

Rs. 5,774 crore for food subsidy and Rs.6,800 crore for fertilizer subsidy. An amount of Rs.5,000 crore is being provided to meet contingent expenditure. A sum of Rs.400 crore has also been provided for the conduct of general elections to the Lok Sabha.

Coming to receipts, the estimates of tax revenues have been made at existing rates of taxation in the interim Budget. Gross tax revenue at existing levels of taxation is placed at Rs.128,540 crore. States' share of taxes next year is estimated at Rs.34,027 crore compared to Rs. 29,266 crore in the revised estimates of the current year. Taking into account the maturing liability, the net small savings collections are placed at Rs. 15,716 crore in 1996-97. I am taking a credit of Rs. 5,000 crore next year as receipts from disinvestments as continuation of the policy of mobilising non-inflationary resources. I am also expecting an increase in dividends and have estimated these receipts at Rs. 4,051 crore in 1996-97.

Taking into account the changes in receipts and expenditure, total net revenue receipts of the Centre, at the existing rates of taxation, are estimated at Rs. 127,162 crore and total expenditure is estimated at Rs. 202,024 crore. The budget deficit during 1996-97 is estimated to be Rs.5,000 crore and the fiscal deficit is estimated to be Rs.62,404 crore. My proposals in the interim Budget will take us further in the direction of bringing down the fiscal deficit to more manageable proportions. I expect that on the basis of these estimates the fiscal deficit during 1996-97 will be 5 percent of GDP. I would have liked to do better. I am restrained in my efforts because I am presenting an interim Budget at this stage. But I am sure that these efforts will provide a sound foundation for enhanced efforts in this direction.

I propose to introduce a Finance Bill which seeks to continue the existing rates of Income Tax in the financial year 1996-97. I am not proposing any changes in the rates of Custom and Central Excise duties.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have sought to outline our achievements, the unfinished task that lies ahead, as well as our vision of the future economic and social agenda we must pursue to realize the national goal of an India free from the fear of war, want and exploitation; an India which takes full advantage of modern science and technology to build a strong, self-reliant and internationally competitive economy; an India firmly committed to the twin pursuit of excellence and social equity in the framework of an open society and democratic polity based on the rule of law and abiding faith in fundamental human freedoms.

In my first budget speech to this Honourable House on 24th July 1991, I had stated, quoting Victor Hugo, that no power on earth could stop an idea whose time had come. I had also suggested to this House that the emergence of India as a front-ranking economic power house of the world economy happened to be an idea whose time had indeed come. Despite enormous challenges and difficulties, we have worked earnestly to give concrete

shape to this dream. We are already the sixth largest economy of the world. We are determined to further move up this ladder. But this will require far-sighted political leadership, sustained hard work and willingness to accept utmost discipline in all walks of our national life. We cannot afford to fritter away the vast energies of our nation in senseless communal strife or caste and class wars. Nor can we allow the national commitment to Swadeshi to be misused by the forces of obscurantism to perpetuate economic backwardness and prevent India from occupying her rightful place in the world. As Jawahar Lal Nehru taught us, in an interdependent world, Swadeshi must not be interpreted to mean economic isolation of India but rather self-reliance in building a prosperous India which interacts as an equal with other countries in the world. We seek to build a new India which, in the words of Gandhiji, will be like a house with windows open on all sides; let ideas from all the cultures and civilisations of the world freely flow in; but we must refuse to be blown off our feet by anyone of them. This is the true essence of Swadeshi and we shall not compromise on this essential principle.

India is on the threshold of exciting new opportunities. Gandhiji used to say that the central disease of India is its deep poverty and deeper ignorance. Thanks to recent developments in science and technology, it is now possible as never before to wage a successful war against poverty, ignorance and disease. Drawing inspiration from the high ideals and humanism of Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, our party and Government reaffirm our solemn commitment to successful pursuit of this giant national enterprise. We shall overcome.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the last session of the present Lok Sabha. Soon, our people will be called upon to exercise their sovereign democratic right to choose the next Government. Undoubtedly, their choice will have a profound bearing on the future of our polity and the well-being of our children and our grand children. Time and again, the Indian people have shown that they can be relied upon to make sound and sensible decisions. I have every reason to believe that when the time comes, our people will be discriminating enough to recognise the friendly hand that alone can help our nation to move forward on the road to peace and prosperity and preserve its unity and integrity. Sir I conclude as a poet has said :-

"Safar Lamba Hai, Dost Banate Rahiye,
Bin Mile Har Haath Se Haath Milate Rahiye."

18.00 hrs.

FINANCE BILL 1996*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to continue the existing rates of Income-tax for the financial year 1996-97.

* Published in Gazette of India, Extra-Ordinary, Part-II, Section 2, Dated 28.2.1996.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to continue the existing rates of Income-tax for the financial year 1996-97."

The Motion was adopted

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Finance Bill 1996 has been introduced.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during his speech, the Hon. Finance Minister said :-

"Gandhi ji ke adarsh ko kaun rakhata hai yaad, Chirag bujha diye jate hain shasan mein aane ke baad."

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please permit me to recite a couplet for him.

"Hoon main Shama, hoon main parvana
Par sham to ho, raat to ho
Jaan dene ko hoon razi
Par koyi baat to ho."

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 29th February, 1996, at 11.00 a.m.

18.02 hrs

[The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 29, 1996/Phalgun 10, 1917 (Saka)]

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.