

rise in the prices. Depositing this amount in the CPF/GPF defeats the purpose. Additional Dearness Allowance is included in the total taxable income of the officials and income tax is levied on it. Though as a matter of fact this amount has not reached the purse of the person concerned during that year.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to pay the instalments of the Additional Dearness Allowance in cash to the wage earners to compensate them for the rise in the prices or if it is not feasible for the Government to pay in cash the instalments of the Additional Dearness Allowance, being deposited in CPF/GPF, should be fully exempted from the income tax.

[English]

(v) **Need to restore earlier pattern of Central Contribution to Sugar Development Fund in respect of Maharashtra.**

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for maximum assistance from the Sugar Development Fund. Earlier, the factories used to contribute 10 per cent of expenditure for modernising their plants while remaining 90 per cent of the expenditure used to come from Fund. This pattern has recently been changed and the factories have to contribute 35 per cent of the expenditure and 65 per cent of the expenditure has to come from the Sugar Development Fund. Many factories find it difficult to raise 35 per cent.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to restore the earlier pattern and also to introduce incentive schemes so as to boost the working performance of sick units.

(vi) **Need to lift ban on export of Sandal Wood**

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): Sir, sandalwood is exclusively bestowed on Indian soil in forest belt of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka while some quantity keeps growing in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. In Tamil Nadu, the amount earned from sandalwood now is nearly 50 per cent of the State Forest Department's revenue. The revenue realised in 1991 was Rs.22.99 crores on auction sale of 10.12 M.T. of sandalwood. Stock of 2,500 M.T. of sandalwood got accumulated awaiting sale in 1991-92 and a similar precarious position obtains as regards deals in sandalwood in all forms, including logs and billers by Government of India, Tamil Nadu hopes to compete on a global scale to get a competitive price for sandalwood.

If total lifting of ban is not possible now, at least export licence may be given to qualified firms.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take urgent steps in this matter.

(vii) **Need to expedite the Construction work of Railway Over bridge at Arakonam, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI R.JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam): Sir, Arakonam railway junction in Tamil Nadu can be connected with Calcutta-Delhi on one side, Kanyakumari and Madurai on the other, Mangalore Port on the West Coast and Madras Port and some other areas on the remaining side.

Three years ago, the Union Government had sanctioned a railway overbridge with the consent of the Tamil Nadu

[Sh. R. Jeevarathinam]

[Translation]

Government. But this has not yet been completed. Hence, the people of Arakonam find it difficult to go to Kanchipuram and Tiruttani. Also, the people on the other side find difficult to come over to northern side. This is causing a lot of hardship to the public. There is already an underway bridge but it is stagnated with two feet of water. As a result of this also, the people find it difficult to come from one side to the other side.

I request the union Government to direct the State Government to complete its share of work early. I also request to take necessary steps to make the underway bridge functional. (*Interruptions*)

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to make an allegation against any person on the floor of this House, it shall have to be accompanied by a notice. An allegation was made in the morning. But no motion was moved. So, that does not go to the record.

1434 hrs

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up further discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address moved by Shri Digvijay Singh. Time allotted is 12 hours, of which three hours and eleven minutes are already over. So, we have at our disposal eight hours and forty nine minutes.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, President's Address is an important event in the Joint Session of the Parliament. This time the Budget Session started with the President's Address. I wished to be present on the occasion but could not. The reason is evident. At the end of his speech the Hon. President referred to democracy to be a living thing. He admitted that the country is faced with crises. He admitted that the country is faced with crises. He has also admitted that there have been remarkable levels of cooperation as also strong areas of dissent last year. He said that our democracy is very lively. I do not understand the extent to which the Hon. president's views and the Government's actions are complementary to each other. Is it not so that the President's Address is written separately and the Government acts differently.

My hon. friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is not present here. Once he wrote in an article as to how he drafted President's Addresses. I do not know as to what procedure is being followed now and who prepares the Address. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that we wished to be present at the time of Joint Parliament Session but we decided to abstain. Shri Advani wrote a letter to the Hon. President and informed that we are sorry that we are not coming and also clarified that it was not a disrespect to the office of the President. We do respect the office of President and since he holds the office we respect him. However, the Government is creating a situation due to which we would respectfully abstain from the Joint Parliament Session. We used the word "respectfully abstain." It is true that attention is not paid to minute things today, Sensitive matters are neither taken into consideration nor evaluated. Next day I read newspapers