a single culprit. Why have they not been able to apprehend a single culprit in spite of the fact that they have committed 12 political murders in Assam, mainly against Congress? More than that, the Chief Minister has come out with a statement saying that he is not going to ban the extremist section of AGP & ASSU. Why do they not ban it? Why do they not answer this question? He has come out with a statement and thereby gets himself exposed. All of them are in league in committing these political murders against congress men. They are disrupting the meetings of the Congress; so far they have disrupted about 30 meetings of the Congress; they have announced that they will not allow any Congress Committee to held any meeting. If that is their stand, if that is what they do, the Bods have learnt this technique from them; the Bodos have drawn inspiration from them and are following the same line. You cannot accuse the Bodos as long as you follow the same policy. Therefore, it must be noted that this movement was never so violent; it has become violent today only because they have imitated the techniques and methods of AASU. Now they are simply imitating a technique of up at AASU was doing. If they want to solve this problem let them first ban their extremist organisation first; let them stop all disruptive activities of AASU and AGP; only then they

will be able to meet the violence of the Bodo students.

It must be clearly understood that we are totally opposed to violence; and any further division of Assam will not be acceptable to the Central Government, to the Congress Party. Let me make this very clear. But it is for the Assam Government to control the situation and bring back peace and normalcy. They asked for 10 additional companies of CRPF and the Central Government readily acceded to the request. It is an irony that during the movement they hated CRPF; they said take away CRPF even the State quota. Now, they are at the feet of the Central Government requesting them to give 10 companies of CRPF. The Government of India has readily accepted it. We had given them whatever they wanted in the past. Now we have said that we will give them 10 additional companies of CRPF. We have also said that we will give them more if they want the situation must be controlled by them.

15.00 hrs.

"Do not go on accusing our Ministers of the Central Government. You are responsible for controlling the situation." They cannot blame the Centre for their failure and incompetence. But the Bodo problem is not a law and order problem. That is not a law and order problem. It cannot be solved by police action. The AGP Government's handling of the situation is entirely wrong. They should immediately convene an all-party conference in Assam and then collectively hold negotiations with the Bodo agitators. Peaceful negotiations have solved several intricate problems in this country. There is no reason why this problem cannot be solved peacefully.

Some people are gloating over the defeat of the Congress Party in Tamil Nadu and are trying to read too much into the significance of the result. Mind you, it was a victory of the DMK party alone and the so-called National front had absolutely no contribution to make whatsoever. For the last two dec-

ades, as everybody knows, the DMK or the ADMK originating from the same source, had held the field in Tamil Nadu. So, what is new about this result? If the DMK or ADMK has won, what is new about the result? For the last two decades they have been in power. That is nothing new. It has no significance at the national level. If it has any national significance then why not refer to Mizoram and Nagaland elections also? Why not? If the Tamil Nadu election has a national significance then the election of Mizoram and Nagaland also has a national significance. There a regional party has won the election against the national party. But in Mizoram and Nagaland it was Indian nationalism that has secured victory over regionalism. That is the difference. The victory of regionalism against nationalism in Tamil Nadu is not so important from the national point of view. But the victory of nationalism over regionalism in Nagaland and Mizoram and that too in a sensitive area has a very great significance. That must be understood.

The National Front is neither national, in my opinion, nor a front. It is not national because it is presided over by a regional party. A National Front presided over by a regional party, how can it be called a National party? To call it a Front also looks like an affront. There is no use discussing about the National Front because as time passes its real character will be unfolded and exposed step by step.

The major constituent of the National Front is the Janata Dal. This is another variety of the Janata Party of 1977. Babu Jagjivan Ram said, "The Janata Party is nothing but a conglomeration of parties". If that was what the Janata Party was, according to Babu Jagjivan Ram, the Janta Dal of today is much more a conglomeration of different parties. The way they are conducting their party affairs, as disclosed by the Press, has brought out the real character very clearly, every passing day.

15.04 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

[Sh. Bipin Pal Das]

What kind of a party it is, whose President had to walk out of a party meeting, which was being presided over by him? The President, who was presiding over the party, walks out of the meeting! I cannot understand it; I have been in politics for the last more than forty years. I have not seen any such phenomenon.

It is a party without a coherent ideology or policy, a party without a meaningful programme, without a leadership, without any direction. Can this country afford the luxury of being left in the hands of such a conglomeration of parties? Can this country afford it? India needs a strong Central Government with a clearcut ideology, policy and programmes led by a strong and effective leadership. Congress alone can provide such a Government and a club like the Janata Dal or the National Front may only lead the country to disaster.

Madam, the most astounding thing that is before us today is the Draft Foreign Policy of the Janata Dal. It has a clear pro-west tilt and a tendency to equate USA with USSR so far as foreign policy matters are concerned. The Draft talks about the need to reformulate the basic postulates of NAM, thereby trying to negate all the achievements of the Non-aligned Movement. It has also meant undermining the significant role the NAM and India have been playing for securing world peace and a just world economic order. The Janata Dal Draft wants to say that since *detente* has been accomplished, the NAM has lost much of its validity. The fact is that the *detente* and the multi-polar world have not solved the basic problems of the world like poverty, racism and unjust trade practices. It is absolutely wrong to equate US and USSR so far as their foreign policies vis-a-vis our policies and interests are concerned. The talk of regional disarmament indulged in by Dal's Draft Policy is preposterous. It will reduce India into a minor power of little consequence. We shall not allow our principled position regarding NPT and our strategic interests to be compromised in any

way. Janata Dal's proposition the India should formulate its nuclear policy only with reference to Pakistan can never be accepted by this country. Janata Dal wants India to take unilateral steps to remove suspicions in other South Asian countries. This has been a subtle western move to equate India with Pakistan. Janata Dal's suggestion to involve international agencies to increase power potential and solve river disputes between India, Nepal and Bangladesh is dangerous for our national interests. We can never allow bilateral issues to be inter-nationalised.

Madam, I do not want to discuss our foreign policy in detail today because we will have other opportunities to discuss it.

The Prime Minister has established a brilliant record of drives and initiatives he has taken in the last few years in various directions of our foreign policy. His initiatives in the forums of NAM, SAARC, commonwealth and UNO are all very laudable. His contribution towards disarmament and struggle against apartheid have been historically significant.

After 1976 when Indiraji took the initiative to break the ice regarding our relations with China and restore our diplomatic relations with China at the Ambassadorial level, there was a long gap of dull period. Several meetings took place in between at lower levels, but not much progress was made. It was Rajivji who has now broken the stalemate and his recent visit to China was a great success. A new atmosphere has been created and concrete steps taken to normalise our relationship with China.

There is one view that unless the border problem is resolved the overall relations with China cannot improve. There is the other view that unless the overall relations with China are improved and a new appropriate climate is created the border problem will not be solved. I subscribe to the second view. So I welcomed PM's visit to China. I am now happy that the visit has resulted in creating a new friendly atmosphere. There appears to

have taken place a meeting of hearts and minds between the PM and China's topmost leaders. Nothing spectacular can be expected in one single visit. But since this visit has opened the doors I hope and trust that both India and China will be able to march forward in friendship, take further positive steps and ultimately solve all mutual problems including the border problem. I congratulate the Prime Minister for his successful visit.

I conclude by saying one word about Pakistan. The restoration of the democratic process and election of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto as the Prime Minister was a great opportunity and a challenge to India's diplomacy. I am happy that the Prime Minister availed the opportunity almost immediately and took the advantage of the SAARC Conference to establish a bright and helpful equation with the newly elected leaders of Pakistan. I congratulate the Prime Minister for the same. My only submission is that everything possible should be done by us to strengthen the hands of Mrs. Bhutto and the democratic process in Pakistan irrespective of minor irritations now and then. This is my considered view because the alternative in Pakistan will never be in our national interest and the democratic process is the only hope. The problems cannot be solved overnight. But Mrs. Bhutto and the democratic process may perhaps help in finding a just and proper solution to all our problems.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Madam, Chairman, I approve the Motion of thanks on President's Address moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil and seconded by Shri Bhatia. The Hon. President has mentioned a number of important issues, while delivering his Address in this Nehru Centenary year, the most important being drought, which concerns not only my own constituency but the whole country. The determination with which Shri Rajiv Gandhi kept the drought situation in the country is unparalleled. My constituency in Rajasthan was in the grip of severe drought in the year 1965-

66 when late Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. Even then the drought situation was not fought so effectively as it has been done today. Constructive Schemes have been launched to meet the challenge of drought in our constituency and now we have been able to find a permanent solution to the problem. Around six thousand irrigation wells were dug up in our desert area. Work on such a large scale has never taken place in the last forty or fifty years to fight the drought situation. As a result, there has been marked improvement in foodgrain production in that area and we are heaving good *Rabi* crop also. I am happy that there is tremendous change in the desert area. Water tanks were constructed in order to meet the challenge of drinking water. Twenty thousand tanks have been constructed in Barmer district while five thousand tanks have been constructed in Jaisalmer. The steps taken to meet the challenge of drought have improved the conditions of rural areas to a large extent. The steps taken by the Government to save cattle wealth in the districts of Barmer and Jodhpur and the way in which fodder was provided in abundance, is really a task worth appreciation.

The Rajasthan Government has not spent such a large amount to meet the challenge of drought in the last forty years. About Rs. 40 crores were spent for this purpose last year. Central Government, on their own, provided adequate financial assistance, though some lapses were there. The Rajasthan Government couldn't get the full amount due to bureaucratic wrangle. The favour which has been done to Gujarat Government was not done to Rajasthan. The minimum wages for relief work was Rs. 10.50p whereas we managed with Rs. 7/- only. Rajasthan should get its due share. An amount of Rs. 58 crores which was assured to Rajasthan, has not been paid so far. Besides, we have been deprived of Rs. 216 crores which were to be allocated after the High Court and Supreme Court gave the verdict, and the State Government had to pay Rs. 14 per day. Even this amount has not been paid by the Central Government.

[Sh. Virdhi Chander Jain]

Even now, some parts of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur are in the grip of drought. Government of Rajasthan have not been able to launch relief programmes there. Report has been presented to the Central Government and the State Government has requested the Finance Minister to provide the relief at the earliest, for, margin-money has already been spent and we would be able to get it after April only. Drought creates famine conditions in these areas. These areas have been largely neglected and some effective measures should be taken in this regard.

The Central Government have launched a crop Insurance Scheme at *Taluka* level while the State Government wanted it to be launched at *Patwari* circle positively before the Budget session. Shri Bhajanlal had assured to launch it at *Patwari* circle. Government of Rajasthan have cancelled the scheme due to which the farmers in general have suffered great loss. Had the Crop Insurance Scheme been launched in our State, our farmers would have availed the maximum relief, of which they have been deprived at present.

When the Minister of Finance was holding the portfolio of Planning, he launched a Desert Development Programme estimated to be worth Rs. 247 crores under special Area Development Programme in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Rs. 100 crores have been spent so far and if the Government is sincerely interested in the effective implementation of the Desert Development Programme, then the outstanding amount of Rs. 150 crores must also be spent during the next two years that is during 1989-90 and 1990-91, so that the accelerated pace of development of the desert areas can be maintained.

The former Minister of Finance had allocated Rs. 40 crores for the Indira Gandhi Canal project and now an amount of Rs. 115 crores had been provided for the purpose but the demand of Rs. 123 crores made for

the year 1989-90 should be acceded. If this project is expedited, production will increase and the problems of the desert areas will be solved and these areas will also be able to contribute in making the country self-sufficient. There has been a record agricultural production this year and in spite of the drought situation last year, the gross national production registered an increase of 3.6 percent, and the fact that we are advancing towards achieving the growth-rate target of 5 percent during the current Five Year Plan period, is indicative of our progress. It has been resolved to achieve the target of 6 percent growth-rate during the Eighth Five Year Plan which we will certainly achieve. I want to thank the Central Government for these achievements.

I want to say a few words about Panchayati Raj as well. The steps which are being taken by the Government in this direction are commendable. The people have welcomed these measures and expect that the Constitution will be amended shortly for this purpose. The opposition has been opposing it but I cannot understand as to why they are doing so. The Central Government wants that there should be more devolution of power at the grass root level and Panchayat elections should be held in time. The Opposition are objecting on the grounds that powers of the State Government will be curtailed under it. We want to give more powers to the Gram Panchayats and give a higher representation to the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also to the women. I cannot understand as to what objections the Opposition can have in this regard. In this connection, a conference was held at the behest of the Hon. Prime Minister and in which the heads of the Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishads participated. Now another conference of the Sarpanchs of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be convened. My suggestion is that the proposed amendment in the Constitution should be brought during the current Budget Session itself as the people are waiting for it. The Cabinet should take an early decision in this regard so that the Panchayati Raj can be strengthened.

Until the Panchayati Raj is strengthened, no scheme can be implemented properly. Schemes like IRDP, NREP, RLEGP etc. are implemented by the Panchayat Samitis. Therefore, unless and until these institutions are strengthened and their economic positions is given a solid base, an effective implementations of these schemes cannot be possible. This is necessary for the success of these programmes.

Regarding the Budget, I want to submit that the unemployment position is very grim today. In the economic resolution which was passed, it was decided to provide gainful employment to at least one member of every family and some or the other guiding principle must be given in the Budget itself in this regard. If at least one member of every family is given employment, it will be a great achievement on the part of the Government. It is necessary to take concrete steps in this direction. But the situation is this that the Government machinery is not prepared to adopt to the democratic process. The principles of the Constitution are not being followed and the pace of work is slow on account of red-tapism. The people belonging to the rural and the urban areas feel much aggrieved on this account. We have to take a decision as to what changes are to be brought in the Government machinery so that the democratic process can function properly and what training is to be imparted to these officials to ensure riddance from red-tapism. The I.C.D.S. or the Integrated Child Development Scheme is a laudable scheme. This programme has been formulated by the Central Government. But the officers who have been appointed for the implementation of this programme are worthless and inefficient. Crores of rupees are being wasted on it and the children are not benefiting at all. The funds earmarked for the welfare of women are being misused. In order to make this programme a success dedicated and honest officers should be entrusted the work of its implementation.

The districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer are the most backward areas in the field of education. I want that maximum number of

primary schools should be opened in those districts under the Border Area Education Programme. It is not possible for the Rajasthan Government to open the required number of schools. Central Government should take initiative to open primary schools in the backward areas in particular. Now we have made a provision for compulsory education in our constitution. Rs. 200 crores have been provided for Border Area Education Development Programme. Therefore, education should be given top priority. In the hilly and inaccessible areas, there is no teachers of certain subjects and headmasters in the schools for a successive period of 2 years and as a result, standards have gone down. Similarly, dispensaries are there but doctors and compounders do not go there. Until facilities for special allowances are provided, development will not take place and shall not be able to achieve our targets. I want that our nation should prosper, it should be united and poverty should be alleviated from the rural areas. With these words, I support the motion and conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Gadgil. The President in his Address was kind enough to remind us that we are in the last year of our mandate from the people. This is also a reminder of the first year of our mandate which was overwhelming, a mandate which was in my opinion, given not out of mere sympathy but convictions that under the dynamic leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi things would be done in a new manner. It was a mandate which marked a new dawn.

In many ways, 1985 and subsequent years mark a watershed for the first time all over the world. There is a recognition that our issues are global, that the issues before us are not one of ideology alone, but of efficiency, environment and enterprise. The final 15 years of this century may well be called the age of New Enlightenment. You all remember as soon as our Prime Minister took office, he declared that our concerns

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would be cleaning of the Ganga, reforestation of our wastelands, providing drinking water to all our people, immunising them against communicable disease, providing education to all, paying special attention to the development of child, providing special opportunities to women, and modernisation of every aspect of economy of this country. The President, in his Address has mentioned the gains in these directions. There are, of course, some shortfalls but I am quite sure that, as it will be seen, we have started in the right direction.

The other day, Mr. Ramphal, Secretary-General of the commonwealth, gave a lecture here on "Endangered Earth". He spoke of how poverty in the Third World countries is so well knit with the impoverishment of the environment, how the population growth and degradation of the environment were fuelling each other, how issues which appear to be national in fact, have cross-border implications and how in the absence of international action for all of us to pull together, our very habitat—the earth—would be doomed. He warned that the doom is not far away either.

Development perspectives have changed over the years. Today it is acknowledged that the best way to combat poverty and sustain growth would be through treating the biosphere as a renewable resource which should be skilfully tackled to yield the maximum consistent with its renewal. Besides, this could be done in a decentralised manner. So, when the President, in his Address, talks about decentralised planning, it means that Government is now seriously thinking of dovetailing planning with local resources and initiatives so that people feel that they are attempting to change their life style. These attempts have immediate impact on their lives. They also have the feeling of participating in the endeavours to change their living conditions. This participation is vital. Even though Panditji always emphasised the need for planning from below, the planning process has been seen as

an imposition from above and to that extent the frontal assault on poverty has produced inadequate results and given opportunity for the strong to exploit the weak. To that extent, it has failed to bridge the sense of alienation between the Government and the people. Our Prime Minister has emphasised the need to change this. It is to provide full opportunity to the people to prepare plans for their development and improvement in their living conditions that the Prime Minister has decided to give statutory status to Panchayat Raj institutions.

The President has also referred to panchayati raj institutions. This shows the seriousness and earnestness of Government to give full opportunity to people to manage their affairs. It is in accord with the views of Mahatma Gandhi and Panditji. The Centre should play the role of a friend, the financier, to some extent, a philosopher and guide.

The Centre cannot close its eyes to certain developments like the sub-regional movements in South Bihar, Chota Nagpur, Vidarbha, hill regions of U.P., Bodo agitation in Assam etc. These problems have to be analysed and solutions found. It may be that poverty and deprivation are not at the root of the problem. The level of destitution in State like Bihar, Eastern UP, Orissa, Eastern M.P. etc has to be taken into consideration. In Bihar in my constituency especially there are recurrent flood. This matter has been discussed in this House many times but nothing has been done so far. No permanent solution has been found out and it is causing untold suffering and misery to people. I think there is need for stimulating self-help in many cases with adequate assistance from Government in the form of grants and loans.

Decentralisation would, therefore, involve States committing part of the development funds to the panchayati raj institutions and involving the people of their region in their welfare. The greater this involvement, the less is the separatist movement likely to take roots. As for movements like Jharkhand, Bodo etc if a national principle is laid

down and the sub-regionalist sentiments are reassured on such-management, I am sure, they will lose much of their attraction.

While the sub-regional movements should be dealt with, with understanding and in a effort to bring about an amicable settlement, I would suggest that the Government should make it clear that violence being committed in some parts would not be tolerated. The happenings in Punjab, the constant eruption of sectarian violence in J&K on the most silly causes imaginable should be declared as anti-national movements and should be met with all force. In some ways, the 1985 mandate has also a directive to Government to refrain from showing any consideration to anti-national movements. The President has expressed Government's determination to attack terrorism relentlessly. Indeed the Government is determined to fight both communalism and terrorism.

In Punjab, unfortunately the political process was set in motion in 1986 after the Punjab accord failed to stand up to terrorism and religious blackmail. The search for a political solution has not yielded any result. Meanwhile, I am glad the Government have decided to held panchayat elections and it is hoped that this may create the necessary atmosphere for the people to come forward to resist terrorist violence. If responsible people at the head of religious bodies refuse to condemn violence and if instead they honour killers with saropas, they are only surrendering before these criminal elements. Akalis have been the worst victims of this. We admire courageous people like Umarangal. Everybody should realise that there cannot be an effective representative government as long as violence gets sanction. It is a matter of great satisfaction that due to the part played by our Prime Minister, the SAARC nations have declared their stand against terrorism. But we know from experience in Ireland that terrorism is not easily suppressed. It dies a natural death only when it find that all its attempts to debunk government authority fail to evoke the desired response from the people.

There is terrorism in the rural areas of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh in the from of Naxalism. The violence in his case may reflect, to some extent, the frustration over the living conditions of the poor which are not at all changing for the better. But it does not explain all: It does not explain why the poor are often the selected victims. There is need for a greater mass contact between the administration and the people. In addition, not only effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes but also good quality of education would change the scenario in the rural areas. Here I may mention that Operation Blackboard is not making headway due to lack of funds. The Centre might have sanctioned the funds but they are not released by the State Governments. Proper and honest implementation of the various programmes aimed at improving quality of life and outlook is imperative for dealing with the situation.

A five year review like this that the President has done in his Address point out large areas where life-styles are yet to change where poverty remains endemic. But I must congratulate the Government for having put the worst forms of starvation behind us. The idea of a food security system, the emphasis on agriculture, the technology mission approach in solving localised problem like provision of drinking water, immunisation against communicable diseases, edible-oils, literacy mission etc. have, for the first time, brought results. Above all, the Prime Minister and his Government would be known for using science and technology to solve age-old problems and for providing our people who are living abroad a role to pay in the country's development, opened out the economy with the resultant inflow of resources form the people to new enterprises and so on. Today, our farmers are able to see on their TV screen the weather report of the entire country; railway users do not have to queue up for hours to get a ticket, there is some improvement in telecommunications and more is in the pipeline.

The Government is a tackling the age-

[Smt. Kishori Sinha]

old problems of the country without being trapped into outdated theories, and with a sense of history and vision of future. It must go back to the people at the end of the year with that commitment. In doing that, I am sure, we will receive the endorsement of the people during the election time, this year.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Madam, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks ably moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil and seconded by Shri R.L. Bhatia, I would like to say that the President has very aptly summed up the achievements of India in the post-Independence period and especially the achievements made under the dynamic leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It looks like a mosaic giving a very able description of the achievements of India in the national and international fields. It holds out promise for a better future for every Indian.

Madam, it has rightly been emphasised in the Address that there is greater appreciation of the foreign policy followed by India. When we visit outside India, we see an all round admiration and respect for the policies pursued by India. Only last month I had the privilege of visiting Syria, on behalf of our Parliament under the able leadership of our hon. Speaker, We say that in the Arab world, there is all-round appreciation for India's efforts especially for India's expression of solidarity for the PLO's efforts. The immediate recognition granted to the PLO by India has been welcomed all-around. However, I feel that there is scope for better exchange of views, exchange of delegation and joint economic efforts in the Arab World. The Arab world is one world where there is greater scope for expanding India's cooperation and of joint India activities with the Arab countries respectively.

I have seen that the Indian policy on Afghanistan has been vindicated. We were always advocating the withdrawal of the external forces from Afghanistan. Thanks to the imaginative policy pursued by the Soviet

Union. Afghanistan has now been given an opportunity to develop its own future without any external factors. We have also been given a pride of place in the matter of South-west Africa i.e. in the liberation of Namibia, India has been given a very important role. All this is due to the imaginative foreign policy, foundation of which was laid down by Pandit Nehru, developed by late Madam Indira Gandhi and has been very consistently pursued and developed further by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

On the national field also, several achievements have been rightly emphasised by the President in his Address. The president has also held out the promise on the question of unemployment. Of course, I wish that the same should have been more concretely dealt with. The Prime Minister has given a call in the course of his speech to the Congress Adhiveshan at Madras in Tamil Nadu that '*Bekari Hatao*' will be our call to be pursued. I wish the President's Address should have echoed this and laid out more concrete steps. Unemployment is a problem which we will have to face and so on and which we are facing it.

Only two days ago, I got a reply that so far as Ahmedabad is concerned, 24 cotton man-made fibre textile mills are closed with a labour complement of 42,538. Taking ancillary industries and others, 50,000 workers are unemployed in Ahmedabad alone. In order to get the mills problem solved in Ahmedabad, I myself had to go on an indefinite fast. Thanks to the interest taken by the High Command, formula was ultimately evolved where in the Gujarat Government which had treated closed mills issue almost as written off had to give an assurance that all steps for the revival of the mills would be considered by the Government. A High Level Committee has been appointed. Wherever it is not possible to revive the mills, a time bound programme for alternative employment would be taken up. The problem of closed textile mills and other close industrial units has to be solved. The Gujarat Government should have taken more initiative. I have welcomed the steps already

taken by the Gujarat Government. But many more things were required to be done. Therefore, in order to activate the Gujarat Government to solve the problem of textiles I, as the Member of Parliament from Ahmedabad had to go on an indefinite hunger strike. I hope, the problem will now be solved. I have always got a very good response from the Central Government in this respect. Unfortunately, it is the Gujarat Government who are required to take initiative. In 1985, the Chief Minister Shri Madhavsinh Solanki, as he then was made a proposal that the Gujarat Government will take over 12 textile closed mills and run as many of them as are viable. The Central Government approved the scheme and gave financial assistance. With the result, the problem was solved. Sixteen textile mills have been closed thereafter on account of irresponsible closure effected by mill-owners in clear violation of the Industrial Disputes Act. But they are going scot-free. Some prosecutions have been made. But they went to the High Court and no prosecution against them has not been pursued. Therefore, in order to bring home the urgent need for solving the textile mills problem, I had to resort to the action of fast. The entire working class of Ahmedabad has been mobilised around this and I am now hopeful that there will be a serious effort made to solve the problem.

The president rightly says that public sector has performed well. However, despite the good performance of the public sector, I must say that several of our public sector units are bureaucratised. In banks also, after nationalising them, we have not been able to democratise banks. More or less, they are bureaucratised the nationalised banks' management sometimes enjoy five-star luxury at the cost of the public Exchequer. Only on 24th February, I got a written answer from the Minister in charge of Banking that an amount of Rs. 36 lakhs was spent by a Dena bank in 1986-87 on securing a flat which is in occupation of the present Chairman. For that, the bank had to spend Rs. 36 lakhs for just securing a residential flat for the Chairman of the bank. If this is the

way banks are run, they will not be able to cater to the needs of the poor people. Therefore a lot of things are required to be done for improving the management of public sector by increasing the degree of workers' participation therein and by democratising the functioning of public sectors.

The question of unemployment has been dealt with by the President in one line: "The nation can be confident that we will eradicate poverty and banish unemployment" I share the confidence. But I want to alert the Government that really concrete actions will have to be taken; otherwise the problem of unemployment will not be solved. In fact, right to work is a Constitutional right though it figures in the chapter of Directive Principles. It should be the Government's duty to ensure the availability of employment. The Government will be more serious in the implementation of that right if the Parliament imposes on the Government a duty to pay unemployment allowance to all those who have failed to secure employment despite their best efforts.

A line on the farmers. Very good steps have been taken for the farmers and Kisans; but a lot of things remain to be done for agricultural labourers. In fact, I had suggested and I want to reiterate that suggestion that unless the farmer implements the minimum wage policy in favour of agricultural labourers, he should not be given the benefit of subsidies, grants and so many other benevolent actions of the Government. Payment of minimum wages to agricultural labourers must be insisted as a condition precedent for award of benefits by the Government to the farmers. Each farmer takes the advantage of subsidies; but the agricultural labourers are left without even the minimum wages. They have to fight a battle for life sometimes in order to claim the minimum wages.

The President has also referred to the two points of pressure in the economy; prices and the balance of payments. Balance of payments has been discussed by my good friends. As regards prices I want an

[Sh. Harobhai Mehta,

assurance from the Government that at least some essential commodities must be permanently insulated against any price rise. The Government should make a pious declaration that commodities like food, clothing etc. for the common man will not suffer any price increase. That means the common people must be given full insulation against price rise in the matter of essential commodities. That is not difficult, that should be assured.

I also expected the President to spell out the implementation of certain steps of direct assault against poverty which have been spelt out by the All India Congress Committee in its New Delhi session like the subsidised food, mid-day meals, cheaper Dhotis and Sarees. In fact, I was a little disappointed by the President not making a clear reference to these anti-poverty direct assault programmes I am of course hopeful and looking forward to my good friend Mr. S.B. Chavan to make some announcement tomorrow in the Budget on these lines.

The question of housing also has been very well referred to. But so long as we are not able to provide housing to millions of slum dwellers, our housing policy cannot be deemed to be successful. In my city, Ahmedabad alone 37% of the people live in slums. In Bombay it is 40% and in other places it may be a little different. Since so far we are not able to provide houses to slum dwellers and improve their living conditions, I think many more things have to be done in this regard.

Exemptions under Urban Ceiling Act are lightly given in some States. I want the Central Government to monitor this so that exemptions under Urban Ceiling Act are not lightly given to those who want to build super commercial complexes at the cost of the housing needs of the poor. The Urban Ceiling law was enacted with a view to stemming racketing and speculation in land and controlling the land prices so that we get surplus land in order to provide housing for

the poor. We have not been able to achieve this purpose of Urban Ceiling Act. A part of it is due to the courts which did not clear the Urban Ceiling Legislation from the challenges of the people until 1973. Thereafter of course Government should have taken immediate measures; but our administrative machinery needs to be more serious about the implementation of the Urban Ceiling Legislation in order to provide housing for the poor.

The economy has developed on the right line. But I want to still ask a question. Have we been able, despite our efforts, to reverse the trend of rich becoming richer and the poor becoming poorer in this country? Unless and until we achieve that we shall not be able to rest content.

Sir, there are many Opposition parties who are attacking our economic policies but I only want to refer to one party in that connection and that is Mr. V.P. Singh's statement claiming to be President of Janata Dal. He has now opened his doors or the doors of his party's exchequer for the funds from big business. Quoting Times of India I may point out:

"The Janata Dal President, Mr. V.P. Singh today indicated that his party may take financial help from big business houses to fund party activities."

Members of the Janata Dal and potential supporters may kindly be beware of it. With Janata Dal opening its party coffers for businessmen's contributions means that they will have to surrender their economic policies. I shall not use a very bitter word like their being available for option to the big business but I would certainly say a party which really solicits funds from big business-funds from big business and wants to depend on it cannot pursue socialist economic policy.

Therefore, the nation must beware of the real design of the Janata Dal led by Mr. V.P. Singh, ex-Finance Minister who is otherwise criticising several things. He himself

now has invited business houses to help his party with the result that socialist policies will be bartered for the loyalty of Janata Dal towards the business houses.

With this warning and the observations that I have made I also share the sense of gratitude expressed to the President.

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Madam Chairman, I would like to express a few words on the motion of thanks to the President's Address. The President has mentioned schemes about the provision of drinking water to rural households. I support the schemes particularly, in Tamil Nadu severe drought conditions are prevailing. There is problem of drinking water every where in the State. Since the South-eastern Monsoon has failed, the drinking water problem has become aggravated.

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

In my Parliamentary constituency, Sholingapuram, Arcot and Cheyyar are the most affected. Immediate steps must be taken to provide drinking water to the people of Tamil Nadu. When this is the condition, what to talk of agricultural operations. Let me not say too much about it. Everyone is aware that for the past two or three years the rains have failed. Agriculture has been affected badly and we in our district adopt the well irrigation system for agricultural purposes. The wells have dried up because the rains have failed. Electricity is also scarce in supply. The water problem and the electricity problem have combined together to wreck extensive damage on agricultural operations in the State. I urge upon the Prime Minister to provide generous assistance to all those affected by drought in the state after taking into account the extent of damage that may be ascertained by the State Government.

This is the country where Lord Budha and Mahatma Gandhi were born. Hon'ble

President has rightly pointed out in his Address that there is no place for violence and terrorism in India. I welcome these statements. However in a Part of Andhra the Naxalite problem is on the increase. One M.L.A. was murdered in Andhra in broad daylight. Consequent to the murder, there was arson and rioting. The situation exposed the inability of the Andhra Government to act in times of such crisis. Looting of property and killing of people went uncontrolled. Central Government must appoint an Enquiry Commission to probe into the murder as well as the rioting that followed. The rioting was purely due to the inability of the Andhra Government to control the situation. Therefore the Andhra Government must desist from looking forward to Central Government for financial assistance. It should provide relief to the victims of the riot by using the funds at the command of the State. The State Government should not wait for any financial relief in this regard from the Central Government. I would like to refer to the Plight of I.A.S. and I.P.S. personnel in the Andhra State. There are widespread rumours that the I.A.S. and I.P.S. people are not being treated with the respect they deserve. There is discontentment among the IAS and IPS personnel in Andhra Pradesh. This perhaps is one of the chief reasons the inability of the Andhra Pradesh Government to control the mob frenzy that immediately followed the MLAs murder. The grievances of the IAS and IPS persons must be attended to and the Government should in no time estrange its relationship with the bureaucracy. If the Government and the bureaucracy had gone in a cooperative manner the loot and arson that ensued the murder of the MLA could have been prevented. Even the murder of the MLA in daylight could have been avoided. The Central Government must examine this aspect also and issue necessary guidelines to the State for its future compliance.

I also take this opportunity to request the Government not to crowd industrial units in one particular place but to set them up evenly in all areas including villages. This

[Sh. R. Jeevarathinam]

would ensure the balanced development of economy. We would be able to tackle the problem of pollution in big cities.

The problem of Unemployment is rampant in villages. The unemployed youths in the villages must be absorbed in rural development employment programmes. Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Ministers concerned must make a note of this.

Presently the subsidy given for setting up of industries in various areas has been stopped. Many of the industries have already crossed the commissioning stage. Because of the sudden suspension of granting of subsidies, production has been affected. That has also rendered thousands of people unemployed. Hon. Finance Minister and the Industry Minister must take coordinated steps to restore the granting of subsidies to industries. I would like to point out the malpractices that are prevalent in the implementation of NREP and RLEGP programmes in the villages. The present Panchayat set up is not permitting the percolation of benefits to the rural beneficiaries. An expert Committee must be constituted to go into the implementation of NREP and RLEGP programmes. On the basis of the report, the set up of Panchayat institutions should be revamped. Under the NREP there is now provision to provide housing facilities only to a section of people. But there are economically weaker people even in other communities. Therefore the facility under NREP should be extended to the poor in other communities also. The poor people in the other communities are aggrieved over the exclusive application of the NREP to the persons belonging to one community. This has been reflected in the voting pattern in the recently held Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. Therefore the NREP should be extended to all those who are poor people. Hon. Minister may please examine this matter. I also thank the Hon. Prime Minister for the steps he is taking for strengthening the Panchayat raj institutions. I welcome his proposal to enact a law for devolving more

powers on the Panchayat Unions.

Mahatma Gandhi used to say that real democracy resides in villages. We must therefore concentrate on village development. If the economy in the villages improves then there will be overall economic development in the country. We must therefore take all efforts to strengthen the basic structure of the villages.

I also welcome the steps that are being taken by our hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for resolving the Punjab Problem. The steps will receive the support of all sections in the House. We must put faith in the steps taken by the Prime Minister find a solution to the Punjab problem. I once again reiterate that in this country there is no place for violence and terrorism. This is the same position with respect to parties that directly and indirectly support terrorism. They also have no place in the country. In Tamil Nadu anti-social activities like bank robberies, murder of innocent people and blasting of bridges etc. are continuously taking place. These are being committed by certain misguided Tamil Youth from Sri Lanka. The new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Karunanidhi, I hope, would take appropriate steps to curb these activities. Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has handled the Sri Lankan Problem in an appreciable and diplomatic manner. Fresh elections have been held in Sri Lanka and a new President and Prime Minister are there in Sri Lanka. The welfare of the Tamil is ensured by the elections in the island. A notable political person from Tamil Nadu has recently visited Sri Lanka. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has categorically stated that there is no link between his visit and the party of which he belongs. I welcome his statement. I request that in future no such visits without informing the Central or the State Governments should be undertaken by any person. I hope the persons belonging to the party in power in the State would not bring disgrace to the Government of India as well as the Government of the State by such acts.

Now with the changed position in the

State, I am led to believe that in Kaveri there will be water all the time. The Chief Minister of Karnataka is in high sounding words stated that he would not close the K.R. Sagar dam. He is prepared to give water to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister as and when he wanted. Therefore there will be no scarcity of water in Kaveri. In Palar river also there is no water now, I hope the Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka will show the same gesture and release water from Peththamangalam lake in Karnataka. Both the Chief Ministers have thus I hope brought a situation in which there will be no dry river in Tamil Nadu. Kaveri and Palar rivers would be swelling with water all the time. I therefore think there would not be any need to appoint a tribunal to adjudicate the water dispute between the two States. The Chief Ministers have come together in a cordial manner to ensure water in both the rivers which I think will flow like honey and milk.

16.10 hrs.

STATEMENT RE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING 3—UP NAINPUR HOWBAGH JABALPUR NARROW GAUGE PASSENGER, TRAIN AND 413—UP MOKANAPATNA PASSENGER AND 328 DOWN DANAPUR-HOWRAH FAST PASSENGER TRAINS ON 26.2.1989.

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): I deeply regret to apprise the House of an unfortunate accident to train No. 3 UP Nainpur-Howbagh-Jabalpur Passenger at about 15.30 hrs. on 26.2.1989 on the Nainpur-Jabalpur Narrow Gauge single line non-controlled section of Nagpur Division of South Eastern Railway. While this train with 8 coaches was on run between Shikara and Sukrimangela stations, 5 coaches next to train engine derailed of which, 3 coaches 2nd, 3rd and 4th capsized at Km. 1180/2-4. As a result of this derailment, 24 passengers lost their lives and 90

passengers sustained injuries out of which 38 were grievous as per the available information.

Immediately on receipt of information about the accident, Medical Relief Van from Jabalpur with Medical Suptd., and Doctors was rushed to the site. Divisional Railway Manager, Jabalpur and divisional railway Manager, Nagpur alongwith their officer immediately left for the site of accident. Local Civil and Police officials also reached the accident spot.

General Manager, South Eastern Railway accompanied by other senior officers left from Howrah to oversee the relief arrangements.

Mr Senior Colleague, Shri Madhavrao Scindia who was at Gwalior has proceeded to the site from Gwalior by a Special plane arranged from Delhi. Member Traffic and Member Mechanical, Railway Board are also accompanying him.

Ex-gratia relief to the next of the kin of the identified dead and to those with grievous and simple injuries is being arranged. This will be in addition to the compensation payable to the injured and to the next of kin of the deceased by the Ad-hoc Claims Commissioner to be nominated by the Madhya Pradesh Government.

Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle under the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism will commence statutory inquiry into this accident from 1.3.1989 at Howbagh.

I have to also inform the House with deep regret of another accident which took place on Danapur Division of Eastern Railway at about 13.05 hrs. on 26.2.1989. In this accident, while train No. 413 UP Mokama-Patna Passenger was on run between Barh and Athmal Gola stations, its rearmost coach, a second class-cum-luggage brakevan derailed at Km. 486/2 infringing the Down line. Just at that time No. 328 Down-Danapur-Howrah Fast Passenger