

their honesty and gentleness should not fade, whether they belong to the treasury benches or the Opposition parties as long as the charges against them are not proved. It is all right, if the Prime Minister does not come to the House but once he has come, then he should not have kept silent.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, this is too tall an order to obey or to concede. The point is, I have said that his question has to be addressed to the C.B.I. I did not ask the House or the Member to address it. How it is to be asked from the CBI is a matter which we have to decide. We have to examine it and decide.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : What is the factual position?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The position is, we have no communication with CBI, as I have just informed the House, on any content of investigation...*(Interruptions)* This is very clear. Normally, when we want information we get it by writing to the CBI. But in this case, after this case has become *subjudice*, we have not asked for even the normal things that we have from the CBI, we have to suspend. If there is any other method of getting information in regard to this question, that we will examine and after getting the information we will certainly send it to the hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is not satisfactory...*(Interruptions)* The simple question is whether the C.B.I. has interrogated the Prime Minister after an affidavit was made and a statement was given by Mr. Jain in which he levelled charges against him.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I cannot give any details because I do not have the details of the investigation...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : As we are not satisfied with the reply of the hon. Prime Minister, we stage a walk-out in protest.

19.37 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and several other hon. members left the House)...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not correct at the last stage...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That his House do express its dissatisfaction at the Government's failure to answer charges relating to the 'Hawala Case' and to allegations about illegal pay offs to some Members of Parliament."

The motion was negatived.

19.40 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely happy, and feel privileged to move a Motion of Thanks on the Address of the hon. President of India.

Sir, I beg to move :

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

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 26th February, 1996."

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Resolution moved by Shri Chacko to support the President's Address.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

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

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 26th February, 1996."

The hon. Members present in the House, whose Amendments to the Motion of Thanks are being circulated may, if they desire to move their Amendments, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial number of the Amendments they would like to move. Those Amendments only will be treated as moved.

19.41 hrs.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is with an extremely happy face that I stand before this House today because hon. Rashtrapatiiji has complimented this Lok Sabha. This compliment is very aptly being deserved by this House and by this Government.

Sir, I recall the days when this Government took over

the office of the administration. In 1991, when this Government took over the reins of this Government, at that time, the political situation in this country, the social situation in this country was so tense. It is not only that, but when this Government came to power, it was not with a majority; it was a minority Government. In the pale and the gloom caused by the sad demise of the most colourful personality of the Indian politics, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when the Members of the Ruling Party assembled to elect their leader in the Central Hall of Parliament - I still remember that day - Shri P.V. Narasimha Raoji who wanted to retire from political life, who wanted to have an intellectual retirement, was called back to be at the centre stage. He was asked to take up the responsibility of running this Government was not going to complete its full term. Naturally people were apprehensive and many of us were also apprehensive. They were thinking that a Government with a minority strength and with enormous problems at hand, how was it going to complete its term

Sir, hon. Rashtrapatiji has delivered his sixth speech in the Joint Session of this Parliament. Probably this itself is the single biggest achievement as far as this Government and this Parliament are concerned. At the time of assuming office, the biggest question, biggest doubt which was in the minds of the people, which was in the air, in the political atmosphere, was the question of political stability. Sir, as rightly asserted by our Prime Minister the other day at Nandyal, the Government's first agenda and the most important agenda was providing political stability to the country. We have seen a number of Governments in the past. We have seen Governments which have come to power with a thumping majority but could not even complete a few months in office due to internal problems, due to internal fighting and due to lack of policy. Many Governments have vanished just like that. But in that background, this Government which came to power as a minority Government ruled the country for five years and today is the last day of the life of this Tenth Lok Sabha. So we are looking towards the future with more confidence and that kind of a situation we could create in this country; and that is the achievement and for that achievement, the hon. Rashtrapatiji has complimented this Lok Sabha. I do not know how far this compliment is being deserved by the other half of this Lok Sabha.

Because we in the Government and the ruling party, have done our level best to be deserving of this Motion of compliments from the Rashtrapati in spite of the fact that there were continuous demands from the side of the Opposition to topple this Government and that has been discussed on various occasions in this House and this Government could survive many such difficulties. It is a proof that this is the only party, which is heading this Government, that it is the only party which can give stability to the political scenario of this country.

When we recall the law and order situation - or the problems when the first Session of this Lok Sabha assembled, problems like the Assam problem, the Jammu and Kashmir problem, the separatist movement which

was working in the North Eastern States and various problems which were engulfing the nation - was almost disappropriate and it was beyond everybody's control and nobody could predict that this Government was going to effectively control them. The prophets of doom, especially the friends in the Opposition were predicting that nothing could be done and it was going to lead to disintegration. If anybody were doubting that it was on the verge of disintegration we could have blamed probably nobody because newspaper were coming out with reports of series of killings not in dozens but in hundreds from the State of Punjab.

When the elections were conducted in Punjab it was under the threat of terrorists directly under the threat of bullets and bombs. The ordinary people were to go to the polling booths. I still remember the criticism levelled by the Opposition leaders in this House. They asked us what kind of elections we conducted in Punjab if it were only 20 per cent of the people who participated in the elections. This Prime Minister, leading this Government with all the difficulties, told them that we were starting a process of democracy, a process of democratisation, a process where it was alien because of certain reasons which happened or were of recent origin. But that happened in a few month's time. Approximately a year after that municipal elections were conducted in Punjab and the turn out was 80 per cent. This is the achievement from a terror stricken State where people were flooded to the street to participate in an election where we could conduct an election and bring an elected Government to power and after that instill confidence in the people, contain terrorism and then after that all the political parties were free to participate in that election. Eighty per cent people participated in the municipal elections. Now we are happy that in Punjab the Opposition Parties, especially the Akalis are trying to fight with the Congress and wrest power there. Such a situation we welcome. That kind of a situation is welcome.

I recall the glorious service done to the State of Punjab and to the country by the late Shri Beant Singh, sacrificing his own life and he has made Punjab a peaceful State. It has come back to the mainstream of the country, to the economic activity and to the life of the country. It happens that it is the biggest achievement of this Government. But never have they given us the credit for this.

Not only in Punjab but in Assam also what has happened? Many people were explaining here about the separatist movement. Social tensions were reaching a climax. The problems created by the Mandal issue, the problems created by 27 per cent and above reservation was the essence of the Mandal question. But when that was being brought here, demanded here, a Government, an elected Government at that time wanted to make Mandal an issue to create tensions between castes and communities. They wanted to create a caste war and they wanted to take political advantage out of that.

During the last one year especially, so many steps were taken which the Rashtrapatiiji has mentioned. Twenty-seven per cent reservation was implemented constitutionally and it was made available to the poor people and the deserving people of this country without any bloodshed, without any law and border problems, that issue is completely being contained and that genuine issue was being implemented.

In Assam also this Government has taken the initiative and Autonomous Councils were formed and whenever reasonable demands were there, people were given democratic freedom. Also, extremist violence and insurgency have been effectively controlled and the whole State is now on the path of development and has come back to the mainstream.

We have discussed yesterday the Jammu and Kashmir Budget. Several hon. Members mentioned about it. But I am not going into the details of it. This Government wanted to have elections in Jammu and Kashmir. But many people were saying that if you are conducting elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the credit will go to Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. Unfortunately, this has been the attitude of many of the Opposition Parties here.

Sir, *Rashtrapatiiji* has mentioned as to what happened during the last one year. He has complimented the paramilitary forces and the armed forces of the country. I fully agree with *Rashtrapatiiji*. I think, the whole House should join him in extending our whole-hearted cooperation and admiration to the armed forces of the country.

Sir, the electoral rolls are revised in Kashmir. Did anybody expect that such a situation can take place? Constituencies were delimited in Kashmir during the last one year. Did any Opposition Party ever admit that such a thing can happen? The combined military operation, which is a new policy of the Government, has got an effective control over that. Even today in the newspapers we have read that 600 militants surrendered with their arms. An unfriendly country from across the border is exporting the terrorists, training the terrorists and giving arms to them. In that kind of a situation, this country was fighting a war against the internal subversive activities and from across the border. There was a hue and cry when the Hazrat Bal incident had happened. But the Government could contain it and could handle the situation in a most effective manner, even with the compliments of the worst critics of this Government.

Subsequently, many things happened. But I will not go into all the details here. Now, in Kashmir, there are a lot of developmental activities taking place. The hon. Minister of Finance while presenting his Budget had also said about it before this august House. For the first time, during the last many years, the Plan expenditure has achieved a cent per cent target without even diverting a single paisa for the non-Plan expenditure, which the complete Plan expenditure could achieve in Kashmir. There was a gap and that gap is being effectively bridged.

It is now a part of the progress and a part of the developmental activities. That kind of a situation we could develop in Kashmir. The entire people of this country are looking for democratic elections to take place in Jammu and Kashmir. That kind of a situation will develop and that is not very far-off. Probably, because of the Opposition Parties, who are becoming a part of this campaign of calumny, they are also contributing that we should not succeed in this, as we have succeeded in Punjab, in Assam, in the North Eastern States, and I am sure...

MR. SPEAKER : How much time will you take please?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, I should be allowed just to touch the major points, which the hon. President had presented in his Address. I will not go into the details.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the House is unanimous in thanking the President.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : There is a lot of improvement in the Jammu and Kashmir situation. Those who are criticising this Government for its inactions and for its wrong policies also will agree that the situation has improved there. That kind of a situation gives more confidence to the people. However, I will not go into more details of that particular issue.

Sir, at the same time, I may be allowed to say a few words about the law and order situation in other parts of the country. As far as the Autonomous Councils are concerned, some controversy was generated during the discussions in this House. This Government has taken it as a policy. In Assam, Autonomous Councils were formed and in Bihar a Council was formed. These Development Councils were a policy of this Government. This Government was criticised for that and that is giving a new confidence for the people and making them partners of the development and progress.

The diplomatic initiative taken by the Government, in spite of the hostile attitude of our neighbouring country, is being succeeded also. Kashmir is open to the international diplomatic benches. Diplomats are coming, journalists are coming, foreign press is coming and political representatives are going to Kashmir and the Kashmir issue has become very open. There is nothing to cover up and there is nothing to be concealed. So, it has become so open and that situation is giving us some hope....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have covered all the points.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : No, Sir, I am cutting short my speech. On political scenario, only one or two salient points I wanted to touch.

MR. SPEAKER : You should understand the scenario in the House also.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sir, with regard to the economic progress this country has achieved, which is being narrated by the President of India, I may be allowed to say a few

words.

MR. SPEAKER : I think all the Members sitting on this side of the House are agreeing to that. The Members on the other side also would have done it. If that is so end if the President's Address explain all those points...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDER JIT : Vote of Thanks is enough, Sir.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Okay, Sir. I shall not go into the details but I may be permitted to say only one or two points.

Sir, in the last one year, the GDP growth which this country has achieved, the foreign exchange which this country has achieved and the industrial growth which this country has achieved, are going to be the major issues which the people are looking at.

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister has very ably made all those points.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : I am only highlighting that the achievements of this Government which the people were trying to neglect, and the achievements in the economic sphere, are the issues on which Rashtrapati Ji has complimented this Government. This country, as said by the Rashtrapati Ji, has passed through a momentous period during the last one year. This Government, has taken the country to this tremendous growth rate. There are some criticisms that liberalisation is not helping the poor people. The hon. Prime Minister, in his speech from the Red Fort, had made it very clear that the Government has spent nearly Rs. 10,000 crore on the welfare measures in the last one year. Like that, if we take the last five years period record, from 1991 onwards, it is an all time record figure on welfare measures being implemented by the Government.

The political scenario, the economic scenario, the welfare measures and the all round progress which is being achieved by this Government in various fields, is a testimony of how a democratic Government can function with the support of the people. With this achievement in hand, this Government can confidently go to the people and, I am sure, that the people of this country will entrust this party and this leadership, the power to rule this country for another five years.

Rashtrapati Ji has expressed his full hope in the functioning of this Government in the last one year and this whole House should be indebted to Rashtrapati Ji for his kind expression. I once again repeat that this House expresses deep gratitude to His Excellency, the President of India, for his speech at both the Houses of Parliament assembled together.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Only one point I want to make, Sir. We were not given an opportunity during the Zero hour to raise it. There is one important matter that I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister and I shall finish in two minutes.

Last year, the Prime Minister was very much pleased to grant permission to all the applicants for Haj pilgrimage. This year there are about 55,000 Haj pilgrims. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister that he must delcare in the House that all those applicants will be permitted to go.

Secondly, the Prime Minister and this Government was very much pleased to grant some amount for the Minority Development Corporation and I am very much grateful to this Government for that. But in the matter of distribution, it must go to the real beneficiary, for which some mechanism has to be adopted.

Thirdly, in the matter of selection of the people of the minority community, to government and quasi-government institutions, even now our representation is not only not adequate but abysmally poor.

I would like the Prime Minister to give a serious consideration to these points and whatever assurances he has given time and again that he will evolve some mechanism by which the minority community people will be given due representation and those should be implemented...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I arise to support the President's Address...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have already supported it and you have already stated this...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : I would not like to speak much. I would like to quote a couplet only...*(Interruptions)* Much has been said about development and if we introspect, then we would realise that under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, the country has made a lot of progress. The hon. Prime Minister had said one thing in the beginning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister has very ably made all those points.

20.00 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : If discussions are not held, the complications will go on increasing. He has, therefore, made everything clear. Due to that only, today the whole world is saying that future will evaluate us. I would like to conclude with a couplet on the hon. President Address in the context of Mahatma Gandhi :

"Tera Mere Ghar Seshe Ka,
Mein Bhi Dekhun Tu Bhi Dekh,
Tere Mere Hath Mein Pathar,
Mein Bhi Sochu Tu Bhi Soch."

We welcome the coming Lok Sabha and with these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No slip for moving the amendments was received at the Table. Therefore, no amendment has been moved on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the President in his address has spoken very high of the Government's achievements in every sphere, but I strongly feel that our country is now passing through a very complex and bad period. We should take corrective measures. I am not going to speak on the economy. All our democratic institutions, I do feel, are not functioning correctly. As the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court has said that when the democratic institutions do not function correctly, do not do their duty and put their burden upon the other and do not solve the problem at a particular moment of time, then there comes a conflict between the democratic institutions.

We have been discussing communalism during the last five years. We have not been able to cope up with communalism. Communalism is our greatest enemy. The bedrock of our democracy is secularism and sufficient steps are not being taken during the last five years to strengthen the spirit of secularism or to cure the wound that was created after the demolition of Babri Masjid. Though promises were made, they were never implemented. Both casteism and communalism are very high in the country side and everywhere. Everyday, there is a conflict in our village life which was ideal, and which according to Pandit Nehru was the basis of India's strength. That strength is disintegrating now. I am saying this because we have given powers to *panchayats*, we have amended the Constitution by passing the Constitution (Seventy-third) (Amendment) Bill, but what is practically happening? Despite all the empowerment which is made in the Constitution, both in the Eleventh Schedule and Twelfth Schedule, are the State Governments implementing it? Sir, you know elected *panchayats* are being dissolved... (Interruptions). Of course you have lost your patience but I have not lost my patience.

I am seeing greater dangers to our country. We must take into consideration the international scenario which is emerging. The imperialism has started offensive and is destabilizing our country. How can the stability come? Have you thought over it? Has the President given any indication of it as to how the stabilization will come? You know, Sir, now the World Trade Organization has brought on its agenda to interfere in every country's economy. They want free hand. They want equal treatment. That has been the agenda of World Trade Organization. You know the present scenario, the imperialists, for their conflict, want to put the burden on our country. At this point of time, if we are not very conscious of it and strengthen our democratic institutions, if we do not have electoral reforms and other things, it will corrode our democracy and socialist fibre. Then, we will not be able to resist imperialist pressure.

These are the aspects which have not been manifested in the President's Address. You may make very high claims, but those claims are only for the time being. Your temporary gains are no gains at all. Stability does not mean having a majority by manipulation. Stability means that it is one which brings economic with some common objectives. Without a common objective, as you know, Sir, the people's problems are not being discussed in the Parliament now. They want to hide everything under the carpet. The Parliament has to speak for the people's problem. But they want to hide everything under the carpet. That is what is taking place and most of time, the problems of the country and the people are not discussed in the Parliament.

Sir, I would thank you for having brought out the Standing Committee system to scrutinise the Demands for Grants and other functions of different Ministries. But, are the recommendations of the Standing Committees being implemented by the Government agencies? That is another question.

So, Sir, this is the last day of this Tenth Lok Sabha and I hope that we have already spent much time. The real leadership of this country today has to unite all the secular and patriotic forces into a common front to face the imperialist and communalist aggression. That is the agenda before the country and if we are able to stand up to this, then, I think, India will not only become the largest democracy, but it will also maintain its heritage and whatever has been told of India will come true.

With these words, I oppose the Motion because it does not manifest all that is good.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only wanted to respond to Mr. Ahamed. He has given one or two good suggestions in regard to the minorities. He knows that there is a visible improvement in the situation as we are going along. We will certainly make more funds available to the Corporation. All these things we will do and he may rest assured that whatever he has said will be taken into account.

Sir, on any other matter, there is really no criticism or no point raised from the other side in order to reply. So, I would respectfully submit that you may kindly put the motion to the vote of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall not put the Motion moved by Shri P.C. Chacko to the vote of the House.

The question is :

"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 26th February, 1996."

The motion was adopted.