

[Sh. Mahabir Prasad] was passing the site and collided with the derailed second class-cum-luggage brake van of No. 413 Up Passenger train. As a result, 4 passengers died and 3 suffered injuries. Divisional Railway Manager, Danapur accompanied by his officers and doctors rushed to the site and necessary medical assistance was rendered to the injured passengers.

Ex-gratia relief to the next of kin of the dead and to the injured is being arranged.

Commissioner of Railway Safety, Eastern Circle will be holding a statutory inquiry into this accident.

I and my senior Colleague Shri Madhavrao Scindia and all the railway men and women extend our deep condolences to the kith and kin of those who lost their lives and sincere sympathies to the injured in these two unfortunate accidents. I am sure that the House joins us in extending heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

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16.14 hrs.

STATEMENT CLARIFYING CERTAIN  
REMARKS MADE BY PRIME MINISTER  
DURING QUESTION HOUR ON 27-2-  
1989.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): My Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate that this morning, the opposition chose to walk out of this House on uncalled for grounds. While referring to the reported support of Khalistan by a leader of the opposition, the Prime Minister did not attack the entire opposition. In fact, he did mention and appreciate the role of several opposition parties in condemning and meeting the challenge of terrorism.

It seems that the opposition walk out was part of a politically motivated strategy.

I do hope that with this clarification the opposition Members will come back and join the proceedings of the House.

16.15 hrs.

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

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by Hon. Gadgilji. Sir, the President's Address no doubt is a customary thing. On the opening day of the first session of the Parliament in a calendar year, he addresses both the Houses, but it is of a great significance. His Address essentially is an overview or the summing up of Government's performance and it also aims at giving advice to the nation as a Head of the nation.

Sir, in his Address the President has made a very comprehensive assessment of different spheres of the national activity. He has particularly dealt with the economical, political and foreign affair aspect.

The President has rightly referred to Nehruism. This being the Nehru centenary year, not only we in our country but throughout the world the countries are celebrating the Nehru centenary year. Not only we, the entire world is proud of a son like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. He is in fact one of the greatest sons of this country and of the entire world. We are really fortunate in having a stalwart like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru as our first Prime Minister was a doer of deeds and a dreamer of dreams. He himself sacrificed enormously in the freedom movement. We are fortunate to have him as our first Prime Minister. After four decades of freedom, we cannot think for a moment as to what would have happened to India if we did not have a Prime Minister of his calibre or a

man of his statesmanship, who shook the destiny immediately after the achievement of independence. There were sinister attempts made to deviate from Nehru's policies; to depart from Nehruism in this country. During the Janta period from 1977 to 1980 there were some such attempts made but the result was disastrous. They just could not proceed further. You take for instance the industrial policy or the language policy and the policy of the non-Alignment. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru himself fathered it together with other two great leaders. It was his brain child. You know, how bold Pandit Nehru was in launching this foreign policy which we are proud of now?

Some spokesmen of the Big Powers used to call this non-aligned policy immoral. But this criticism did not deter Pandit Nehru to proceed ahead. He had a vision of his own. Now we see what a tremendous and big tree has grown from the seed that he had sown. Today, more than one hundred countries of the world are members of the Non-aligned Movement. This policy of Nehru's, which I precisely call 'Nehruism' has also given rise to a new phenomenon-democratic socialism, which is a new direction and a new contribution to world's political science as such. We knew democracy. We also knew socialism. In those countries which are democratic in nature, where democracy has full play, we do not see even a semblance of socialism. Similarly, in socialist countries, we do not see a semblance of democracy. What a wonderful idea it is to have both democracy and socialism! We have democracy integrated with socialism and this democratic socialism is a new philosophy and a new concept contributed by Pandit Nehru, whose centenary is being observed in this country this year. This policy was rightly pursued by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It is being pursued now by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. This Nehruism has placed India in the world map in a very prominent position and India has a leading place in the International Darbar. We all very well know our contribution. Rajivji is chairing the Committee on South Africa Fund and everybody knows the result which is crystal clear. Our

role in the Maldives in responding quickly to send rescue troops to that country when some mercenaries, hired *goondas* from Shri Lanka and elsewhere were trying to play havoc there, had received global tributes. I do not understand why the Opposition does not realise all these things. Of course, the character and role of Indian Opposition is different. They have only small things to think about just for their narrow political gains. This being an election year, they do not see anything in its right perspective.

The preceding year whose performance we are now reviewing was a difficult year. It was a difficult year on the homefront. The law and order situation in some parts was grim. The weather was not favourable. We did not have a good monsoon and we had to face one of the severest droughts of the century. But still what happened? In spite of these setbacks, what is the economic performance of this Government? I need not say much on this point because the Budget is coming tomorrow. Economic matters will be discussed in detail when we take up the Budget. So, I will not go into it now. I will just touch upon a point or two and be very precise. We have achieved a growth rate of 9 per cent. The country is poised for an all time high growth rate. Not only the developing countries, but even the developed countries have reasons to be envious and they do envy us. Some people have criticised the President's Address saying that it did not reflect the realities of the prevailing situation. I do not understand how they can substantiate this charge.

I will quote from the *Economic Survey* which has just been laid on the Table of the House. The Survey compliments the Government for managing the economy well. Is it a handout of Shri Rajiv Gandhi? This survey has been done by the Reserve Bank of India independently and it compliments the Government for managing the economy well. During a difficult period, despite poor rainfall the economy has shown 8 per cent growth in industry and 7 to 20 per cent growth in Agriculture. The Survey also says that this rate indicates the growing resilience of the Indian economy.

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

So, I need not quote other things. This is the last year of the Seventh Five Year Plan and this is also the Nehru Centenary Year. You should see that over the last forty years what was our achievement in the field of industry. Earlier we were not even capable of producing a pin or a blade but by following a right type of policy under Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and later on rightly pursued by Indiraji and Rajivji, India is today recognised as a big and prominent industrial country in as much as it is one among the first ten industrially advanced countries of the world.

You know what has happened in the field of agriculture. What we were producing in 1950-51 if you compare that, now India is producing three times more than that.

You see our foreign policy. How fruitful it is! Today America is our biggest trading partner. You see our relationship with the Soviet Union. How intimate it is! We are very grateful to Shri Rajiv Gandhi for his bold initiatives which he had taken and also the amount of risk which he had taken in visiting China. By doing so he has marked a new beginning in our relationship with that country which was irritating over last more than two decades. We have made a very good progress in our relations with Pakistan. India is playing a very prominent role in the whole world by following the principles of Panchasheel, Delhi Declaration and Non-Alignment etc. It also brings at the same time laurels and pride for the people of this country.

The burning problems of today are violence and terrorism in one part of our country. That is very much disturbing. The President of India has expressed Government's resolve and also the determination of the Government to root out terrorism.

Last year we had passed a law to separate politics from religion. So many things are required to be done in this direction. Mr. Madhav Reddi—when he was initiating the

discussion—was regretting that they have not been consulted. The Prime Minister initiating the discussion -was regretting that they have not been consulted. The Prime Minister initially had several rounds of consultations with them. For everything they were called but it is the Opposition which thought that this was the weakness of the Government that they have been frequently consulted on important issues and they behaved differently. You know in the recently concluded Chief Ministers' Conference what type of objections some Chief Ministers raised. Some Chief Ministers were raising points by keeping politics in their minds.

Government of India are always open for dialogues. They are trying to find out a political solution to the Punjab problem. This could be done with the help of Opposition. It is time for them the opposition not to look at the problems on a narrow partisan consideration but they should see that unity and solidarity of the country should be the first consideration.

Next I want to deal with unemployment and price rise. In his Address the President has rightly said that in these two areas a lot has got to be done by the Government. We have to contain the prices. Of course during the years 1977-80, when there was a drought, it was of much less magnitude than the one which we have recently faced. At that time, the rate of inflation touched 22 per cent. But now it is less than 10% but there is no scope to feel complacent on the price front.

Again, the public sector is also another matter of satisfaction. It has started behaving well. their performance has been much better. It has attained commanding heights. But a new work culture has to be evolved, for the proper functioning of the public sector. That is our great hope. Since we are wedded to democratic socialism, the public sector ought to perform well, and we have got to strengthen our economy.

Again, there are questions of price rise

and a proper wage policy. I am just giving points; I do not have the time to elaborate them. We have different types of wage policy, for different sections of workers: the State and Central Government employees and others. Different States are vying with one another also. But there should be a comprehensive, well-thought-out policy having parity in respect of pay scales etc. in the public sector, private sector, Government organizations, urban bodies for primary teachers etc. There should be a comprehensive policy.

As you know, when the country was partitioned in 1947, the population was about 35 crores. It has more than doubled now. We have also to give attention to family welfare programmes. At the same time, we also have to further accelerate the drive for greater agricultural production. There also, some States are lagging behind. In the agricultural sector, the farmers and the rural masses feel neglected. We have to make a careful study of their discontent and their real problems, and also come out with solutions.

Our objective is growth. We are attending to it also—growth with social justice. No doubt the country has made a lot of stride economically, in the industrial and agricultural sectors, and everywhere. The national income has gone up admirably and creditably. The *per capita* income has also gone up. At the same time, some regions are staggering, and have been left behind. They have not yet developed as they ought to have developed. They are not on par, in terms of development, with some other States. So also about society. Ours is a complex society. Naturally, for the weaker sections of our people, we have so many programmes; but the programmes are not being properly implemented. We can find fault with the State machinery, etc.

Our aim, our objective is growth with social justice, and growth with a balanced development of all the regions of the country. In this connection, there are States like Orissa, and those in Eastern India where, in sectors like generation of power, education

and agriculture irrigation and communication including railways a lot more attention has got to be given—as also in fields like industry and infra-structure.

We are grateful to the President; and I support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Gadgil for the Address presented to both the Houses by the President of India. We have so many problems. The President has also sounded a note of caution in areas where some more action will have to be taken. It is time for all the parties and all the people to sink their differences. Of course, we may differ politically. But we should cooperate with the Government in its efforts aimed at fulfilling the needs of our people and the national objectives.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil on the President's Address and congratulate him for it. We are celebrating this year as the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary year. The nation is proud of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who gave a new direction to movement of disarmament and world peace and it finds a mention in the President's Address. But I want to submit that late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the present Prime Minister have made considerable efforts to further the cause. I want to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for his achievements in the international field. During the last 4 years our relations with about 60 countries have improved and even one step further has been taken by extending a helping hand towards certain neighbouring countries like Maldives and Sri Lanka during their hour of crisis. This has been the most significant achievement. He is the first Prime Minister since independence to visit China and make efforts to settle certain important issues which stand in the way of our harmonious relationship with China and Pakistan. Secondly, the misuse of our religious places is a source of considerable distress. Hon. President has also expressed his concern in this regard and has

[Smt. Patel Ramaben Ramjibhai Mavani]

stated in his address that most stringent measures shall be taken to control this situation. I would like to urge upon the Government to take a follow up action in this regard. Our Hon. Prime Minister has entrusted the youth of this country with a new responsibility by providing them the opportunity to take part in the political process. It is essential to give more impetus to such opportunities. Alongwith it, some such schemes should be formulated even for the educated unemployed youth which may boost their morale and they are able to get employment and the problem of unemployment is solved. I think that to achieve this end, priority should be given to the setting up of new industries and initiating new recruitments, in every State which will enable the young people to get jobs and to get over the unemployment problem.

Hon. Prime Minister has taken laudable steps for the economic and industrial development of the country during the last 4 years. Considerable improvements have been made in the sphere of education but I think that a vocational course in computer science should be introduced at the secondary level so that our future generations may accelerate the pace of progress.

It has been stated in the President's address that outlines of long-term policy are being drawn for upliftment of Indian women, which is a praise-worthy step, but this policy should be implemented as soon as possible so that the women of this country should no longer remain a weaker sex and rather become capable of facing hardships with great courage. She should be trained in such a way that she may become self-reliant.

It is a matter of satisfaction that enough changes have been made in the National Forest Policy to ensure better protection of environments. In spite of this, destruction of the forests is still continuing. All of us are concerned about it. In my view, Forest Conservation Act should be made more

stringent. There is a need of proper maintenance of the forests. We should chalk out programme to develop and maintain forests in this country to the maximum extent.

The steps taken by our Prime Minister for clearing the Ganges under Anti-water pollution programme have been appreciated by the religious people of the whole country. It is great achievement and has a great significance for the people of this country. It is well known that people of our country are very sentimental. Our farmers have been facing vagaries of nature for the last three years. The people had to face severest drought of the century. Our Prime Minister visited many States to solve the drought problem and central Government provided enough relief to drought victims. The farmers will never forget the role played by the centre. In spite of good crop, farmers are facing the difficulty of getting reasonable rates for their produce. I want that the Central Government should take such steps right now so that our farmers may get remunerative price for their produce. We should also ponder as to how their production could be increased and how can they earn more profit.

In the end, I want to draw your attention towards my constituency where there has been incessant drought for 3 years in last 4 years. I want that a survey of such areas should be conducted all over the country which are drought prone and plans should be formulated to help the farmers of drought prone areas. We should give greater stress on research to find out such crops which can be grown in such areas. I want to thank the Prime Minister that he had once again initiated steps to strengthen the Panchayati Raj and has studied the problem of development of rural areas in depth. It will provide strength and maximum benefits to the farmers of rural areas and will go a long way in the establishment of Panchayati Raj. It is my submission that more and more efforts should be made by our Government to develop the country to prompt the farmers which will benefit the country greatly. With these words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express

my views.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the hon. Member, Shri V.N. Gadgil for his having moved the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

This is an year of prosperity, because what I feel is, there is going to be prosperity for another twenty years. I say, 'prosperity' because we have achieved so many things which we have not dreamt of before. This is the year of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Centenary and we are celebrating his centenary throughout the country. He was a great social reformer a statesman and a democrat.

As I said earlier, we have been facing severe drought conditions during the last three consecutive years. We have overcome them. There has been a good rainfall throughout the country and the crops are good. We are hopeful of achieving the targeted agricultural production and even more than that. Not only that; there is more safety as far as internal security is concerned.

Our Prime Minister has gone to China and the dialogue is being continued, the tension among the two countries has been reduced and some formulae have been worked out to see that cordial and peaceful relations are built, and friendship in the field of other activities.

So also, Maldives asked for our help and within no time our Prime Minister had asked the military to go to their rescue. Immediately our Jawans went and protected the democratically elected Government in Maldives. It shows the culture and heritage of our nation. Whenever people have come to us for help, whether they belonged to this country or that, we readily tried to protect them. That is why our Prime Minister has readily helped them in restoring their democratically elected Government.

So also, in Pakistan, Shrimati Benazir Bhutto has come to power and she is a democratically elected lady Prime Minister. Our Prime Minister met her when he went for the SAARC Conference and discussed mutual relations. Something is likely to come out shortly as a result of their talks and we will also try to consolidate the friendship. That is another achievement.

Similarly there is more security around our country, we have signed the Indo-Sri Lanka accord which we are trying to implement fully, and as a result of the elections an elected Government has come into existence in Sri Lanka also. That is another sign of our achievements.

In Punjab also we have tackled terrorism, though we cannot say that we have totally stopped it, efforts are being made and terrorism is going to be put down in Punjab and very soon normal democracy will continue there. That is another reformation during the year.

Another step we have taken is to give voting rights to those who have attained 18 years of age. This is a very bold step which our Prime Minister has taken. So many doubts have been expressed whether we should allow the youth to cast the vote and whether they would be able to understand the present political situation. The Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that we should take them into confidence and we should bring them into the mainstream, and that we would try to involve them in the all round development of this great nation before we go to the 21st century.

That is how their views will be taken into confidence and their problems will be understood by the Government.

As far as the unemployment problem is concerned, our Prime Minister has already stated in his various speeches that one day or the other he is going to give employment to all the youths. These are all the three achievements which we have made during the last year. Therefore, I still say that it is a

[Smt. Basavarajeswari]

year of compliments.

As far as agriculture is concerned, I have stated earlier that the production target for this year is 177 million tonnes. But there is every hope of increasing the production because our farmers have started using all the new methods and latest technologies that have been provided to them. Even at the time of the crisis also, the production was not as much less as it could be. The Government took a bold decision to overcome the drought and flood situations. All the Government Departments connected with it came to the rescue and fulfilled this challenge. We have not heard any news in the newspaper that people died for want of food or drinking water; and cattle died for want of fodder. We have not come across such news. This shows how the Government had acted efficiently to overcome the challenge at the time of scarcity, drought and floods.

As far as unemployment is concerned, there is unemployment throughout the country. One day or the other we have to overcome this problem. The President's Address has given some constructive suggestions as to how to give employment to the rural people.

Sir, I come from a rural area. Wherever irrigation is there, the labour is very much short and there is no dearth of employment for the labour in rural areas. The first and foremost thing will be that all the on-going irrigation projects should be completed as early as possible. Under no circumstances they should be delayed for technical reasons. They should not be delayed for want of funds. There are a number of disputes between one State and another. These disputes should be settled early. Wherever the projects are completed, digging of canals are not completed. Wherever there are canals, the field canals are not ready to use water and the lands are not developed. These are the things which are causing a lot of inconvenience as far as the irrigation potential is concerned. We should invest

money on irrigation potential. People must use water properly. Not only the farmers, but labour also will be benefited. The amount of wages paid in unirrigated areas is far less than the amount of wages paid in irrigated areas. So, what I mean to say is that we must provide irrigation facilities. During the Eighth Plan, we must see that all the on-going projects whether it is underground or lift irrigation, whatever it may be, should be given priority because whatever given to us by the nature should be explored. Iron, gold, steel, bauxite, and what not, everything is there is our country. We will have to explore these things. People are ready to do it, but the Government is not having resources. We have to go to the foreign countries to negotiate for export of our raw materials. We should explore the mineral resources. It will certainly give employment not only to the labour at the time of production and exploration of mineral resources but it will provide work to the transporters and so many other people. That is how we have to plan it in future and see that rural people are given employment.

I would like to make another suggestion that the farmers should be assured that they will be given remunerative price. Everywhere there is hue and cry. Most of the farmers, due to continuous floods and droughts, have become dejected and overburdened. They cannot pay the loan which they have taken for various purposes. It is not that they do not want to pay. They are willing to pay provided they get some help. They are not dishonest people. They are the unorganised sector. They would not cry for their rights. When such being the case, the Government should not keep quiet. Many of the States like Maharashtra have come forward to write off their loans. I am not for that. I am pleading that wherever the interest and penal interest is more than one principal amount, you try to recover the principal amount in bulk. They are ready to pay in bulk. In many of the States it has been done. Even in Karnataka, farmers who have borrowed loan money from the cooperative institutions, have come forward to pay the entire principal amount in bulk within a stipu-

lated period and their interest and penal interest is being written off. This may be treated as bad debt. Do not expect that it will be paid any day. It is going to accumulate on paper and remain on paper only. In fact, it is not possible to pay the with interest and penal interest. This has been said so many times on the floor of this House that wherever the interest and penal interest is more than the principal amount that should be written off and they should be freed from that burden. They should be allowed to grow. They should not be taxed. I am told that in other countries they are not being taxed for pump sets, power bills and so many other things. They should be given remunerative prices. The entire money of the farmers is being eaten away by middlemen. For instance, grapes in my garden are being sold at Rs. 6 a kg. but when it comes to Delhi it is being sold at Rs. 40 a kg. How is the farmer going to make up this gap? We have not been able to find the remedy for it. We have to eliminate the middlemen. I am glad that the Prime Minister has said that he is going to start so many agro-based industries. He has announced incentives and subsidies to all those who start agro based industries like fruit processing units, so that the farmers are benefited. These industries should be intensified and wherever raw materials are available, agro-based industries should be developed in those areas so that the farmers get benefit of that.

Regarding housing policy, a housing bank has been set up to give loan for construction of houses. As far as agricultural workers and persons who are living in slums are concerned, it is very difficult for them to get houses. We have been providing them foodstuffs through the fair price shops at the subsidised rates. We have been providing them drinking water. Most of the problem villages now get good water for drinking purposes. So the first and foremost problem is to provide them shelter. This we have already attempted. So many nationalised banks have come forward to finance for the construction of such houses. We have named this scheme after Mrs. Indira Gandhi. We have aimed that each poor people

should get a shelter. But the funds under Indira Awas Yojana are inadequate. More funds should be provided so that these poor people get houses as early as possible. Otherwise, during summer what will happen in that these poor people who are living in huts, most of their huts will be burnt away and they will become shelterless. They do not get any compensation even. When such being the case you must give more attention to the housing problem and more and more funds should be provided for that.

As far as as textile policy is concerned, many members have already spoken on that. I come to know from so many handloom weavers that they are short of raw material. Many of the handloom people, who are dependent on this industry, have stopped weaving and they are now in a great trouble. So my request is that the entire policy should be reviewed. The policy which we have now is helping only a few rich people and multi-nationals. The poor weaver, who is depending upon this industry, cannot get any other job because he is a craftsman. He has to do his own job. In that case, the entire textile policy should be reviewed.

There should be perfect family planning. Otherwise, whatever development we are making by way of opening more schools and hospitals, providing more doctors, will become meaningless. Whatever we are doing, we find it insufficient because we cannot become a developed country. We can become a developed country provided there is some control on population. But still, with all our incentives and so many things, we could not achieve that target. This should be given proper importance.

As far as the labour policy is concerned, this time I think the labour policy is a little bit fair. During this year, so much of labour unrest is not there. Many labour laws we have passed during this year but I am afraid whether these laws which we are passing for the welfare of the labour are going to reach the grass-root level. I do not think many of them have reached them. There is no proper publicity as far as labour laws are con-



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cerned. Many people do not even know what we have done for them here. So, those thing should be taught to them properly through the media the radio and the television—and they should know what the parliament or the State Legislatures have passed as far as labour welfare is concerned.

As far as industries are concerned, the small-scale industries are becoming sick in abundance. Most of the micro cement plants, mini cement plants and rolling mills have closed for want of raw material. On the one side, the production cost is becoming high and, on the other, they cannot compete with big multinationals. The cost of raw material is going up and up everyday. Therefore, many of the small-scale industries have either closed or are at the verge of closing. Because of the high tariff rate and because of the cost of raw material going up higher and higher, most of the small-scale industries are becoming sick. So, something has to be done in this direction. We should not always compare them with the big multinationals who have set up very big industries. Let them come up as very highly technical industries, but the industries which are set up in the remote corners, which will certainly create employment for the rural labour, those industries should be given proper protection. If such industries are not given protection, how are we going to decentralise our industrial policy? Once we have decided that decentralisation of industries should take place in this country, then we should try to see that as far as possible, the industries which have been set up in the remotest corners should be protected because they are catering to the needs of the rural labour. So they should be looked after properly.

With these words, once again I thank the hon. President for having given an elaborate Address to the joint session of the Parliament.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to support the

Motion moved by Shri V.N. Gadgil in the matter of the Address of the President given to the joint session of Parliament. Although the address is conventional, yet it is a very necessary convention. Here, I would like to make one non-conventional suggestion with respect to the Address and that non-conventional suggestion is that a thought is coming in my mind for the last one or two days that why not have this joint session of Parliament in a very public place so that the people of this country—those who are interested—come and participate—participate in the sense of watching or hearing the President addressing the joint session of Parliament which represents them in this country. If this is done, it will not make any difference as far as what comes to be known to the people but it will mean, in other words, that we are bringing people very close to parliament by making them sit very near from where the President is addressing both the Houses. So, why not have the first session, the joint session, in an open ground where the President of India addresses both the Houses of Parliament? I think, a thought can be given to this idea by the authorities in the Government and by others who are concerned. Secondly, Sir, it is unfortunate that while this Motion on President's Address is being discussed, the Members of the Opposition parties are absent, whatever may be the reasons.

17.00 hrs.

But it is very clear that when the Address made by the President of India in the joint session of Parliament is being discussed, they are boycotting the discussion which has to be noted by the hon. Members of this House. They sometimes take the things to their heart without going into the importance of the matter, whenever we align them with antinational forces. But certain things which we noticed, which we heard and which we read in the newspapers have been brought to the notice of the House. For instance, as it has been said, one of the Members in the other House was propagating 'Khalistan' when their ally, their friend, was removed from their party. Are we wrong

in asking about this anti-national activity? When the Ordinance, Bills, etc. are discussed in this House to curtail or curb terrorism, have they at any time supported these bills or ordinances moved in this House? When the Prime Minister visited various countries recently in order to tell the world what we are doing for curbing terrorism, what these people did was that they were trying to destabilise our position. These people were opposing even before the Prime Minister left for China. There was a criticism against his proposed visit. But after his visit, you have seen change. The people of China and the Chinese leaders have shown affection to the people of India and the Government of India. Wherever national interest is concerned, the leaders of the Opposition Parties have always been critical and they have sided with the anti-national forces. They have not come forth with positive suggestions. They have shown only their technical presence in this House, so to say. Although in a democratic country, it is very nice to see the Opposition Members taking part in the discussion but if they do not attend the remaining part of the Session, Heavens will not fall because the pulse of the people of this country can be felt by the Congressmen. We know what the requirements of the people of this country are and we will fulfil the requirements of the people of this country. We know how to solve the problems of every common man in this country. We know how to wipe out the tears from the eyes of the common man. We do not expect any help from the Opposition. Therefore, whether they are here or not here, it does not make much difference. But it would have been better had they not boycotted the discussion which has been taking place now in this House in respect of President's Address.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the best things that is happening in this country is the decentralisation of power about which the Prime Minister is thinking now. In the matter of decentralisation, I do not know why the Opposition parties are opposing this move. Today, the districts in our country are the backbone of the administration and they

have not been recognised by the Constitution. So, we would like very much that these districts should be recognised by the Constitution. Every district has a Zila Parishad and those elections to the Zila Parishad are not held in time. When provisions to insert this subject are sought to be introduced in our Constitution, when during the course of the 8th Five Year Plan we propose to take up the districts with our concerned authority in the matter of allotment of funds, I do not know what sort of the thing the Opposition people have in mind particularly in regard to the process of decentralisation of powers which the Prime Minister is thinking of. In fact, I would say that we have got 3 lists in the Constitution, namely, the Concurrent List, the State List and the Union List and we should now have the Fourth List in the Constitution which may be called the District List whereby we can give powers to the Districts for the purpose of administering the districts in an effective manner as an independent unit of this country. Wherever I have gone to tour in my constituency, whenever I explained to the common people, they very much appreciated that these local bodies are going to get power. And therefore, the Opposition in itself has been exposed by way of their opposition to this idea. When voting age has been lowered, they have now started spreading rumour that people between the age group of 18 to 21 will not vote for the Congress. But the Prime Minister has stated time and again that he has full faith in the youth of this country. In fact, it is the Youth Congress, NSUI, which has been demanding this time and again. But when they realised that this Constitutional Amendment was coming, the law was being amended, it was going to be implemented, then they started, taking credit saying 'Oh, we have suggested it 10 years back'. But the other parties said, 'No, no, we have also suggested it and we have also passed the Resolution and so many other things.' When they saw that this was going to materialise, they started artificially taking credit, for which they had never given any thought earlier. Wherever we have regional parties in this country, they have no goals or they

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

cannot contribute anything to the developmental process. My State, Goa, is a pioneer State with respect to regional parties. I will tell you, Sir, for 18 years a regional party ruled in my State on only one policy, namely, they wanted Goa to be merged into Maharashtra. There is only one political philosophy they carried it for 18 years. They never succeeded and ultimately this very party one fine morning changes its Party constitution and says, 'Oh, now we are also for an independent State for Goa.' We have never heard any political party just giving its basic policy overnight in such a fashion, and after the congress came into power in Goa for the last 8 years, comparing it with the development which the regional party made for 18 years, any person who sees the statistics and who verifies even their own party workers verified—finds that the progress they have achieved in 8 years is not only doubled, but trebled. This has been verified by the people. So, we have seen what regional parties are. In Andhra Pradesh, of course, Telugu Desam is there born out of emotionalism, these regional parties are not born out of any economic philosophy or political philosophy. They are based on some emotional feelings here and there. And now Mr. N.T. Rama Rao has made a statement that he is going to have a movie known as "Brahmarshi Vishwamitra" or something like that, and he told the pressmen that it is a mythological film etc. and in that film there are going to be so many kisses and all those things. whether he is going to kiss or the heroine is going to kiss the dust in Andhra Pradesh will be known very soon. And this is the level of governments that we are having, I need not say anything more.

In the President's Address one thing I wanted to point out. Of course, terrorism has been stressed and our commitment to remove terrorism etc. is there. But better things in this country also take place. When you speak of terrorism, why not speak of tourism? I am saying it because people are coming here. People are not afraid, they

know that terrorism is restricted to a particular area, it is a problem in a restricted area, but tourism is prospering. People are visiting our country, they go to Varanasi, they go to Goa, they go to Kashmir and so many places and tourism is blossoming. that means, people are attracted more and more towards it. Therefore, there should have been some mention about our tourism, our plans of tourism and all those things. Secondly, I wanted to know with respect to Union Territories. Of course, now I am in Goa, it is a State. But still I have some affection for Union Territories. since we are administering the Union Territories independently, directly by the Centre, so in the President's Address some mention specifically to the Union Territories, according to me, must be there.

As far as my State is concerned, our Minister of State for Agriculture, when he came to Goa and when I myself and another Minister suggested to him that we have got all sorts of colleges in Goa, but the only thing is that we do not have an Agricultural College, he was kind enough to immediately announce that we will sanction an Agricultural College as soon as a proposal from the State Government comes.'

Now, with respect to agriculture, industry and education, I would like to make one suggestion. At the national level, we have got agricultural policy, education policy and industrial policy. But with respect to the needs of the State Governments, we have never seen. We have never seen that they chalk out their independent policy within the framework of national policy. Sometimes they follow a point here and there or independently chalk out some scheme or the other. I would suggest that the Central Government should instruct or advise the State Governments that they should also have independent tourism policy, industrial policy, agricultural policy and education policy so that at the time of allocation of funds by the Central Government to the State Governments, a look can be had as to the needs of that particular State with respect to particular area.

17.12 hrs.

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

Lastly, I would like to mention one thing with respect to environment. Now, we are laying and we have to lay stress on the environment. But as has been said time and again, certain irrigation projects are pending because of environment. Same is the case with respect to Mandvi irrigation project in my constituency. It is lying pending for years together. The Central Government initially said that in case the Goa Government could give an assurance that they would cultivate forest twice the area of what is required to be cut, they would give sanction to the State Government. All sorts of undertakings were given by the State Government but the Centre has not cleared the Mandvi Irrigation project. In this respect, the Central Government has to see that irrigation needs of a new State—Goa State was born recently—are fulfilled. If these States are not able to meet the demands in terms of irrigation and industry, they will not be able to stand on their own legs and they will always be asking for funds from the Centre. In case this is to be avoided, then these things are to be seen.

Many hon. Members have said and referred to the policy enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I also appreciate that. In fact, Shri Gadgil has said that Marx has failed, others have failed but Jawaharlal Nehru has succeeded. Even the capitalist countries which were at one extreme are moving little towards the area of putting some control, with some attention towards commonmen, just like we are doing. In socialist countries, they are moving deeply towards freedom, free enterprise. Therefore, in some cases, both of them are coming in the middle, namely, they are coming on the path laid down by Jawaharlal Nehru. That is the path of democratic socialism. Therefore, although we as a country, are a developing country, it appears, everyone is coming on our line, as far as most of their policies are concerned. That is our success and that is the way we are going to take the country to march forward.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Gadgil. Encouraging points raised in the President's Address to the Members of both the Houses remind us late S. Radhakrishnan. While discussing the achievements of the Government of India, the President has put them in right perspective and appreciated them without any exaggeration. Our President has a dynamic personality and is a man of talent. Therefore, the sentiments expressed by him are very natural and practical. In this way, our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has taken the country forward after overcoming various difficulties. He took over the reins of Government at a time when the country was facing serious problem of terrorism and divisive forces were very much active in the country. The country was facing natural calamities. Many internal and external dangers hovered over the country. He handled situation boldly and steered the country forward. It should not only be appreciated but should be considered as a significant achievement.

The country faced a severe drought which was unprecedented. Government faced it with great courage. Not only this, there were floods in the country. There was earthquake too. Not only in the north Bihar, but it occurred in many other parts of the country. We had expected that poverty would increase in the country owing to all these calamities but in spite of all this growth rate has been 6.3 percent. Production of foodgrains, cotton and many other commodities has increased in our country. Under such circumstances, we may achieve the growth rate of five percent in the country. Our target is 6 percent growth rate and we hope that we will pass that target.

There has been 8 percent growth in our industries which is the result of our various plans. Industries are making continuous progress in our country.

When our Prime Minister took over the

[Sh. Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh]

reins of the country, there was great tension in and out-side the country. Our Prime Minister handled it very tactfully. There was an atmosphere of suspicion against India prevailing in Pakistan, Diago-Garacia, China and Sri Lanka etc. in 1985. We did not have friendly relation with China and Pakistan at that time. Even small countries kept on changing their stand. They felt that if and when help would be required it will be forthcoming from China, Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. But it is owing to dynamic personality of Shri Rajiv Gandhi that he created such impression in Sri Lanka and other neighbouring countries in such a short period that the atmosphere of suspicion which existed in these countries, withered away. Because Shri Rajiv Gandhi has proved that India is not an expansionist country, India does not want to pursue any colonial policy and while protecting its unity and sovereignty it is a country which protects the unity and sovereignty of other countries of the world. As a result of this policy, the roots of democracy have become strong in Sri Lanka where terrorism was expanding. The part played by the Indian forces and the Government is well known to the world. Owing to India's foreign policy democracy is flourishing in the neighbouring countries. Democracy came into Pakistan because of India's approach. Dictator like Gen. Zia perished in Pakistan and Government based on democratic principles come into power. The people of Pakistan got inspiration from India and we have no hesitation to admit it. The people of Pakistan know it fully well that people of India and Indian Government wish them success in achieving democratic set up in Pakistan. Shrimati Benazir Bhutto became Prime Minister of Pakistan based on the same democratic system as in India. I can say that similar atmosphere in other countries has been created as a result of good wishes of India. I got an opportunity to talk to the people coming from Pakistan and I asked them about their views about Shri Rajiv Gandhi. They told me that whenever they see Shri Rajiv Gandhi on television, they say that here is a Prime Minister of

a country under whose leadership the country has prospered but all these things will not be appreciated by the members of our opposition parties. They only know to level charges and indulge in character assassination. The opposition parties have always been indulging in character-assassination of the leaders, such things can never be termed as constructive work. The opposition parties leave no stone unturned in maligning the Prime Minister, all types of charges are levelled but the people have started believing that the charges of opposition parties are baseless, they have no moral values and they are indulging in cheap propaganda. The much talked about Janata Dal has been formed after merging many parties. The Chairman of this party dictates terms. If this is the discipline of the party, how can such a party provide a good administration to the country. An atmosphere of suspicion has been created in our neighbouring countries a result of a statement issued on foreign policy of this party. We have very old friendship with U.S.S.R., we are establishing friendship with other countries also and we have also established friendly relations with those countries with whom we had not friendly relations in the past but these people want to disturb this atmosphere. Shri Haroobhai has correctly pointed out a little while ago that what Shri Vishwa Nath Pratap Singh has talked about seeking cooperation and donations from the capitalists, it is nothing but asking the capitalists indirectly to give donations to them. In this manner Fascist forces are being created. What is fascism, it is a process of revenge. Such parties who have no agreement on principles, such forces can be capitalists, reactionary, or imperialist forces and these forces come together to take revenge. Charges are levelled against the persons whom they want to malign. There can be dialogue between the fascist forces and the reactionary forces to take revenge, they are in collusion and the leader who cannot be defeated by good deeds fascist ways are adopted to malign him. The first step in this direction is to spread rumours and indulge in character assassination of this powerful leader. For this, their intelligentsia needs

money and they purchase the intelligentsia and the news media by using money power and they approach the capitalists for this purpose. I want to say that fascist forces, imperialist forces and capitalist forces want to make a new party but this will not be possible. India has got a new direction under the leadership of the Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, we are developing democracy and we are committed to socialist ideology. In the interest of the people, Indiraji had given the slogan to eradicate poverty to save the country. It was a revolutionary slogan in the direction of eradicating poverty but these fascist, capitalist and imperialist forces, who are trying to come together, have nothing to do with them.

In the end I want to say something about the Panchayati Raj. The Opposition parties allege that in this way, powers of the States are being curtailed and the Centre is dominating over them. They should understand that this is not a new thing. The ideals cherished by us were placed before the Congress by Mahatma Gandhi in its session in 1935 as to the kind of policies we would adopt. One of the policies was that all natural resources like minerals would be public property. Today we are following the same path. Keeping in view these fundamental principles Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the real India exists in its villages. Now our villages are a reflection of an India which is sad, naked, destitute, illiterate and poor. We are fighting for the same ideals for which the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi resisted fissiparous tendencies. Through the system of Panchayati Raj we are granting farmers their legitimate rights. For small schemes such as levelling of 50-100 yards of land for pond, well, canal, minor irrigation or plateau area, funds are not available. To implement such schemes in a proper manner and to solve basic problems we need to follow the system of Panchayati Raj. For this purpose farmers and the poor should be associated with the process of formulating plan. The people who till the land are the people whose sweat and toil strengthens the nation its democratic structure and its economy. To conclude I shall recite a line in praise of hon. Shri Rajiv

Gandhi:

[English]

This is from Mr. Longfellow:

Sail on O ship of a State

Sail on O Union Strong and great.

[Translation]

In praise of hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi I wanted to say that India is following the path of progress. With these words I conclude and support this proposal.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu):  
Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to support the proposal introduced by hon. Shri Gadgil on the Presidential Address. The Presidential Address very nicely describes our Government's policies and the steps taken by it in the poverty alleviation programme. It has been observed that programmes of the Government like the I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., Self-Employment Schemes on the Indira Awas Yojana have greatly benefited the farmers and poor living in villages. For this I thank our young leader hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi for proper implementation of these schemes. In order to derive full benefits from them, the Government machinery must be very efficient. Banks should function in such a way that masses may not face any difficulty in dealing with them. So cumbersome are banking procedures that the poor are forced to abandon their cases midway and are deprived of the benefits of various schemes. The most important point is that our hon. Prime Minister wants to introduce the system of Panchayati Raj, giving more powers to Panchayats which will ultimately benefit the poor. While giving more power to Panchayats it should be ensured that Panchayats do not misuse their powers. The benefits should reach the poor. Panditji said that Co-operative societies should be strengthened for poverty alleviation. It is true that Co-operative societies are functioning smoothly in some States. But in some States vested interests are dominating the

[Sh. Janak Raj Gupta]

Co-operative movement depriving the general public of all benefits. The Co-operative movement should be so strengthened that it may become beneficial for farmers and poor people. Some of my hon. colleagues said that the most crucial problem facing our country is that of unemployment. My State Jammu and Kashmir is quite backward in this respect. This problem is so serious that it has been stated in the President's Address that the Government wants to take certain steps to solve this problem. A rash programme should be chalked out for this purpose. There is a scheme to provide employment to at least one member of a family in which no one is employed. Talking from personal experience I can say that this will not benefit any family. In a family of 5-7 members a young man is offered employment. Later when the young man marries he and his spouse make a separate unit and the rest of the family members return to their original position. So there should be an alternative for the remaining family members like the self-employment scheme. If a youngster passes the matric examination and pursues further studies, it is difficult to convince him of the merits of the self-employment programme. Efforts should be made to persuade our youth by highlighting the merits of working for oneself and working for someone else. Camps should be organised to educate people on these aspects and to get them interested in the field of self-employment. I want to give a suggestion in this context. Two years ago boys who were under-matric used to join the army, B.S.F. on para-military forces. At present only matriculates are taken even though the other youngmen are also fit to join the services. This is also increasing unemployment. The Government should reconsider this matter and provide them employments. Our Government's foreign policy, is universally acclaimed as a successful one. On my several visits abroad I have observed that foreigners appreciate our foreign policy. No other country has made so much effort to bring about peace in the world. It is our policy which has influenced the two superpowers

and they decided to solve all the problem through negotiations. It is a great achievement and our hon. Prime Minister deserves praise for his remarkable efforts towards diffusing global tension. The whole world has praised India for its exemplary attitude in helping Maldives, Sri Lanka and Some Gulf nations in their hour of need. My learned colleague Shri Kabuli spoke about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. No doubt, the situation in the State is a cause for concern. I think this is the first time in the history that a problem such as this has arisen in Jammu. We should not try to make political capital from the disturbed atmosphere in Kashmir. The antinational and secessionist forces became active in Kashmir and cause embarrassment to the Government. Such forces should be dealt with firmly on a political plane. The Government should take strict measures to suppress these elements. There is a coalition Government of the Congress (I) and the National Conference in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the leadership of hon. Shri Farooq Abdullah this Government is trying its utmost to stop the emergence of such forces. Both parties are putting up stiff political resistance against these forces. There are only two major parties over there—the Congress(I) and the National Conference. Therefore the Centre should extend all possible help to the State Government in dealing with those forces.

As such, the Hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly stated and it has mentioned in the President's Address as well that maximum relief has been provided to the flood and drought affected areas and the Hon. Prime Minister has taken personal and special interest in solving these problems which no Government has done so far. The Hon. Prime Minister himself went to the affected areas and extended all possible assistance to the victims and for which I think he deserves to be congratulated. This has benefited a large number of people.

Now-a-days, there is an acute power crisis in Jammu & Kashmir. Power supply remains cut off for 3 to 4 days at a stretch due to shortage of electricity. It is true that

Government has extended considerable assistance in making the Salal project operational. The other projects like Dulhasti and Uri will also provide considerable relief but the situation prevailing for the last 4 to 5 years has been such that we are not able to finalise any agreement by which those projects could be made operational. I want to request the Government that in view of the fact that Jammu & Kashmir is a border state and attracts a large number of tourists besides being a backward state with uncertain weather conditions, maximum power should be supplied to that State from the Central Grid so that people do not face any difficulties.

So far as our hon. friends in the opposition are concerned, they are not present in the House today and few days ago when hon. Shri R.L Bhatia, was making his submission, objections were raised when he said that the opposition parties will destroy themselves quarrelling with each other. I also share the same view that the opposition parties neither have any clear cut programme nor any policy as such for the development of the country and its people. Apart from attacking the congress party and Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi at the personal level and hurling baseless allegations at him at the party, they have no other programme of action. People have tested their capability once in 1977 and they do not think it necessary to test them again. Therefore, their infighting to grab positions is enough for their dissolution. They will themselves bring their political death. Therefore, I want to tell my hon. friends and convince them that the people of the country are tired of their attitude. They do not have any definite policy or programme for the betterment of the country. That is why they will die their own death.

At present, the nation's interest and its future are safe only in the hands of our youthful leader Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi. If our country's unity and integrity is safe in anyone's hands it is so only in the hands of our young Prime Minister and the Congress party.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHAIK (Kalahandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the President's Address. At the same time, I also welcome the celebration of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Year in different parts of the world. The foundation which he laid of our country was based on the concepts of non-alignment, democracy, and socialism all of which were new political philosophies at that time. They have proved to be successful. Pandit Nehru's and Shrimati Indira Gandhi's policies can be seen to be successful today. The doctrine of non-alignment, under which the country would keep itself aloof from the super-powers, has been adopted by more than 100 countries of the world. There is peace in the world today. Initiatives for disarmament, development and peace are being taken for which the Non-aligned Movement had played the most crucial role. It is because of this that U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. are holding peace talks. Today Delhi Declaration is giving a new direction to world peace. All this is the result of the freedom movement, the work done by Congress Party and the non-Aligned foreign policy of Pandit Nehru.

Secondly, it was being felt 4 years ago that India was under threat from the neighbouring countries of China, Pakistan and Bangladesh as each one of them was in different power bloc. The foreign tours of the Hon. Prime Minister has contributed in the improvement of this situation. In view of the position in Diego Garcia and Sri Lanka, it seemed that India will not be able to make its presence felt in the international field but today an account of the foreign policy of Pandit Nehru and its sincere adoption by Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi who has a dynamic and practical approach, our relationship with China has improved and a new direction has been given to it. As a result thereof, the crisis which was created in Sri Lanka has been resolved and democracy is being restored there.

We admit that the situation that has arisen in Punjab today is the handiwork of some of our neighbours, the colonial forces of the world and fundamentalist forces. But



[Sh. Jagannath Pattnaik]

the Central Government is determined and the steps which the Government is taking makes us hope that a solution to the Punjab problem will surely be found.

As regards Nagaland, Assam and Mizoram which are our sensitive states and where separatist forces were at work, the crisis is over, and for this too, credit goes to Pandit Nehru's policy and Hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's leadership. The international forces which are bent upon destroying the country is not receiving support in these areas. On the other hand, the policies of Shri Rajiv Gandhi are receiving support and the North-East has entered the national mainstream. Minor irritants always exist but if there is a uniform policy, a determined Government and a unified leadership, problems will definitely be solved. However, regarding the problems of the country, certain international forces which do not like India becoming self-reliant in the economic field and be in the forefront of the international peace movements are behind them. Similarly, the fundamentalist, capitalist, and federal forces are behind the backwardness of the country and are encouraging regionalism and fundamentalism in a land where the characteristic feature is of unity in diversity and if the congress party had not been in power today the situation could have been worse. We can well imagine what would have been the situation if a party like the Janata Dal had been in power. We have not forgotten the experience of 1977 so far. Janata Dal does not have a definite foreign policy and, therefore, it is a matter of concern for the country. The Janata Dal does not have a economic policy and no guiding principles as such, and as regards the leaders you may be aware that there are charges against most of them and commissions of enquiry have been constituted to look into them. In addition, there are prima-facie cases and the High Court has passed strictures as well. In spite of all this, these people are talking of clean politics today. There is an alliance which has no ideology and there is no unity among them. They do not have a

clear-cut foreign policy. If a corrupt party like this one, which does not have a view of its own and no clear-cut policy in the international field, takes the reigns of power of this country, it will have disastrous results. It will be same as happened in 1977 when we regressed by 30 years. Therefore, the Indian people know that bringing these people to power will not be in the interest of the country. The prestige which India enjoys in the international field will be lowered. Therefore the people will never bring the Janata Dal to power and we have full faith the people in this regard.

As regards the economic sphere, I do not want to go into the figures because of time constraints but the Indian economy is so strong today that in spite of the century's worst drought having hit the country last year, there was little effect on the economy. If a similar drought had hit some other country, it would have affected agricultural and industrial production and acute scarcity of raw material would have been created. But the century's worst drought made little impact on our economy and the growth rate went up instead of falling. We remained self-reliant. The industrial growth rate was 7.7 percent. Today, even in China the rate of inflation is 20 per cent but we have been able to control inflation. This proves the resilience of our economy and it is so because of our stable Government and dynamic leadership.

We are committed to democratic socialism. A new start has been given to democracy by emphasising the real power of the people in its functioning. Today seminars are being held all over the country in this regard. A seminar on Panchayati Raj is going on in Delhi as well. There will be devolution of power at the district, Tehsil and Panchayat levels. The biggest hurdle in the implementation of the policies is the bureaucratic attitude which will be curbed. Not only that, the Congress Party and Shri Rajiv Gandhi fulfilled the promises made at the time of elections. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said that if the Congress Party came to power it will make electoral reforms. Accordingly a

Bill was introduced in the House. He had also said that the New Education Policy will be shortly announced. The promise was kept and a Bill to this effect was introduced. We have fulfilled all the promises that we have made. The Congress Party had made a commitment that it will bring forward the Anti-Defection Bill. The Bill was introduced and passed here. The people know that the Government will implement and fulfil all those promises that it has made. Everybody knows that it is the bureaucracy which puts impediments in the process of implementation. They have been dealt with sternly. We are making more efforts in this direction.

Today the country is threatened by the forces which are causing damage to the unity of the country. We are dealing with them sternly. Not only that, the communal forces are raising their heads in the country today and casteism and regionalism is growing. We have to fight these forces. There is no doubt about the fact that we are fighting them. Our efforts to provide social and economic justice to the poor people of this country is continuing. We have launched a number of programmes for their upliftment.

When the prices of essential commodities which are used by common man increase, it affects them. We should take some new measures in this direction. In this regard, I would like to make a suggestion that we should formulate a policy to ensure that prices of essential commodities such as rice, kerosene, sugar etc. do not rise for five years.

Today unemployment problem is one of the biggest problems confronting the youth of our country. Our Prime Minister has launched a number of programmes to provide employment to the youth. These should be further accelerated. Shri Rajiv Gandhi gave a call of "Bekari Hatao" in the Congress Session in Madras. He has also taken steps in this regard. We are confident that this will solve the problem of unemployment.

Besides, we will have to implement the Land Reforms Act. This will help in the

upliftment of the poor people. We should also take steps to remove the regional imbalance in our country. If this is not done a state like Orissa, though rich in natural resources, will remain backward for ever. It is a matter of regret that the attitude of the railway has not changed in respect of Orissa. The Planning Commission as well as the Finance Commission should pay more attention to states like Orissa in order to ensure development of the State. Similarly, it should be given the same status as has been given to Jammu and Kashmir. In Orissa, Kalahandi is a place which experienced severe drought this year. Though the crop were very good in other parts of the country, Kalahandi was hit by the worst drought. With a view to deal with the drought situation and develop the States like Orissa, we should provide financial and technical assistance to these States under the provision of article 371 of the Constitution. This will remove regional imbalance. If regional imbalance is not removed it will not be possible to bring socialism in the true sense.

With these words I thank you.

SHRI SHANKARLAL (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, it is a fact and the Hon. President has also admitted in his Address that India occupies a prestigious position in the world today.

Our relations with super powers in the world, whether it is the U.S.S.R., the U.S.A. or China and Pakistan has improved. What I mean to say is that India has emerged to the front line. We are adopting the same principles in the SAARC and also in our foreign relations, which were followed by our late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had emerged as the apostle of peace in the world. As a tribute to him, we are celebrating his birth centenary this year.

Whether it was the problem of Sri Lanka or Maldives, our leader followed such a policy, that India is now being held in high

[Sh. Shankarlal]

esteem. The Hon. President has rightly said in his Address, that the country which believes in the unflinching adherence to the great principles of democracy can become strong. The reforms brought by the Government, whether it is regarding giving voting right to young people of 18 years age or checking those forces from not accepting the established principles of secularism, unity, integrity and socialism in the Constitution, will now make these forces give in writing to the Election Commission that they have confidence in the provisions of the Constitution.

We saw the opposition trying to negate the principles of socialism. But it was a historic step when sanctity was established by enacting the Anti-defection Act. We have also enacted a law to prevent the misuse of religious institutions. We focussed our attention towards the economic development of the country. There are no two opinions and it has been rightly mentioned in the President's Address also that despite the ravages of natural calamities, the economy has actually recorded a positive growth rate of 3.6 per cent. Not only that, we have made tremendous progress in the industrial sector also. In hut shell, I can say that our country has made alround progress.

So far as farmers are concerned, it has been mentioned that loan target has been enhanced from Rs. 1800 crores to about Rs. 2500 crores. Now a farmer can easily get a loan of Rs. 10,000. Specially, there are proposals to help the farmers financially. Besides, our Government believes in the policy that our country can make progress only when the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the minorities, the backward classes and the farmer community are uplifted. It has been observed that there are impediments in the process of implementation of the programmes launched for the uplift of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and backward classes. The programmes are very good, but benefits of these programmes do not reach those for

whom they are meant. That is why our leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi talks of providing the benefits of these schemes to these people through the Panchayati Raj system. This step does not go against the Constitution, rather it proposes to boost the very idea of Panchayati Raj envisaged in article 40 of the Constitution.

The Opposition has been charged of having no ideology. I also endorse this view that the opposition is without any ideology. If you go through today's addition of "The Times of India," the "Janasatta" or read the speeches of Shri V.P. Singh delivered by him at Balrampur and Calcutta, you will come to know that he says only one thing, that Indira Congress should be removed. Apart from this, they have no other ideology. For this, they are prepared to compromise any other ideology. Earlier, they used to say that they have nothing to do with the B.J.P. but now they are ready to associate themselves with B.J.P. Earlier they used to say that they will not raise funds from big industrial houses, but now they say that they are prepared to accept funds from big industrial houses. Shri V.P. Singh has gone to the extent of saying -as I learn from the "Janasatta"-that just as Mussolini and Roosevelt united together to face the challenge thrown by Hitler, all the opposition parties should also unite. In there any logic in it? It means that they have no ideology. The only thing that they want, is to remove the Indira Congress somehow or the other. This is the only ideology that they have. where do they want to take the country? Neither there is any Janata Dal nor any Janta Party. They are so many and they express different views. V.P. Singh should have come to the House today and expressed his views on the President's Address. They want to mislead the country. They express divergent views at different times. In this way they are assaulting at those strong economic policies of the Indira Congress that helped the country march ahead. Their sole effort is somehow or the other to remove Indira Congress. They have no other ideology. But this ideology can never become successful. The people of this country know them well, because they

were thrown out of power after sometime when in 1977 they tried to bring together unprincipled men in politics.

I would like to express my thanks to the Central Government and our leaders for extending financial help to Rajasthan last year for meeting the challenge of drought. In spite of that 4,500 villages out of total 33,000 villages are experiencing hardship for drinking water. The drought situation is still continuing in Rajasthan. The Government of Rajasthan has sent a telegram to the Central Government. I am hopeful that the Central Government will extend necessary help to the State of Rajasthan.

I shall conclude after making a submission about my Constituency. So far as the question of environmental pollution and the worker's problem is concerned, they are still on strike at the Pali mill. Even today the fertility of soil is getting destroyed because of water pollution. The policies of the Central Government are good, but the Government of Rajasthan should be pressurised to imple-

ment them. I am of the view that the State of Rajasthan will develop if all these things are fulfilled. Rajasthan will continue to follow the same policies and extend full support to the Central Government. It will continue to repose confidence in the leadership of Rajiv Gandhi in the Lok Sabha. The people of the entire country will also follow the policies of Congress without paying any attention to what the opposition says.

I thank you a lot for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 A.M. tomorrow.

18.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, February 28, 1989/Phalguna 9, 1910 (Saka)*