

17.17 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. AP-
PROVAL OF CONTINUANCE IN FORCE
OF THE PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT
OF NAGALAND

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHUALAM NABI
AZAD): On behalf of Shri S.S.CHAVAN, I
beg to move—

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation, dated the 2nd April, 1992 in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from 2nd October, 1992."

As the House is aware, President's Rule was promulgated in the State of Nagaland on 2nd April, 1992. The Proclamation issued by the President under article 356(1) of the Constitution was approved by the Lok Sabha on 23-4-1992 and by the Rajya Sabha on 28-4-1992.

After the proclamation of President's rule in the State, the law and order situation has improved and the administration of the State has been able to create a feeling of confidence among the people. The public distribution system has been overhauled and middleman removed; the people of the State are now getting rice, sugar and other essential commodities. The hospitals have medicines available and doctors are being positioned. During the last three months of President's rule in the State, the entire State machinery has been galvanized into action and the law enforcing agencies have been reorganised.

In Nagaland rains continue upto October. Due to heavy rains, most of the rural roads are disrupted by landslides. Intensive revision of electoral rolls is being undertaken and this is expected to be completed by

January, 1993. It is, therefore, not possible to hold elections before 1st October, 1992.

Keeping in view the situation prevailing in the State and difficulties in holding elections before the expiry of the present term of President's rule, it is proposed that the President's rule in the State of Nagaland may be continued for a further period of six months with effect from 2nd October 1992.

In view of this position, I solicit the approval of this august House to the Resolution moved by me.

MR SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 2nd April, 1992 in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 2nd October, 1992."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): Is the reply also ready?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uddhab Barman

SHRI UDDAB BARMAN (BARPETA):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak on this Resolution.

It is unfortunate that we are today discussing about the extension of the President's rule in Nagaland instead of initiating the democratic process in the State to enable the people to have their own Government.

It is known to all that the clamping of the President's rule in Nagaland was denounced by almost the entire nation. The entire Press in the country criticised the steps taken by the Central Government in imposing President's rule without the recommendation of the Governor.

Even the Governor who was not willing

[Sh. Uddab Barman]

to toe the line of the Central Government was ultimately removed from office. At that time, the people thought and rightly so, it to be an atrocity on democracy, on the Constitution and the federal structure of the country.

It is known that the then Chief Minister Shri Vamuzo promised election and the then Governor also dissolved the Assembly and recommended election to be held. But the Central Government after the President's Rule, did not continue the endeavour in this regard to hold elections and now it has come before the House to extend the President's Rule in Nagaland.

Sir, we are opposed to the imposition of President's Rule as it is an unconstitutional step and also we are opposed to the extension of President's Rule this time.

After the proclamation of President's Rule, an attempt is made to draw a rosy picture of law and order situation. That with President's Rule an atmosphere of peace and prosperity has been created. But what is the real situation in that area? Insurgency is continuing and expanding. There are reports of armed clashes between the militants and the security forces and many security personnel falling prey to the militants' bullets. In the Mahur incident of August 5, 15 security personnel were ambushed and killed and this was an incident of armed clash.

The entire North Eastern Region is very sensitive and volatile area with different groups of extremists working. A sense of alienation of the people of this area is growing. A sense of deprivation and a feeling that the Central Government is acting in an imperial way and treating the States in the North Eastern Region as the colonies of the Center is gaining ground. Taking advantage of this situation, vested interests try to keep up with the violent activities. To kill a few to stay in power and wallow in self is their motto

now. So, this is the terrible situation obtaining in this area.

Now the denial of people the right to have their own Government may go a long way to alienate them further. Insurgency is growing with alienation. We therefore should seriously think over about the situation. For that we demand that democratic process must immediately start. When democracy is strengthened, we can weaken the separatist forces. Therefore, I think that the democratic process should start immediately. The situation in that area should not be allowed further to deteriorate and create another Kashmir in the North Eastern Region,

I once again request the Government to go in for elections and restore democracy.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir just now a statutory resolution has been moved to extend the President's rule in Nagaland. From the democratic point of view, President's rule is not considered a healthy move. Not only this, the way Nagaland Legislative Assembly was dissolved and an atmosphere of political instability was created by the Central Government which was manipulating the political situation from Delhi was also not good. Be it Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh or any other place creating political disturbance or instability and toppling Governments in these states is not proper. Political developments there are no more secret now. Despite the President's rule there, the manner in which the underground terrorist organisation killed 16-17 security personnel a few days back and with the air of Myanmar and Bangladesh is certainly a matter of grave concern. I think that since the President's rule is there, the Central Government is directly responsible to review the situation there properly. On the one hand it is said that after imposing President's rule, the Government has tried to improve the deteriorating law and order situation there, whereas, on the other hand, Nagaland was the focus of attention of the entire world. We thought that

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

the developments after Shri Phizo and Shri Michel Scott were good. Efforts were made by our army and paramilitary forces to contain terrorism, peace had prevailed in Nagaland, and it was brought to the mainstream of the country. Now the atmosphere that has been create there creates doubts in our minds whether the Central Government which has imposed President's rule there is aware of the facts or not. Therefore, attention needs to be paid there immediately

17.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Nagaland is a sensitive state. It is surrounded by Burma on the one side, China on the other and Assam on the third. The situation in Assam on that is being created by ULFA also cannot be considered good. The need of the hour is that the reins of Government should be given into the hands of the elected representatives of the people of the State so that they may feel that they belong to this very country and are partners in power. They should be made to feel that they are the part of Government. Such circumstances have been created that it has become compulsory to impose President's Rule in the State. Therefore, Government should hold elections there as soon as possible and hand over the power to the elected representatives of the people of the State so that President's rule should bot continue any longer. In view of the tendency being developed there, I would like the Government to pay special attention to the State. The underground Naga Militant Organisations are killing the innocent people and attacking our security forces inspite of the presence of our forces in a large number there. Has any relief been provided to the families of military personnel. I would like to know wheter any additional forces have been sent to bring the situation under control there and Government taken any measures to ensure that extremists do not intrude into our territory from outside the country

I would like the hon. Minister to give maximum information. From democratic point of view I oppose the Bill introduced in order to extend the period of President's rule. I am of the opinion that conditions have come to such a pass that it perhaps had become necessary to impose President,s Rule in the State.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheshor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Janata Dal I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Government to extend President's Rule for a period of six months in Nagaland. Through you, I would like to know from the Government the reason for taking this step? The detection took place there and Congress failed to form a Government of its choice. A short while ago the Prime Minister has take n an initiative to increase the pension of the freedom-fighters, just after the Government has tried to murder the democracy in the State by introducing this motion seeking to extend the President's Rule in Nagaland. I find it a paradoical and it seems that Government has scant regard for the August revolution and freedom struggle. The argument given by Government for extension of President's rule is that electrol rolls were being revised. Is not it a false argument ? The electoral rolls are always ready. Had the Government written to the Election Commission about its desire to hold elections in Nagaland? Has the Election Commission given any information as to whether it was possible to hold elections in the State or not? Has the Election Commission said that the electoral rolls were not ready? Why does the Government not want to hold elections in the State? Why is it afraid of holding elections? Government has tried to murder the democracy in the State and removed the elected Government alleging that the Chief Minister was encouraging the defection. Has the Government not done the something by encouraging the defection in the state ?
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Hari

Kishore Singh, we will up Half-an-Hour discussion now and you can continue after that.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, with the permission of the House, I am just putting one suggestion. Because this Nagaland Resolution is sandwiched in between and it is very difficult after the Half-an-Hour discussion, to resume this discussion I am submitting to the hon. Member from our side that we discuss and finish this item on Nagaland and after that we take up Half-an-Hour discussion and then the House can be adjourned.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the desire of the House to do so?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Okay.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Hari Kishore Singh may continue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: The motion moved by Government to extend the term of President's Rule for another six months in Nagaland is deplorable and we oppose it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the history of violence and disturbance in the State is very long. Peace was established there on the initiative of late Shir Jai Prakash Narayan and the democratic process was started. The Government is now giving up this policy because of its farsightedness to serve its petty ends. It has started encouraging defection in Nagaland and other eastern states and whatever success was achieved there is now being thrown to the winds. It has also encouraged defection on national level in this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we feel ashamed of all this and we want to warn the Government that the situation which is being devel-

oped in Nagaland, Manipur is not in the interests of the country. I request the Government to initiate the process of election in the State so that people may get their democratic rights.

I oppose the Bill with these words.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the extension of term of President's Rule in Nagaland on the ground that the situation of Nagaland is not worse than Punjab. If elections can be held in Punjab then why elections can not be held in Nagaland and the Government can not be constituted in the State? But I think Government does not want to hold elections in the State, because it knows that if elections are held, their party would not come into power. The Government has not been ousted there on some legal grounds. But it has been ousted by engineering defection on Government should have taken action against the members under anti-defection law and suspended the members who had defected from one party to another. According to defection law if a member changes the party on the symbol of which he had won the election then he would lose his membership. But we have seen that ruling party neglect such incidents wherever they happen. Therefore defection has become very common now-a-days.

Sir, therefore, my submission is this that there is no need of extending President's Rule in Nagaland. Government should hold elections there and give the power in the hands of the people of that party to which the people of Nagaland may give mandate to rule. Article 356 of constitution should be invoked in respect of only that state where conditions have become the worst. It is understandable if this article is invoked in Kashmir, but we fail to understand if it is invoked in respect of Nagaland. My submission is this that Government should hold elections there and give the power in the hands of the elected representatives of the people. But the period of president's Rule should not be extended. I oppose and conclude with these words.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy, Sir, I am very much for having a popular Government in Nagaland. But, at present, I would like to support the statutory Resolution moved by the Government for the extension of the President's rule there. In Nagaland, at present the situation is not congenial for conducting the election because of various factors. Firstly, the law and order situation is not so encouraging and it requires to be stabilised because the activities of NSCN and others are creating problems there. So, the people are not ready for the election now. If the election is not conducted properly and if it is not a free and fair election, then it will be meaningless. So, in the circumstances, an election in the near future, that is, before the 2nd October will not be possible and it may not be practicable also.

Sir, during the President's rule also, if the Government thinks that the situation has improved for conducting the election, it can be held and the Government can come up with a proposal for that purpose. We must encourage the people to have a free and fair election in Nagaland. So, in view of the above circumstances, I would like to support the statutory Resolution moved by the Government, for the extension of the President's rule in Nagaland.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous district): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, apart from my fundamental difference about the imposition of President's rule in different States of the country, I express my dissatisfaction or rather I cannot agree with the statement read out by hon. Home Minister while seeking the extension of President's rule in Nagaland.

The hon. Minister has mentioned that people are now having faith in the administration. I am saying this apart from party philosophy—and ideology. I want to apprise the House about the ground situation in

Nagaland because my Constituency, that is, the hill district of Assam, is just across Nagaland. Socially, economically, ethnically, our people are very close to Nagaland. During the debate on the Bill when the President's rule was imposed, though different Opposition parties opposed the move, in fact, the lone Member from Nagaland who belonged to that ruling party, whose Government was dissolved, that Member himself supported the imposition of President's rule. After that also, there was no marked aversion or reaction against President's rule because people of Nagaland thought that, once President's rule is imposed, at least people will get the benefit of the developmental schemes and the position of over-draft and other corruption will be finished. But now the ground reality is that the Administration is still far away from the people. I have met villagers because my village is hardly 2-3 KM across Nagaland. There are small bills of Rs. 2,000/- or Rs. 3,000/- which are still pending for four or five years. Even after President's rule, the position has not yet changed and so far as law and order situation is concerned, the hon. Minister mentioned that the situation of law and order has improved. But I am afraid the ground realities are totally different. Rather, the activities of the insurgents are increasing and they have spread to my Constituency. There was the incident in Mahur. Then a few months back, even politician like the Speaker of Nagaland was ambushed in my Constituency and they say that there are reports that regrouping is going on in regard to Karbi-Anglong-North Cachar hills in Nagaland border where different ethnic groups are now regrouping themselves. That is why, I think that Government should take a serious note. It does not matter whether elections will be held or will not be held. It does not matter much for Nagaland because successive Governments have come and gone. But the further Naga issue, the basic problem, is yet to be solved. Your Government should take steps, fundamentally or basically or seriously, to solve the Naga issue. The Naga problem is lingering even after Shillong accord, even after installing popular Government. This issue is still lingering.

Your Government should take active and concrete steps so that this problem can be solved.

I will just conclude by mentioning one point that the people of North-East are waiting eagerly to have a democratic package, economic package, from the Government of India. When we are speaking of Quit India Movement, we are speaking so much about democracy and the freedom struggle. But the experience of North-Eastern people is that the package we are getting from the Central Government is only in the form of harsh law. Assam-Manipur Special Arms Act and Assam Disturbed Areas Act and such other types of packages only we are getting. But we are not getting the democratic package from the Central Government and this democratic package can only have a healing touch and I fully disagree with the view of some people that the people of North-East, Nagaland, are being brought into the mainstream. I will just conclude. But I will tell you this that the democratic system in Nagaland and also in the tribal villages of the North-Eastern Region is for better than the democratic system of the so-called mainstream areas. In Nagaland, each and every village is having a village Council where regular election is going on so, I do not see why and how the election cannot be held in Nagaland in proper time. So, I hope that during this time, the Government would make serious efforts to revive the democratic process and solve the Naga issue permanently. also, in the neighbouring areas, there are the Karbi and North Cachar Hill State movement; Bodo movement which are going on. So, the Government should try to solve this issue in a quick manner so that the things at precipitate there.

With this hope, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if any disturbance takes place in the Eastern States, it is not a good sign for this country. Therefore, if some Central Ministers encourage defection and work to oust the Government

then it is not a good thing for this country. There should not exist any State of uncertainty. The organisation of underground Nagas had killed more than seventeen security personnel, it is not good. Terrorism is on the increase there. If conditions are improving and voters' list is ready then elections should be held on democratic lines immediately and the period of President's Rule should not be extended. I hope that Central Government would end the State of uncertainty and hold elections in Nagaland.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before we take up the reply by the hon. Home Minister, there is a small business, that is, the Report of the Business Advisory Committee to be presented by Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam.

17.48 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twentieth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, I beg to present the Twentieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.49 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE OF PROCLAMATION IN RESPECT OF NAGALAND
-CONTD.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, I am thankful to the Members who have participated in the discussion regarding extension of President's Rule in Nagaland. From the trend of the discussion, I could appreciate the points mentioned by the hon. Members that to keep up democracy and maintain democracy, there should be election in Nagaland. I fully agree with the general theme. But, Sir, You must appreciate the background in which this Government took a decision for imposing president's Rule after the Chief Minister advised the Governor to dissolve the Assembly. Then for running a caretaker Government even a substantial

number of Ministers deserted that Caretaker Government. That was the background under which this Government had to impose President's Rule on 2nd April this year.

Sir, when Presidential Rule was imposed, in fact, we inherited a deficit to the tune of Rs. 141 crores. Besides that, outstanding Bills to the tune of Rs. 90 crores were to be paid. my hon. Friend Dr. Jayanta Rongpi was mentioning about the Bills which have not been paid. At that time pending, bills to the tune of Rs. 90 crores were there. After taking over, the payments are started. The deficit is being covered.

There is another aspect. I would like to draw your attention to one of the serious points at that when the President's Rule was imposed. It is that we found that including the foreign nationals, some undesirable elements got into the state under an outlawed organisation called Naga Vigil. And it appeared that their operations in Nagaland continued with a patronage of certain powers in the State administration. so, we realised that the presence of such groups with headquarters in London, operating in this beautiful State of Nagaland working among the people and spreading venom of secession and also hatred towards the rest of India will ultimately land up in a dangerous situation. So, finally, the two foreigners with their accomplice who were with them, with the

insurgents, were arrested and still they are undergoing normal course of law. They are in the jails. After that general law and order situation improved. That was mentioned in the statement earlier read out while moving the Motion. It does not mean that there is no insurgency. There is insurgency. We have to make a serious effort to contain the insurgency in Nagaland. The NSCN which is the link for the parent agencies for many of the underground outfits in the North-Eastern States have their origin in Nagaland and their tentacles spread in various parts of North-East. We have got sufficient evidence that the training camp for the insurgents of NSCN are operating across the border in Mynamar and in Bangladesh. When we took up the matter with the Mynamar Government they denied the knowledge of existence of any training camps where terrorists and militants are being trained. But the Bangladesh Government agree to look into this and if there are training camps going on in the dense forests there on the borders on the other side, they will certainly help in removing or eliminating such training camps from their soil. We have to find a solution to this kind of problems step by step.

There was large scale smuggling of arms across the country, across the border. Though it is not fully stopped yet we are confident that a substantial amount of smuggling operation is being stopped including that of narcotics drugs and arms and ammunition. We are intensifying the vigil through which our para-military forces and the other outfits spread across the border.

When we promulgated the Presidential rule, lot of corruption charges were very much known to the public in the State. That is why, people welcomed the imposition of the President's rule in Nagaland at that time. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Heohar): What is the evidence that the people have welcomed this. Why don't you hold elections? Did you hold referendum? Kindly give assurance to us that this is the last time

that you are coming for the extension. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIM.M. JACOB: The evidence which we hear is related to the newspaper reports, prevalent in that area. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH: Why are you afraid of elections? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Even there were case in which several serious lapses about the administration were noticed including withdrawal of money without sufficient justification from the Government Treasury. All these are being investigated and the case against the then chief Secretary is now in the hands of the CBI.

The case is also being progressed. The enquiry about many of these corruption cases are in progress and the new Government is taking a very stern action in the corruption cases. Everyone in Nagaland will agree that there is sufficient progress in handling the prevention of corruption cases.

One thing I must say about the public distribution system. Even our opponents will agree that food is available in all the districts of Nagaland through the public distribution system. There might be an argument then that people do not have money in their hands, because money circulation has got reduced, what is the use of food being available in a godown in district. That is another point. We have to find more work, more employment and more opportunities for the people to improve their purchasing capacity. That is a must and the Government is looking into that seriously at this moment. So public distribution system has shown remarkable improvement.

The overall change in the administrative environment is also very much seen from various aspects. Why I am seeking for the extension of the President's rule now for six months is that in our Constitution the extension is always for only six months. There is no provision for an extension for a lesser period than six months. But the intention is

not to go up to that six months boundary line and then hold the election. As early as possible we want to hold the elections in Nagaland. We are working towards that only. But we want the normalcy to be achieved in certain areas and fronts.

People coming from Nagaland - the hon. Members who are sitting on that side, who spoke on Nagaland - must also agree that monsoon in the north-east, in Nagaland, will last up to October. No tarred roads are there, there are only kuchcha roads. When the monsoon comes, the roads are really washed away. Even when you cross from one area to another, there should be at least tolerably satisfactory communications. It takes time for us to reorganise the system of communication after the monsoon. Then the harvesting season in the State is in October-November. So unless we are able to hold the elections before October second, which is not possible for the reasons of monsoon and other difficulties, we are seeking the extension for six months. But our endeavour is to see that the election is conducted as early as possible.

I hope the Members would appreciate the problems which I mentioned, including the increased insurgency which we are trying in to contain which we have successfully contained in many parts. There is no killing as you have seen. Six months back in Dimapur area, which is supposed to be a business and trading area where a large number of non-locals are living, continuous kidnapping, extortion and killings were there. Now nothing is heard from the Dimapur area. The area is quiet.

It is true that the attack is directed against the para-military forces and the police personnel who are in the State operating against the militants and insurgents. That shows the para-military forces and the police are doing a tremendous and commendable job to contain the militancy and insurgency. So the militants also must have stepped up their action in certain areas directed against the para-military forces which we are aware of. We are prepared to give full protection to the

approval of continuance in force of proclamation in respect of Nagaland

[Sh. M.M. Jacob]

para-military forces by taking sufficient precaution. We want to see that the people of Nagaland, who are essentially peace loving and good people must enjoy the fruits of democracy and freedom, live in the country, in the great nation of India as a part and parcel of this great nation.

I request the House to endorse the extension and approve the motion.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous District): So far as the short-term measures like election process, strengthening the public distribution system and holding anti-corrupting drive is concerned, I can understand. But my point is that holding elections and doing the anti-corrupting drive will not solve the Naga problem. As long as the Naga problem exists, even after having a popular government, this will linger on.

18.00 hrs.

We have seen this frame can past experience. One peculiar thing is that though insurgency is going on since decades, election time is somehow very peaceful. In States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where there is no insurgency, there is a lot of violence during elections. But, in Nagaland and Mizoram, holding elections is no problem at all. But in my opinion, holding elections is only a short term measure. It is not going to solve the Naga problem on a permanent footing. I would like to know from the Government of India and the hon. Home Minister as to what action plan they are proposing, what steps they are going to take and what vision they have, with regard to solving the Naga problem permanently.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, we are prepared to go to any extent to have a dialogue with anyone in Nagaland who accepts the Constitution of India. We are prepared to meet even the militants or insurgents who are prepared to come to the negotiating table, accepting the constitutional obligations of this great country. We are prepared

to have any dialogue with any political party in the State to achieve peace and prosperity in the State.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Statutory Resolution to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation, dated the 2nd April, 1992 in respect of Nagaland, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 2nd October, 1992."

The motion was adopted

18.02 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re. Prices and availability of essential Commodities

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): There is strident rise in the prices of a large number of commodities, especially essential commodities like rice, wheat and edible oil and also the life saving drugs. In the answer given by the hon. Minister Shri Kamaluddin on 7.5.1992 in Rajya Sabha, he himself has admitted that there was an increase in the prices of essential commodities. May I point out the difference in prices - both wholesale and retail - of essential commodities in Delhi alone between April 1991 and April 1992 I will also give their percentage variation, for the information of hon. Members. The wholesale price of rice in April 1991 per quintal was Rs. 483 as against Rs. 564 in 1992 April. In April 1991, the retail price of rice per kilogram was Rs. 6 and it went upto Rs. 7 in April 1992. The percentage variation is +16.8. Similarly in the case of wheat, the wholesale price per quintal was Rs. 303 in April 1991, which increased to Rs. 389 in April 1992, the percentage variation being +28.4. In the case of