

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[*English*]

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR
(Bhilwara): I beg to move:

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

"That the Member of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 21st February, 1994."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel proud of for this chance given to me to present the Motion of Thanks on the Address delivered by the hon. President before both the Houses on 21st February. It is an important occasion in Parliamentary Democracy and its importance should be taken in that spirit only. I would like to repeat the points mentioned by the hon. President in his Address. Expressing his concern on the issue of Kashmir, he has stated that we are very much worried about the incidents at our borders these days and the way Pakistan has been raising this issue. The hon. President has expressed his strong will on this issue and has asserted that Kashmir is an integral part of India and it would continue to be so. I feel, it is of great importance, when the supreme personality of our country expresses such a strong will. All of us would like to extend our thanks to him for such a declaration made by him.

This is also a historic moment that on the 22nd of February, the very next day of the Address delivered by the President both the Houses of the Parliament which is a Supreme body of the country, introduced and unanimously passed the said resolution without any discussion. There have been a very few occasions in the Parliamentary history of India when, in the event of a national crisis, the members of both the Houses have exhibited unity. This is a very significant event in itself. In my views, this act shows the unity of our country. Hon. Members of different political parties represent their parties in the Parliament and they also have political differences on several issues and sometimes such differences reach at a soaring point. But this is a matter of happiness as to when the country was facing a crisis.

14.00 hrs.

The Parliament of the country has passed the resolution unanimously and has thereby reaffirmed this determination that Kashmir is and will remain an integral part of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when India got freedom it was divided into two parts—Hindustan and Pakistan. At that time as per rules of the Government of India Act 1935 and India Independence Act 1947 the erstwhile British Government had given a right to all the then Provincial Government and Princely States falling under India and Pakistan that they can merge themselves with any union at their own discretion, and this merger was unconditional. I think that more than 600 princely States were willing to merge with Indian union unconditionally. The then king of Jammu and Kashmir declared that Kashmir would remain a part of India and Mr. Speaker, Sir, at that time the National

Conference which was the largest political party of Jammu and Kashmir, welcomed and ratified that declaration. I believe that this was accepted by the whole of the world. There was no problem at all when Princely States merged with the Indian Union. There would have been no problem even in the merger of Jammu and Kashmir I think, if Pakistan would have not created troubles by sending tribal invaders into our territory in October 1947 or had it not launched an armed attack in May 1948, the issue of partition between the two countries could have been surely settled easily. But since then the intention of Pakistan have been very clear to us. I think that India had also very categorically and seriously made it clear at various international fora that Kashmir issue must not be internationalised.

There was a war in 1965, our brave soldiers faced the situation and proved that our country is capable of facing any crisis. There was a war for Bangladesh in 1971. We are also aware of the bravery shown by Indian Army at that time. We agree that in 1971, Bangladesh was a part of Pakistan, although it was a part of an Islamic State, yet it wanted to secede and India supported Bangladesh. After winning the battle, our country gave the charge of the Government to the leaders of Bangladesh. The dispute, however, continued. In July, 1972 the Shimla Agreement was reached between the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Late Julfikar Ali Bhutto and the then Indian Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi wherein it was decided that any dispute in that regards would be resolved through bilateral dialogues and that none of the issues in that regard would be raised on any international fora. Now the same situation has emerged. Our country is willing to have cordial relations with Pakistan and there is no conflict between

the people of the two countries because the people of both the countries want to fight against poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Since independence, we have been pursuing this policy, but whenever there is any political crisis in Pakistan, the rulers of that country raise voice against India. At present, Pakistan is doing the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the fact that yesterday, while talking to press, the hon. Prime Minister of Pakistan Shrimati Benazir Bhutto said that there was violation of human rights in Punjab and specially in Jammu and Kashmir and that she would raise that issue on every level whether any other country of the world lends its support or not. I would also like to draw your attention to another serious thing said by her. She said that their support to Kashmir was based on the Islamic Principles. I think that such a Statement is unprecedented, Pakistan has made such a statement for the first time. Our country, however, never acknowledged religion to be the main factor behind partition of the two countries. If the partition would have taken place on religious ground, then why Bangladesh was created. Although it was a part of an Islamic State these serious issues need to be considered seriously. We should make a future strategy in this regard. I believe that our army and people of our country are unanimous in this regard and that is why we show unity in the event of any crisis.

I remember that in 1965 when I used to sit in this House as a Member of Parliament, at that time when there was a war between Pakistan and India, the then Prime Minister late Shastri Ji used to take the House in confidence daily at 4 p.m. At that time leaders of all the political parties

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told him that the whole country was with him. Now, I think that the same situation has developed once again. I understand that the people of the country would reaffirm that resolution that the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country can not be allowed to be mortgaged under the pressure of even the mightiest country of the world. The people have to be ready for any sacrifice and to face any amount of troubles. It is a matter of regret that despite our efforts when extreme bloodshed and terrorism was prevalent in Punjab, our Government initiated democratic process there and subsequently elections for State Assembly, Lok Sabha and for municipality were held.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy to say that the people of Punjab thought that the principles of democracy can alone ensure development and peace if follow them sincerely. Perfect peace is prevailing there after the election. Even our opponents accept this fact that there is a great change in Punjab. Farmers of the State are growing more foodgrains and are providing their best contribution to the prosperity of the country. When perfect peace prevails in Punjab, some American leaders are talking of the violation of human rights in the State. We should strongly oppose to this and should raise our point through all international levels that India not only believes in human rights, but we have also set up a Human Rights Commission. The Chairman of this Commission is a retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and judges of the Supreme Court are members of that Commission. Now nobody will believe, if it is alleged that there is violation of human rights in the country like India. Such an allegation was levelled by some Americans and also by the American

President. Our Ambassador in America has, however, denied it. When a question in this regard was raised today in the morning, the hon. Minister of External Affairs gave a reply to which I agree to some extent. He said that people of the country are unanimous on the issue of the sovereignty of the country. We are resolute and we have also made our views clear whenever that issue is raised on any international platform. So there is no violation of human rights in any part of the country, rather is a provision of judicial process to be initiated in the event of violation of human rights. There is a procedure to conduct an impartial enquiry. I would, therefore, like to submit before the hon. Members of the House that the situation that prevailed in 1965 or after that is emerging again. They are now required to take firm stand. I do not know whether it is relevant at the moment or not, but I would like to submit to our colleagues of the B.J.P. that they should bring a change in their stand at the present moment of crisis. In the arena of politics, their strategy can be understood that they won a considerable number of seats by making a base in public. This can not be denied. But mixing religion into politics and creating a rift among the people of two communities by impressing upon the people of a particular community that they are being made victims of appeasement policy is not fair. They should consider it seriously. I do not know whether I should raise or not this matter at this moment, but by observing the present situation of crisis I think that the problem still persists. Can we say that 13 crore people of a particular minority class who are living in India are second class citizens? They also enjoy equal rights. They have also made sacrifices for the country. They have also laid down their lives as and when war on borders took place. We should give them the same

respect and an atmosphere should be created in which Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jains and Christians would feel that they are all brothers and they all have equal rights to progress. This is my sincere appeal, especially to the friends sitting there, to seriously think over this. I would like to tell Shri Vajpayeeji that his party should try to review their objects and approach keeping in view the present calamity conditions prevailing in the country.

After remaining in politics, for 52 years, today, I feel that our democracy is getting matured but when we do not seriously consider minor issues that means that we are not bothering for the consequences. At the same time, sometimes we neglect major issues also. Now, I conclude my views on this topic. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his Address, the President has referred to the unprecedented damage caused by severe earthquake in Maharashtra, in which it has been said that, it is the most noble way that the people of India, the Central Government and the Maharashtra Government have come forward to help the calamity stricken people. In the morning today, during question hour, Mr. Chauhan said tremors were also felt in his constituency. I would like to ask the Government to take steps to have scientific survey of earthquake prone areas and the areas where there is possibility of earthquake, prepare schemes, and provide forewarning-system to the people so that people do not suffer sudden loss of life and property. In this way they can be saved from severe calamities. I am happy that the Maharashtra Chief Minister and the Prime Minister toured the affected areas and consoled the disaster-hit people, and did, whatever was possible. In any case, for a permanent solution of the problem,

scientific instruments should be installed to inform the people in time .

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his Address, the President discussed economic reforms. In this connection, I would like to mention the 1991 situation when the Congress Government took over the reins of the country.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): That is an old issue now. Please say something new.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If Nitishji continues to give a running commentary, then he will not have an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: Please listen. It is not an old issue. The situation in June 1991 which was inherited by the Government, is known to all of us. At that time, foreign exchange reserves had depleted to Rs. 1000 crores. Inflation rate was 16 per cent and we did not have the money for importing oil and other essential goods. There was no money to pay interest of loans which was due as per international commitments. In such a situation our minority Government and the Prime Minister, after holding discussions with all political parties, and on the basis of consensus created a harmonious atmosphere.....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): There was no consensus.

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: An attempt was made to change that situation and I know that one thing became clear by December, 1992 in the minds of the people, that the way the minority Government had tried to solve the country's problems that was in itself unprecedented and for this, the Government and the Prime Minister deserve congratulations.

But, I want to specially tell the Prime Minister that it is true and can not be denied that we did bring economic reforms, we adopted liberal policy and ended licence raj. But if, we look at its implementation, it would be seen that the psyche of the people at lower level has not changed. Many a time, the Prime Minister has said that unless change in the psyche of the people at the lower level is not evident, the people will not get the expected benefits of the decisions taken at the higher level. Today, more abolition of licence system is not going to solve the problems. It is all right that a person need not to go for licence to Udyog Bhawan and anyone wanting to set up a factory can do so by having a survey on his own, but this is not the end. He needs, land, electricity and arrangement for water will have to be made. Arrangements will have to be made for marketing his products also. For this, there is a need for coordination at different levels and the situation is that this co-ordination has so far not been established. For that reason no matter, how many agreements we might have reached, a situation has not come yet when the people at the lower level may start getting the benefits.

On this occasion, I would like to tell especially all the hon. Ministers that after preparing a scheme, they should seriously monitor its implementation. I doubt that it would be implemented at the

lower level, unless they look at the minute details. I myself have been a Chief Minister and know that some decisions taken at the cabinet level, are drastically altered on reaching the lower level, through various levels. I believe that decisions taken at the political level, on various issues, should be implemented properly. I am of the view that unless our Ministers do not find out whether the work at the lower level would be done or not in accordance with the spirit of the decision, there will be some amount of difficulty in their implementation. Rather difficulty is already being experienced because I am in touch at the field level. You may not have to take licence for setting up an industry, but we would not be able to make progress in real terms unless there is a change in the attitude of the officers at the lower level. There is a need to inculcate a sympathetic attitude among people the lower level. And we will have to keep this in mind in the coming days, because the matter can not wait any more. In some days or months, we will have to determine that whatever decision we take at the top, it should be implemented correctly so that the benefit of our policy could reach the people at the lowest level. This is what I have to say on this occasion.

Now, I want to quote a portion of the Prime Minister's speech, which he delivered on the 28th September, 1993, in New Delhi, while discussing the economic reforms, on the occasion of the 66th Annual Meeting of the Board of Indian Commerce and Trade.

Rural Development Programme has been expanded manifold, as a result of which there is a lot of scope for providing benefit to the people at the lowest level. This is being done entirely with the Government money. No one else is going

to take the responsibility of running our primary schools. Similarly, no one would come from outside to run our Primary Health Centres. No one is going to run social welfare programmes. We ourselves will have to make arrangements for this. The responsibility would have to be taken by the people and the Government of this country. Yes, it is possible that people from outside can set up industry here, and for this we are making efforts also.

In this way, there are two separate sectors. One, in which every thing has to be done by the people and the Government themselves, whereas in the second sector, capital investment and participation by people from outside is possible. Therefore, we should clearly understand where we will have to bear responsibility ourselves and where we can share our responsibility with others.

He further said that reform programmes should be such that they can be run with our own resources. Therefore, in every field of economy, speed of reforms should be determined on the basis of achievements. There is a need for untiring efforts for reforms in the factors responsible for the achievements, unless we resolve this firmly, the people will not get its benefits, no matter how good the reform programmes may be. This is the deficiency which I feel exists at present and about which I want to tell the House.

I do not oppose for bringing foreign capital in India. But I want to submit that if one goes on depending upon foreign capital for all programmes, it would not be proper for our country in the coming days. There is no objection in seeking help for an industry which we cannot set up here on our own for borrowing a technique which we do not have. I think all the good

socialist and communist nations have done this. I have firm faith in my nation's strength and dignity. I am of the view that today if Indian scientists can make discoveries in other countries, given a chance in India, they can likewise perform similar wonders here also. We should have faith in their ability and capability and this assurance we have to give them.

Several people met me and told me that they had gone to America. Even there, they met several Indian scientists. They said that if a congenial atmosphere is available in the country where they can carry out their research work then they would be able to do a lot for the country. We will have to build up this sort of confidence among them then certainly we will be able to use the talent available in the country.

14.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

On this occasion I would like to have a word of praise for the Public Sector Undertakings. There was a time when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, in order to improve the economy of the country, decided to set up Heavy industries in the Public Sector. At present, we have invested an amount of Rs. 1 lakh crore in these industries. We can never forget the help given by our friendly country Russia for setting up the Bhilai Steel Plant, Forge Foundry Factory at Ranchi and Agriculture Farm and basic infrastructure at Suratgarh in Rajasthan. I very much remember the occasion when Khrushchev and Bulganin visited India. They said that we were close to their borders and in the hour of need we could rely upon them. I can say that our PSUs had attained a commanding heights. This is true that

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presently they are incurring losses. So we cannot provide them funds from our public funds. But there are some industries which are running in profit and I feel that we must remove the difficulties being experienced by them. At this juncture, I want to say that we should earn more money. Everybody wants it. Money is the base of every system, be it socialism or capitalism. Nobody is against this phenomenon but there are differences of opinion for distributing it. I conclude my speech in respect of public sector with this point that we must provide them all possible help and those who play an important role in this process must be promoted further.

The industries heading towards privatisation, are welcome. Nobody can oppose the idea of making all sort of experiments for the development of the nation. I feel that new reforms have given a confidence to countrymen. Above all, the political stability in the country has created good impression on other nations. The foreigners wish to come to India as they find political stability here as well as the tendency to keep promises. There are no two opinions, that foreign capital investment in India which is going on smoothly at present, can become a good source for our development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture development is being discussed in the country. The farmers are the back bones of the country. Prosperity of the farmers amounts to the development of the nation. More agricultural produce means more progress for the country. At the time of independence, 5 crore tonnes of foodgrains were produced in the country. Today with the help of our scientists, the farmers are able to produce foodgrains to the tune of 18 crore tonnes. Earlier, we

used to import foodgrains under P. L. 480. At present, we need not import foodgrains as we are self sufficient in this field. On the basis of... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): But three million tonnes of foodgrains are being imported... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: This is not a good tradition. 12 hours period had been fixed for the President's address. Every party will get time in that proportion. Please speak on your turn only.

Our farmers and scientists increased foodgrains production from 5 crore tonnes to 18 crore tonnes. It had good results. The country inculcated a feeling of self-sufficiency but at the same time I want to express my concern over the ever increasing population of the country. If we are not able to maintain the increase of 3 per cent in agriculture production then in near future we may find it necessary to export foodgrains. Therefore, our aim should be to increase agriculture production at least by three percent every year and this we can do by extensive farming, improving irrigational facilities and adopting latest techniques.

So far as the question of paying remunerative prices to the farmers is concerned, I would like to say that the farmers in our country do not get remunerative prices for their produce which they ought to get as per the international market. We will have to coordinate it. If we make one time increase in prices it may affect the

consumers. Therefore, we will have to go for the middle path. You might have seen that whenever the Government fixed the support price, it always took into account the cost of production borne by the farmers. To my mind, this years support prices are very reasonable. The price of common paddy which was Rs. 278 per quintal in 1992-93, has been raised to Rs. 310 per quintal i.e. 14.8 per cent increase. The price of fine paddy has been raised from Rs. 280 per quintal to Rs. 330 per quintal i.e. an increase of 17.9 per cent. The fair average qualities of millets has been raised from Rs. 240 to Rs. 260 i.e. an increase of 8.3 per cent. The price of fair average quality variety of wheat has been raised from Rs. 330 to Rs. 350 i.e. an increase of 6.1 per cent. Even then I feel that the farmers are not getting their due share. The price of wheat in the International market is 160 dollar per tonne which means Rs. 5000/- per tonne whereas at present we are paying a support price of Rs. 3500 per tonne. We are paying a support price in order to stabilise the market and see that price does not fall more than that is fixed. To my mind the Government has done a good job and there can be no two opinions in this regard that from time to time these prices are revised by the Government.

Generally, it is being said that the export of agricultural produce will improve the status of the farmers. I do accept it in principal and there are no two opinions about it. It is known to everybody the way a particular community takes benefit of the produce of the farmers. This is an established fact that when the farmers bring their produce in the market, the price is the lowest in the year at that time. But the farmers which constitute 76 per cent of the population are compelled to sell off their produce at down the earth

prices for meeting their daily requirements. The businessmen purchase it at cheaper rates and later export it or sell it off at higher rates. Thus the benefit is not passed on to the farmers.

The Government will have to find some sort of mechanism so as to ensure that the farmers do not resort to distress sale and are in a position to get remunerative prices. Keeping this very fact in mind the Warehousing Corporation was set up for this very purpose, so that the farmers could store their produce in the godowns there and get 75 per cent cost and the Warehousing Corporation sells it off whenever it gets remunerative price in the market. But I feel that even Warehousing Corporation is not providing any relief to the farmers in this regard. At present the Warehousing Corporation purchases farmer's produce on the lines of FCI and thus the aim behind establishing Warehousing Corporation is no more achieved and the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at cheaper rates. We may think in the direction of strengthening such organisations. We should collect their produce and pay them according to their requirements. In this way, we can provide an opportunity to the farmers to sell their produce when they get remunerative prices. Thus we may pass on the benefit to the farmers. This is a very important aspect. unless and until we go for it, we will not be in a position to provide relief to the farmers. The argument advanced by the farmers is very much appropriate that an industrialist who manufactures goods in his factory, arbitrarily fixes its selling price and whenever he wishes, he increases, the prices of his product and there is no such restriction on him, The consumers are bound to purchase them on the rates fixed by the industrialist. So we will have to create such a situation for the farmers

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also in the near future so that they may get remunerative price for their produce otherwise production will suffer and our country is bound to face a serious crisis. It is a matter of grave concern that we are still unable to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. The Government has to give a thought to it. We will have to set up a mechanism as to how we can export our agricultural produce and earn more profit out of it. It is a matter of great happiness that this export process may be beneficial to the country but we have to act in this regard. In this way we may be able to satisfy the farmers. The profit should virtually go to the farmers. The Agriculture Minister should find a way out to this. He is a farmer himself and is aware of the difficulties faced by the farmers. So he must pay attention to providing these funds direct to farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been mentioned in the Address of hon. President as to how the production can be increased in dry land farming areas. The point of formation of several watershed areas in the entire country is also mentioned. I feel, this is a very important scheme, because irrigational facility has been made available only to 25 per cent land in the country and 75 per cent of land is still dry. We have to carry on dry land farming on this land. If we cannot increase the per unit production capacity of that land, we will not be able to increase the total production of the country. So, we should pay more attention to dry land farming and should find out ways to increase production. It should be a matter of concern as to how can the farmers increase the per unit production. A part of Rajasthan, which was once a barren land, is now producing 30 to 35

lakh tonnes of foodgrains every year. This became possible with the water of Indira Gandhi canal which is flowing through that area. I know that a lot of water is wasted through flow irrigation. Large tracts of land have become barren. If we utilise that water properly by lifting the water to upper areas for irrigating the fields there, I think, the farmers will properly utilise every drop of water.

Sir, I would like to mention some points about my district. We implemented the lift irrigation scheme in our district. We did not do it through the Government, but constituted Kisan Samitis and asked them to utilise this water and gave the entire responsibility of the scheme to them. Some facilities like electricity etc. were provided to them. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will be happy to know that near about 45 schemes are under implementation in my district. At present 325 schemes are under implementation in Rajasthan, which provide water to the farmers for irrigation. Every drop of that water is being utilised. I would like to suggest that the canal system should be taken from the hands of Government machinery and handed over to the farmers societies. A lot is being said about privatization today. The matter of privatisation of big industries is going on. The entire arrangement of water should be handed over to farmers. All of us are aware how the engineers work nowadays. If the farmers takes over the responsibility, they will utilise every drop of water. On the basis of my knowledge I can say if the water of the canals under flow irrigation scheme is properly utilised, 25 per cent of water can be saved and provided for irrigation of 25 per cent more land. This will also increase production. But, however, this can only happen if this work is handed over to the societies of farmers. For experiment, a system should

be handed over to them and the results can be seen. I think it will show unique results. Water will be saved as well as more land will be irrigated. The farmers will be benefited and encouraged as they will reap the benefits and will manage the system with utmost care. So, I would like to suggest that farmers' societies should be given the responsibility of distribution of water of big dams.

The Address of the President also mentions about providing employment to urban educated unemployed youth. This is a very good scheme. When the youth of this country come out of universities, after completion of their education, they only think about Government jobs, but these jobs are limited and cannot be increased. The need of the hour today is to provide employment to urban educated unemployed under self-employment scheme and this scheme will serve this purpose. The scheme should be extended further, so that, more youth can be benefited from it. A little attention is necessary in this regard, because, funds are earmarked and approved under these schemes, but several complications arise at the district level and the youth have to face a lot of difficulties due to these. Thus, they do not get the benefit of the scheme. It compels them to think that it would have been better if they had worked as labourers. It is necessary to streamline and simplify the rules so that the urban educated youth can get the benefit and the feeling of disappointment among them can be removed. The educated youth are the most disappointed lot today. At the same time, it is necessary to create this feeling among youth that the loans they are getting from banks or other organisations are to be repaid, otherwise the banks will become insolvent. The people who do not get success in their work, they should find out the reasons for

failure and those factors should be removed. A monitoring cell has also been set up in the Prime Minister's office in this regard. I would suggest that this cell should not remain as an official cell, but should work as a clearing cell to solve all the problems related to this scheme. This cell should be made effective and should be given powers. It should collect and analyse the data and anticipated problems should be solved through this cell.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North):
Are you suggesting an amendment to the President's speech?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: I am expressing my views. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Address also mentioned about the non-conventional energy sources. This is a very important project in itself. There is no limit to the development of non conventional sources of energy. Sky is the limit for this. I have been closely associated with it and the Prime Minister has also shown much interest in this matter. Recently, during my visit to Tamilnadu I saw that wind mills are generating 100 megawatts of electricity and a large number of people are benefited through it. No foreign investment is needed for it. The industrialists of Tamilnadu are financing these projects, because, they are getting direct supply of this electricity and there is a scheme to generate 300 to 600 megawatts of electricity by this way in future. In the desert of Rajasthan, there are gaps in Aravali ranges, where winds blow with high velocity. Our scientists have identified 12 such gaps, where the

velocity of wind is 18 kilometres per hour. Lot of electricity can be generated through a wind speed of 45 to 46 kilometres per hour. These sources, which are renewable, should be tapped. Shri Salve is also concerned about it. We should generate electricity through non-conventional sources. The cost of electricity is increasing continuously and we have no funds. Sometimes we ask help from Japan or some other country. These non-conventional renewable sources are available in our country. In Rajasthan, the sun shines for 345 days in a year and rains come there only for 20 days. There are several desert areas where even a seven-year old child does not know what is rain, but a lot of energy in the form of sun is available there. There should be large-scale tapping of this source. Time bound programmes should be made for solar energy, wind energy and the energy from the tides of the sea. I, therefore, would like to suggest that the Ministry held by Shri Salve and the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources should coordinate with each other. Both the Ministries should supplement funds of each other. In this way, there will be maximum tapping of sources and more benefit will be achieved.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the national education policy mentioned in the President's Address. It is my opinion that expenditure on education is the expenditure made for human development. The European countries had achieved hundred per cent literacy nearabout 150 years ago, but our country has achieved only 38 per cent literacy till now. So, we still have to go a long way. In December last a summit of 9 countries was held in Delhi. These are the

most populous countries in the world, having population almost half of the total population of the world. The heads of the Government of those countries had come to Delhi and our Prime Minister chaired the Delhi Declaration made on the 16th of December. It was stated in that Declaration that all efforts would be made to achieve full literacy in all these 9 countries by the year 2000. This is a national resolution. So I would like to submit that to implement this resolution, a scheme should be prepared in the country. Estimates have also to be made about the number of schools, teachers and the non-formal means to be adopted for spreading education in the country. It has been mentioned in the President's Address that provision in this regard will be made during the 9th plan. This is disappointing. On the one hand, it is proposed to achieve education for all by the year 2000, but on the other hand, work on it is going to be started in the 9th Plan. It is very paradoxical. Budget is going to be presented at 5 p.m. today and the Delhi Declaration should have a direct effect on it. I hope that the hon. Minister of Finance would extend the provisions for the fulfilment of national resolution in the field of education. I am sure that he will extend them to some extent and also expedite the work to achieve the target. This is my submission with regard to education. Education is a concrete foundation, the more the people of the country are educated, the more problems will be solved. At present there is hundred per cent literacy in Kerala and Pondicherry and it has affected family planning programme. That is why if every person in the country is educated; the more favourable will be the effect on the programme; and we will be able to solve the problems. Therefore, my submission is that the more we spend on education, the more the country will develop.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak about the Panchayati Raj in the country. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, during his tenure, had spent one year to discuss the matter personally with the Sarpanches, Pradhans, District Collectors, Ministers and Chief Ministers. He discussed the matter with the officials in different regional offices. After one year he thought of making some amendment in the Constitution but unfortunately his aspirations could not be fulfilled. We are grateful to the late Prime Minister that he moved a motion for 73rd and 74th amendments, with courage and these amendments were passed unanimously. It was decided that all the State Governments can make charges in the law in accordance with the Articles of the Constitution. It included five things in particular. As there is a procedure that elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are held after every five years, similarly Panchayat elections would also be held at the same intervals. A commission will be formed and given the charge to hold elections. At present finance commission allocates funds at the national level and State level. A similar commission will be formed at State level in which women will be given adequate representation. All these points have been mentioned in it. The State Government can not go beyond this. However, a number of things have been left on the State Governments. They have been making changes in their own interests. They have been taking the benefits of the loose ends left by the Central Government Today is the last day of February. They have to make amendments in their law within the month of March and April. I feel that some of the State Governments have already taken initiatives in this regard. However a number of them have still not done so. The Central Government should look into this also because if the system of

Panchayati Raj is confined to villages only and even there it does not function properly then the framework at upper level will also become meaningless. Whatever schemes we formulate are implemented at Panchayat level and political will is required more in this regard rather than public will. However, this scheme has also met the same fate as the other schemes. Implementation of which is the responsibility of the bureaucracy. With regard to Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had proposed to provide funds direct at Panchayat level; so that the regional bodies can utilize these funds as per their requirements. But what is happening today? Although adequate funds are being provided for the purpose, but Panchayat cannot utilize these funds according to their requirements. The collector is the head of the DRDA, District Development Authority, who diverts the funds from one Panchayat to another. Therefore, the spirit with which this programme was introduced is being nullified. The speed with which Jawahar Rozgar Yojna should be implemented in rural areas is not being maintained. The Central Government has allocated about Rs 30,000 crore for rural development. I think that such a huge amount was never allocated for the purpose ever before. But neither those funds are being utilized nor its benefits reach the grass root level for whom this scheme was introduced.

15.00 hrs.

Therefore, for the sake of these schemes also, Panchayati Raj should be strengthened. My opinion is that the Government should hold elections of Panchayat, Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads together at the national level within a stipulated period. There should be a provision that Panchayat elections all

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over the country are held within a gap of 5-6 months maximum. Only then the people living in rural areas would get the benefits of the schemes implemented at upper level, otherwise our schemes would remain confined only to rural areas. Therefore, in order to strengthen the system it is very essential that Panchayat elections are held within a stipulated period, and no State Government should be allowed to make any variation in the basic concept of Panchayati Raj. It is very essential that this matter should be considered seriously.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the rural infrastructure. There is no doubt that roads have been constructed, communication system has been improved, school buildings have been built, Panchayat offices and Primary Health Centres buildings have also been built. But still there is a need to improve the condition of villages. We have to expedite the development work on a war footing and for this purpose unless sufficient funds are allocated in the total outlay of our schemes, we will be facing difficulties in developing the infrastructure at the grass root level. Even for this, there should be a direct provision in the national schemes to serve as a link or a mechanism. Even today my constituency or other villages having a total population of 1500 have not yet been linked with roads. This is not good on our part that the rural areas have not been provided road facilities even after 45 years of independence. Though planning is said to have been done at lower level yet it is not being implemented properly. We should personally look in to the matter and the Prime Minister's office should monitor the work at lower level and see as to the

extent to which the rural people are getting the benefit of these schemes. Then only we may consider it a greater achievement, and would be proud to say that India is a rural country and we formulate schemes primarily for rural areas. We are determined to develop those areas and we do fulfil that resolve.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to talk about the weaker sections of people. We will have to consider the problems of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and people of backward classes seriously. We have formulated a number of schemes for them, but it is also true that even today those people are still being deprived of social justice. I know what is happening in the villages. The dead bodies of Harijans are not allowed to pass through a holy place of upper caste people even today. Jaswant Singhji, this situation prevails there even today.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla):
You had been the Chief Minister of the State for so many years. Why did not you stop it?

SHRI SHIV CHARAN MATHUR: It is my personal experience and I claim that we tried to meet the situation with the help of police, but it is not proper. We should develop a psyche and awareness among the upper classes for the upliftment of backward classes rather than doing so through judiciary. I feel that if the intellectual people take initiative for the upliftment of this section this work can be done very soon. Whenever projects are undertaken by the Government or our society takes any initiative in this regard they are accomplished very soon. That is why my submission is that we cannot deny the sincerity and factual position

about social justice which is being talked about everywhere these days. The need of the hour is to accept the concept of social justice and remove the shortcomings. If measures are not taken in time it will become very difficult to control the caste conflicts in the country. Therefore, I would like to submit seriously on this occasion that not only the Government but every section of the society should work for the promotion of social justice and create an atmosphere where the difference of upper caste and lower caste is removed, untouchability is eradicated and the backward and the suppressed classes get the opportunity to rise so that the minorities may also feel that they are the citizens of this country having equal rights. If corrective measures are not taken in this regard, we cannot control the distortions of the society and the country. There would be unrest and social imbalance in the country which would certainly prove disastrous. The economy, business and industry, everything depends on the prevailing peaceful atmosphere in the country. If there is no peace in a country business cannot flourish there, nor the country can develop. This is my serious submission. And to achieve this objective we should change the mode of thinking and for this all the political parties should try to create a favourable situation and develop an atmosphere in which people are determined to work for the upliftment of poor, suppressed and exploited. Only then the country could go ahead.

With these words I extend my thanks to the hon. President for coming here to Address the hon. Members of both the Houses. I hope that the hon. Members would express their views on it but a new convention should be set up to pass the President's Address with one

voice. This is my humble submission to all of you.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam):
Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address moved by a very senior Member of this House. Shri Shiv Charan Mathur.

At the outset, I wish to bring to the attention of the House the dignity of the two institutions, viz. the institution of Rashtrapati and the institution of Governors in the States. Rashtrapati's Address is an address on the policy to be followed by the Government and also the achievements of the Government. Similar is the case with the Governor's Address. But unfortunately, we have seen that the Rashtrapati's Address is either boycotted or abstained by certain sections of the House. Still worse is the situation in the State Assemblies. In the States, Addresses by Governors are pooh-poohed and nobody can hear what the Governors say. So, my request to this august House is that all the political parties have to sit together and take a decision either to have the Rashtrapati's Address or not. If we decide to have it, then give all the respect that it deserves.

Sir, political and economic stability are the two sides of the same coin. We cannot have one without the other. Two-and-a-half years back, when this Government came to power, this government was facing a political turmoil in the country. Even though this Government was a single party with the largest Members in the House, it was a minority Government. We know the difficulty of running a minority government which has to take a number of bold

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economic decisions. But, within two-and-a-half years we have proved that this Government by taking bold political and economic decisions could attain majority. This majority is still being maintained by it.

In these two-and-a-half years, a political polarization has taken place in this country. There were elections to five States and one Union Territory viz. Delhi. Before election, many of the political pandits thought that the BJP will come back to power in all these States and that there will be mid-term elections to the Lok Sabha and the saffron flag will be at the Red Fort. But, all these predictions are proved wrong and Congress came to power with a thumping majority in all the BJP ruled States. It is this political polarization where anti-communal forces and democratic forces have come together under the leadership of the Congress Party and that has given a new political stability to the nation.

I request the Left Parties to forget their old slogans because anti-Congress slogans are not going to save them. They cannot be anti-BJP and also anti-Congress at one time because they do not have that much strength. If you look at the voting percentage that they had in the Lok Sabha from 1952 onwards, it was 3.3 per cent in 1952. If combined together with CPI and CP(M), it is 11 per cent in 1991 our BJP friends, who started with a very low percentage, are coming up. But, the question is whether our left friends are going to support us or not. If they oppose us, they are indirectly supporting the BJP.

This Government believes in taking decision on the basis of consensus, irrespective of the fact whether it is in

majority or minority. In 1991, when this Government came to power, there were two major issues. One was the Mandal Commission and the other Masjid issue. With regard to the Mandal issue, we could find a democratic solution and all the backward communities are now happy because they have got their due share in the governmental machinery.

As far as the Masjid issue is concerned, right from Pandit Nehru's time, the Congress Party has taken a stand that either this issue has to be settled amicably by discussion between both the parties or the court of law has to give its verdict and that verdict has to be implemented.

This stand of the Congress Party which was taken in 50s had been proved correct because, Sir, in 1991 elections, the target against the Congress was Mandal and Masjid. We have suffered. And in 1989, the target against the Congress was the Bofors. You how many days and months in 1986-87, 1988 and 1989 we had discussed Bofors. So, these targets are changing because these targets cannot be permanently used against the Congress Party. What is their target now? Their target now is on the economic front.

Coming to the economic front, I would say that we have taken very bold decisions. When we came to power two-and-a-half years back, what was the economic situation? The inflation was at its highest viz. about 17 per cent, our foreign exchange reserve was at its lowest viz. about Rs. 4,000 crore. We did not have money even to import our essential commodities for fifteen days. That was the situation two-and-a-half years back.

When the new Budget is going to be presented just about two hours from now, we find that the entire economic scenario has changed. The inflation has come down to a minimum of 5.5 percent. Now, it has slightly risen to 8 per cent but we find that the inflation is under control.

The foreign exchange reserve was just Rs. 4,000 crore, two-and-a-half years back has now gone up by eight times. It is around Rs. 32,000 crore. So, the overall situation is very comfortable. This comfortable situation could be achieved because of the drastic measures the Congress had taken. When the Congress takes these drastic measures, there are attacks against the policies of the Congress. One attack is that the Congress is moving away from the policies of Panditji. Here, I wish to refer to what Panditji thought on our public sector and by and large about our economic structure. I am quoting a few lines.

SHRI RAM NAIK: In which year?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: I do not know exactly the year.

"Everything that leads to fuller production and fuller employment is to be encouraged, provided it does not take us away from the ultimate objective of a socialist pattern of society. If we cannot have fuller production and fuller employment, then there will be neither welfare nor socialism, even though, we might nationalise some industries or pass brave laws and decrees. If we aim at mass production, this is only possible, if this production is for the masses and the masses have the purchasing power to consume it. We have introduced a certain

dynamism in every sector of our economic and national life in order to achieve this goal. The test must always be the results to be achieved and not some theoretical formula."

The main purpose of a socialistic pattern of society is to remove the fetters to production and distribution. If, however, we adopt a policy in the name of socialism which actually means some fetters are encouraged, then we are moving away from our objective and preventing the growth of full dynamism. It becomes necessary, therefore, to have a private sector also and to give it a full play even in its own field providing always that it is coordinated with our plan approach. So, in the case of Congress Party, we have always thought what should be the economic policy of our nation even before Independence. Even after Independence, we had an in-depth discussion into the economic policy that we should follow; and it is on the same lines that Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao is following our economic policy. In the 79th Plenary Session of the Indian National Congress at Tirupati, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao had explained in detail about the development schemes. I will quote from his speech on page 7. It reads as follows:

" since the beginning of the era of planned development, the Indian National Congress has been inspired and guided by the vision of Jawaharlal Nehru. His strong sense of history and deep understanding of the distinctiveness of the Indian ethos, led him to reject borrowed doctrinaire approaches and to evolve India's own synthesis from diverse influences, which was inherently just, humane, pragmatic and

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uniquely Indian. The use of development planning was an instrument to achieve these ends and to ensure the material well-being of the masses and the dignity of the individual. These became elements of his socialistic pattern. As we look to the future, the fundamentals of Nehru's vision remain entirely relevant from every standpoint."

We have never deviated from Panditji's path, but unfortunately, our left friends, who are always clamouring that we have left the path of Nehruji, should remember the days when Panditji introduced the First Five Year Plan. It was our Communist friends who attacked the First Five Year Plan of Panditji. I still remember, in my younger days, in Kerala, we called it *Pancha Varsha Padhuthi*, the communists called it *Panja Varsha Patri*, the programme for starvation. This is what they called; but after a period of 30 to 40 years, now, the wisdom has come to the mind of our Communist and Socialist friends; and they say that Nehruji was adopting a correct policy. The problem with our Communist and Socialist friends is that wisdom has come to them very late. (*Interruptions*) So, we have a constant policy on this; we have been following a constant policy on this. The only problem is that you change from one time to another and you have to get a policy from some one else; the mind is not yours; the brain is not yours; the mind is somebody else's. This is your problem.

15.25 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly resume your seat for two minutes. I have to make an announcement.

15.25 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming Dr. Egon A. Klepsch, President of the European Parliament and Mrs. Anita Klepsch who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived Delhi today morning. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country.

15.26 hrs.

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

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Thomas you may please continue.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): This year we are enjoying the fruits of the reformed and liberal policies which we have started at the time of Panditji, which have been followed by Indiraji, which have been taken up by Rajivji and