

further quantity of 20.01 tonnes was sent. On 11th July, a further quantity of 10.01 tonnes was sent. On 18th July, a further quantity of 12.09 tonnes was sent. Thus in all, the Reserve Bank of India has sent abroad for safe custody with the Bank of England a total quantity of 46.91 tonnes.

Against the pledge of 46.91 tonnes of gold, the Reserve Bank of India can borrow for a period of one month at a time a total sum of about ₹ 400 million to help us tide over the serious liquidity problems we are now facing.

With the transfer abroad of the final instalment of gold on 18th July, the whole operation has been completed as originally planned. For obvious security reasons, the movements of gold had necessarily to be done without prior public announcement. Hereafter no further gold from the Reserve Bank of India stock will be sent abroad.

The export of gold was a painful necessity. However, I am confident that the various measures we have now taken will, over a period of time, lead to a significant improvement of our balance of payments. It will be my sincere effort to work to bring back to India as early as possible the gold we have sent abroad.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): I have sent a note for clarification. What happened? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): In reply to a question, some assurance was given by the Minister.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Is it true that during the period April to June we had an export surplus? Is it being put to use? Is it still high? *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. Shri Ahamed may speak now.

18.10 hrs.

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

(English)

SHRI E AHAMED (Manjeri) Mr. Speaker. Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks moved by the hon Member, Shri Buta Singh, on behalf of my Party, the Indian Union Muslim League.

Sir, for the last three days, this House has been discussing the Address of the President. All these three days I have been listening to the speeches made by the hon Members of this House, particularly the leaders of the Parties. The President's Address, Sir, has prompted the hon. Members of this House, particularly the leaders of political parties to . . .

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) Sir, may I draw your attention to one thing? A Minister of a State Government is present in the House. As far as I remember, Sir, there was a Ruling in the Lok Sabha . . .

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): She made a speech today in the morning.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Mr. Advani will corroborate this. There is a Ruling in the Lok Sabha that a Minister of a State Government is not permitted to speak in the Lok Sabha. In the Rajya Sabha there is a different directive. Since she has already spoken, the entire speech must be expunged from the proceedings of the House, Sir, I want a Ruling on this.

MR. SPEAKER. I will look into it.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, she is a Member of the Lok Sabha.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I know that. Precisely there is a Ruling on this. So, he or she will not be allowed to speak here unlike in the Rajya Sabha. There is a slight difference between the rules of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, during the discussion on the President's Address, it was interesting to see that leaders of political parties are hurling the charges and counter-charges especially with regard to the present-day economic crisis. May I say, Sir, the present situation is the result of some of the reckless policies pursued by the previous government. All these national political parties had their share in power at some time or the other barring the Left Parties. But there is no meaning in arguing or hurling the charges and counter-charges. It is time for all of us to rise above the party politics and to sit together and find solutions to the problems facing the country.

Sir, I would like to say that the President's Address is a document of political and social emancipation of the country. Many of the leaders have described the President's Address as a document containing nothing I disagree with that view. According to me, Sir, this Address of the President is the enunciation of the policies of the present Government in the context of immediate priorities as well as in the realisation of the long-term national objectives. The President has depicted a true picture of what India is today and he also has promised certain remedial measures for solving the problems. Sir, I do not want to take much of the time of the House on these matters, but I am just inviting the attention of this House to a very important matter concerning the country. The fissiparous tendency is growing in a dangerous way in the body politic of this country. This fissiparous tendency, according to me, Sir, is not a law and order problem, not even a political issue. This is a problem concerning the very unity and integrity of the country. The President, in his address, has men-

tioned certain measures as to how we will be able to tackle these issues. Unfortunately, many of the leaders who have participated in the discussion have forgotten to mention the growing communal and social divide in this country. Unfortunately in this country we find the communal divide which, according to me, is much worse a phenomenon and we have to take whatever steps possible to contain this and also put an end to such a phenomenon. As a matter of fact, this malaise is deep-rooted and we have no soft option to tide it over. I venture to ask: why are our people quarrelling in the name of religion? Why are they being killed in the name of religion? There is no place for such things in our religions.

Sir, I come from the State of Kerala which is a very small State. I feel Kerala can serve as a model for many northern States in terms of its tradition of communal harmony, amity, social progress and political achievement. Kerala is a living example of communal harmony where one can see the peaceful coexistence of temples, churches and mosques. They stand side by side as a picture of perfect communal harmony. This is the time for our national leaders to strive hard to propagate and emulate this cultural heritage of Kerala. The cultural heritage of Kerala is an integral part of Indian heritage. We have been following truthfully, we have been adhering honestly the principle handed down to us by no less a person than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He had said that the unity of this country is in diversity. We have been following this principle all along. Therefore, this is high time for our people to learn to live in perfect harmony.

Sir, there are many problems that the President has mentioned in his Address. One of which is the Babri Masjid-Ram Janma Bhoomi dispute. Much has been said about it. There is a civil case pending before the High Court Bench at Lucknow. Therefore, I do not want to go into the merit of the case. But, at the very same time, we have to deal with the political

aspect of the case. Here, in the name of this unfortunate dispute many people have been killed, Hindus, Muslims, but all are Indians. Therefore, the mention made by the President in his Address with respect to the solution is a welcome feature.

Para 9, at page 3, the Address says

"We cannot allow communal elements to defile their sanctity by using such places as instruments to generate controversy and discord. Government will make every effort to find a negotiated settlement to the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue with due regard to the sentiments of both communities involved."

This is, of course, a welcome feature. But at the same time, I may also invite the attention of the Government to their election Manifesto, of their Congress Party which was released by no less a person than late lamented Shri Rajiv Gandhi. In this election manifesto at page 29 on Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid, it is stated

"The Congress is committed to finding a negotiated settlement of this issue which fully respects the sentiments of both communities involved. If such a settlement cannot be reached, all parties must respect the order and verdict of the court. The Congress is for the construction of the Temple without dismantling the mosque."

In the President's Address, I do not find the wording, namely "If such a settlement cannot be reached, all parties must respect the order and verdict of the court" I think, it may be an omission by oversight.

Therefore, what I venture to say is that if we try our best to have a negotiated settlement on this burning issue, it is the duty of everybody to help for such an amicable settlement. By any chance, if we fail to have negotiated settlement, we have to wait for the verdict of the court. It is the duty of every citizen in a civilised society to respect such a verdict of the court of law.

Another important issue, I would like to mention here is with regard to reservation. We always support the principle of reservation. But at the same time, I may say that the position of the minorities, the Muslims in this country is very much deplorable. Muslims are to be taken as a backward class all over the country. In Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, Muslims have been included as a backward class as enshrined in articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution. But in the whole of India, it has not been given. Even in the Mandal Commission Report, there are several anomalies. We have given a qualified support to the Mandal Commission report with the condition that such anomalies, especially with respect to the Muslims of Kerala should be removed. Therefore, we are for reservation but we request that the minorities should be given special reservation. Unless and until such reservations in jobs are made for the minorities, it will be difficult for government to take the backward section of the people to the national mainstream.

18.24 hrs. SHRI P. M. SAYEED
in the Chair

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps so as to include the Muslims as a backward class and to give them special quota in the reservation, whether it is in the announced quota of 27% or by some other means.

May I also bring to the notice of the Government, the present deplorable position of the Muslims in the service? Their representation in the services is woefully inadequate. Muslims representation in the public sector undertakings is also very low. Therefore, the Government should strive hard to make some provision for the Muslims in providing jobs. If necessary, reservation should also be made. We are not very much interested in giving some Ministerial or Ambassadorship to the poor Muslims. We are really interested in getting job

[Sh. E. Ahamed]

at grass-root level. I hope the Government will bear this matter in mind and take necessary urgent steps

Another important point I would like to bring to the attention of the Government is the security and protection of the life and property as well as the honour of the members of the minority communities

I very much appreciate the point made by the President in his Address with respect to the formation of a composite rapid action force. It is disgraceful that the constabulary under the control of the State Government have been taking partisan attitude in dealing with communal riots. Therefore, this idea that has been given by the late lamented Shri Rajiv Gandhi that such a situation will be dealt with by forming a composite rapid action force is a welcome feature and it will definitely be a sigh of relief if the Government will take urgent steps for the formation of such a rapid action force to deal with communal riots

May I also bring to the notice of the Government some of the problems facing the minorities in the country such as their difficulties to get admission in colleges and schools? Even now Muslims, as a minority community, are very much backward in education. Unless and until the Government also extends a helping hand, it will be very difficult for them to get necessary educational facilities. I hope the Government will appreciate these difficulties of the minority communities and take appropriate steps in this matter.

May I also mention here Sir, a word about Jammu and Kashmir? Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. No force in this country can take away Jammu and Kashmir from our country. But at the very same time, I urge upon the Government that the ordinary man who has the patriotism and also faith in the mainland of India, may also be taken into consideration. The Government and the

authorities should deal sympathetically with them. Therefore, the political process should be initiated in Jammu and Kashmir. That alone will bring everlasting peace for that province of India

I may also make one point with regard to the foreign policy of our Government. The President has made elaborate mention with regard to the foreign policy. But during the last Gulf War period, it so happened that our Government has given a wrong signal to the countries in the Gulf region. The stand taken by the then Government was very much confusing. It is high time for the Government of India to remove the misunderstanding, if any, in the minds of the rulers of Gulf countries and Government should also take all necessary measures to improve the commercial link of India with those countries, taking into account the close proximity and also the possibility of improving our export. This should also be taken note of. The Government should also explore what are the commodities that we will be able to export to the Gulf countries. But unfortunately we do not have very good salesmanship in that region. Much of our opportunity has been ignored and much of our resource has not been tapped as far as this is concerned. Therefore, Sir, again with all due respect to the Opposition parties, may I say that we would like to have a consensus as far as the Administration of this country is concerned. This is the time to join together and solve the problems facing this country.

With these few words, I support once again the Motion moved by Shri Buta Singh and I conclude my speech

SHRI IMCHALEMBA (Nagaland): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our chance should have come much earlier. But till today, we are not getting the chance at all

MR. CHAIRMAN I have a long list. We have already decided

to sit late and then finish. Every body will get a chance.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Are you maintaining any list or are you adopting pick and choose method? Are you maintaining that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I am not going by pick and choose system. I have been advised by the Speaker how to proceed. He has given me the list. Alicady, the list is there. If you go on arguing like this, we will be further delaying our sitting here. May I seek your cooperation for doing help to you? Please be resuming your seat. I will now ask Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar to speak.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar): We have been waiting here for three days. All the parties should be given the chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name has already been included. You are the third speaker, according to the Speaker's list.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks.

Sir, the President's Address reflects the courage and conviction of a party that recognizes its historic role as the natural party of governance of this great country of ours. Time and again, our democracy has afforded the opportunity to non-Congress parties to demonstrate their mettle. Almost always and almost everywhere - the notable exception being West Bengal in the last 15 years - the country and the States concerned have turned wearily away from non-Congress misgovernance and returned to the Party with the unbroken lineage of 106 years from Allan Octavian Hume to Rajiv Gandhi and now Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao.

Sir, I urge the Government to act as it has spoken, without fear and without inhibition, in consonance with the great principles and tradition of the Congress Party and in keeping with the Congress Manifesto - to the last will and testament of Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

I know - as but two or three other Members of this House know - how much the Congress Election Manifesto was the personal handiwork of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. There were, of course, numerous drafts submitted and numberless suggestions made. These were considered with attention, sifted with care, and structured into a coherent philosophy of action and a programme of work. But, in the end, it was Rajiv Gandhi's own Manifesto, as much in concept as in detail. The broad brushstrokes were his as much as was the fine print. I hope I am betraying no secrets when I say that the release of the Manifesto was delayed by over a week because Shri Rajiv Gandhi wished to go over it line by line, clause by clause, para by para. I do not know why he wished to pay so much attention to it. Perhaps, he had a premonition of his coming death, perhaps it was merely a reflection of his usual punctiliousness. However that might be, the fact is that he meticulously crafted a charter of governance for the Congress Party over the next five years. Provided we remain true to the spirit and the vision of Rajiv Gandhi's last will and testament, nothing can deflect the Congress from remaining, even after the end of the era of massive majorities, the natural party of governance, whatever the temporary ups and downs of our electoral fortunes in any particular election. We fully recognise and understand the mathematics of the composition of the Tenth Lok Sabha. There are two fundamental coordinates. One, we are overwhelmingly the largest Party in the House. Two, we are slightly short of a majority. Therefore, as the Prime Minister underlined, there will have to be much greater consultation and much greater

[Sh. Mani Shankar Aiyar]

cooperation among all parties to enlarge the area of understanding and agreement. This would have been so even if we had secured a comfortable majority for, as the Prime Minister stressed—and I quote:

"I can assure you that I will keep my mind open. The Government mind will be absolutely open to new ideas, new innovative ideas that may be coming from any quarter."

I would request the House, Mr Speaker, Sir, to contrast the sheer graciousness of that statement with the utter gracelessness of some of the remarks we have been hearing from the benches opposite during the debate on this Motion of Thanks. There have been, I am happy to say, some constructive suggestions and some interesting new avenues of thought but, by and large, instead of responding to the new spirit invoked by the Prime Minister, the Opposition have merely opened their old bag of tricks: denigration, denunciation and destructiveness. They seem to think they have us by the short hairs because we are marginally short of a majority. Let me remind them it takes two hands to clap. Our hand is ready. Theirs apparently is not. So we are treated to homilies about what they call the "new realities."

What new realities? They were divided when they cohabited on these Benches. They are divided now on those. They divided the country when they ran the Government in a comical three-legged race. They seek to divide the country now that they are in Opposition. There was a politics of opportunism in Government. There is a politics of expediency now in Opposition.

The largest of the Opposition parties does not have even half the strength of the Congress. The loudest of the Opposition parties would not be able to fill even one bogie of a railway train. The membership in the House of most other Opposition

parties can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

In the name of consensus, these warring groupuscules of the Opposition are trying to effect a backdoor entry into governance. The Government must stand warned against such illegitimate efforts to capture the levers of power. This Government is our Government. This Government is a Congress Government. Our duty is limited to carrying with us our allies, such as the Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. For the rest we will, of course, consult the Opposition, but let them not forget that consultation is being undertaken in the higher interest of the nation. It cannot be a trap to turn the hunter into the hunted.

Issue by issue we must see how we can carry our programmes through. That will require consensus, conciliation and concord. But not consensus born out of cowardice. Nor conciliation bred out of cowering. Nor, indeed, concord nurtured on cringing. It must mean consensus consistent with the cardinal principles of the Congress heritage. It must mean conciliation consistent with the Congress tradition of carrying the nation with it. It must mean concord consistent with Congress concepts and the Congress vision.

If, on this basis, the cooperation of sections of the Opposition is available on specific issues, we welcome that cooperation, we welcome every effort to widen areas of agreement and put aside areas of disagreement. But if cooperation consistent with our principles is not forthcoming on key issues that brook no delay, then we have no fear of returning to the people—for democracy decrees that the ultimate arbiter is always the people.

Merely to survive, no Congress government can become a BJP government in disguise—a kind of wolf in sheep's clothing, no Congress government can become a Left Front government in disguise—a kind of wolf in wolf's clothing, nor, indeed,

can any Congress government become a National Front government in disguise—a kind of sheep in sheep's clothing. No, Sir, we must remain ourselves. We are the party of the Freedom Movement; the Party of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi. We are the Party of Rajiv Gandhi. We are now the party of Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao. We cannot be the party of that former Prime Minister who told us about all the pressures from abroad which he claimed that were subjecting us to decision making at the behest of foreigners. He is one who buckled like a man of straw in the face of American imperialism and allowed American war planes to be refuelled on our soil, when the Americans were conducting an imperialist war against a fellow Asian country.

The President's Address may lack the philosophical musings of Syed Shahabuddin, the blood and thunder of Shri Somnath Chatterji's oratory, the ritual incantation of "Jai Sri Ram" of the BJP. It may, indeed, read in places, like as Syed Shahabuddin observed like an office note. But an office note has the inestimable advantage of constituting a programme of work to be carried out over the next twelve months. It is a principled programme, it is a practical programme, it is a pragmatic programme. Almost everything that is in it cannot but attract the support of everyone or almost everyone in this House. May I specifically refer, in this context, to the desperately needed programme to supply of drinking water to every village, which the Government propose to name after Rajiv Gandhi? I am sure all or most sections of the House would wish to support us on such issues.

There are however, some other issues, more controversial in nature. For example, the firm stand taken in the President's Address on legislation in regard to preserving the status quo of places of worship as on Independence Day 1947 and the Ram Jamma-

bhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute. On such issues, it is the Congress' view that must prevail, whatever be the consequences. We cannot, in the name of consensus, forsake our secularism and let ourselves be drowned by the waves of saffron that are threatening to engulf from behind such basically decent, rational men as Advaniji, Atalji and Jaswantji. They are the victims of the Frankenstein which they themselves have created. There is no need for the rest of the House—or, indeed, the country to suffer a similar fate.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must draw attention to a gaping lacuna in the President's Address. There is no mention at all of the Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika Constitution Amendment Bills drafted by the Rajiv Gandhi government and defeated on the floor of the Rajya Sabha by a tiny handful of votes. Our Manifesto had promised to bring that legislation before Parliament in this Budget session.

Of course, as the Prime Minister pointed out in his reply to the debate on the Vote of Confidence, Constitutional legislation is distinctly different to other legislation. As we command less than half the votes in this House (and the position is much the same in the other House), we cannot hope to pass such far-reaching Constitutional Amendments without an accretion of support from the Opposition Benches. But there is always scope for bringing the Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika Bills forward in their entirety, as drafted by Rajiv Gandhi, to Parliament and then, if necessary, referring them to a Joint or Select Committee for further consideration.

Given the crucial importance which Shri Rajiv Gandhi attached to saving our democracy by granting Constitutional protection to democracy at the grassroots, I would plead with the Government to clarify its position on these Constitutional amendments when it replies to this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Charles to speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will we not get a chance to speak? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker was here for one hour and I have just now occupied the Chair. Now, you have seen that three important opposition leaders continuously speaking in this House. From the ruling party only Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar spoke. I am calling out the names according to the list drawn already. As per that list, I am going. Definitely everyone of you will be getting his chance. Kindly bear with me now. Mr. Charles.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: One after another, only the Congress Members are speaking. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the matter now? All the Members of your party are on the list. I try to accommodate everybody. After Atal Bihari Vajpayee three opposition leaders spoke. Your name is there, you will get a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: I have my own party and I have my right to speak. I am waiting for the opportunity. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Sir, my suggestion is that you should give opportunity to all the Members on the List.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tirkey, you are a senior Member, you know the procedure. After all, we have to

conduct the business of the House. Please bear with me. We have already extended the time of the House

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If all of you talk together, how will I take a decision?

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: In the Ninth Lok Sabha I was in the Panel of Chairman. My experience was that either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker or whoever is in the Chair makes an initial arrangement of speakers. In the course of the debate, some re-doing of the list has to be done. It always rests with the Member who is occupying the Chair at the moment, to alter any suggestion which may have been left by the earlier Chairman. Therefore what I want to submit is that there must have been some slipping somewhere. When Group A with four Members in the House has not been called upon to speak Group B with only one Member has already been called upon to speak. So, what I want to say is that there must have been some mistake in the list. This kind of priority is seldom indulged in by the Chair. This is my experience of the Ninth Lok Sabha. I was in the Rajya Sabha earlier to that. I know that this is what is happening. Therefore, I humbly request that all of them may be accommodated today itself. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I accept it. Definitely they will be accommodated. What I was telling is that all the three opposition leaders Shri Vajpayee, Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar have spoken just now. Then only Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar spoke.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not bring in party names here. We have taken all these things into account. Now, Mr. Charles.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: You have just now promised me and told that I would be the third speaker. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everyone will get his chance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: You have told me that I would be the third speaker. Why have you changed your own decision? I want to put it on record. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN. No, I have not said that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Yes, you have said that I would be the third speaker and that my name was there I am waiting for the third number. What is the decision that you have taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN. You have misunderstood. I told you that according to the list given, you are the third speaker. These are, Mr. Mam Shankar Aiyar, Mr. Charles and then Mr. Tirkey.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request all the hon. Members to bear with me. If you go on arguing for the chance that who will speak first, I think, we will be losing our time.

[Translation]

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH (Machhlipatnam): Mr. Chairman Sir, you read out all the names that are in the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of them are there. Your name is also there Shri K. P. Reddaiah.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): May I seek a clarification? If we are not able to

get time, can we lay our speech on the Table of the House so that it goes on the record of the House *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) I have also been waiting for my turn. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN Mr. Charles.

(Interruptions)

SHRI IMCHALEMBA. All the major political parties have exceeded the time given to them. There are also parties like us who have not been given time and we represent a State. What about us? We have given our names

MR CHAIRMAN Mr. Speaker has already given these four names: Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Mr. Charles and Mr. Tirkey and Mr. Mangal Ram Premi. He has taken one from BJP, one from Janata Dal, that is, Mr. V. P. Singh and one from Samajwadi Janata Dal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are from Nagaland Members from small small States and regions are there. You all will be getting your turn. Therefore, kindly bear with me. Let us shorten the speech.

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN. You have already wasted 15 minutes. Three persons could have been accommodated.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Sir, is it the complete list of speakers?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Charles...

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I stand to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved by hon. Shri Buta Singh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly be brief.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I have been waiting for the last two days. Kindly bear with me. We had been patiently listening when hon. Members from the Opposition were speaking. We are majority of the Members. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Don't boast about your majority. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. CHARLES: I have been called by the Chair. (*Interruptions*)

The President in his Address has given a broad outline of action to be taken during the next one year. Before going into the details of those programmes, with a deep sense of sorrow, I have to pay my respect and homage to our great departed leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The brutal assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has shaken the conscience of the people all over the world as has been rightly pointed out by the *Rashtrapati*. As has been rightly pointed out by *Rashtrapati* it was at a moment of grave crisis in the history of our nation that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was compelled to take the leadership and to guide the destinies of this great nation. Sir, at times he used to encourage and give us a new hope to the frustrated millions of the country. He guided the country to the penacles of glory within a short span of time but quite unfortunately, the destabilising forces both are within and outside the country had been very unkind to him. I do not want to mention any name in this connection. I have been hearing with rapt attention the speeches made by most of the leaders on the other side. Our respectable colleague, hon. Vajpayee said, while he started his speech, that there is a national crisis. The national crisis is not only one. It is political crisis, it is social crisis, it is moral crisis, it is economic crisis. But after mentioning all this, he had dwelt at length only on the economic crisis which we are facing in the country now.

Sir, in one or two minutes, I may mention about the political, social and moral crisis which the respectable Member had mentioned here. Sir, who is responsible for the present social and moral crisis? I plead with the Members on the other side to search their hearts, if any, for the reply. I had the privilege or the fortune or the misfortune to have been the Member of Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha. What was happening in the Eighth Lok Sabha? Shri Rajiv Gandhi, at an hour of crisis, when the whole world thought that our unity and integrity was lost by the cruel and inhuman assassination of our dear Indrajai, when the whole country was burning, was compelled and persuaded to assume the leadership of this great country. With painful heart, I may say that the people who were around him, the people whom he had trusted, people who had always supported him joined hands with the destabilising forces and simply betrayed him. It is a sad story. So, social and moral crisis that the country now facing is only because of the conspiracy of the destabilising forces at that time. But now I am very sorry to say that the former Prime Minister who spoke for about more than an hour spent about twenty minutes on Mandal Commission alone. I belong to a backward community. I had even to discontinue my studies in my younger days as I was unable to pay my fees. And so, I know the agony of the poor, common and a backward man. With a painful heart, I may say that the then Prime Minister, while he was issuing the order to implement the Mandal Commission Report, had betrayed the whole backward community of this country. (*Interruptions*)...The former Prime Minister had asked a pointed question as to why this Government is reluctant to give a reply to the order issued by the Supreme Court. I am not the person to answer. I am sure that the Treasury Benches will give a proper answer at the appropriate time. But, through you, may I ask a small question? How did he issue the orders for implementing the Mandal Commission? It was a *suo*

motu statement made by him. It was not an order issued by him. Like Buddha, one fine night, wisdom dawned on him and it appeared to him that 52 per cent of the backward communities of the whole nation have been betrayed for the last 25 years. In that period of 25 years, he had been the Congress Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh also. Every drop of blood in that person is of the Congress. But he defected from the Congress and he was received with garlands by hon. Members on the other side.

19.00 hrs.

He has been praised as a saint. What did he do? While issuing the *suo motu* statement, he has not released the list of backward communities eligible for reservation. That was a total betrayal. I ask him whether he stands by the list of backward communities mentioned in the report of the Mandal Commission. Sir, the problem is not merely giving reservations to the backward communities. The real problem is about the list. There are 3743 communities included in the list. What did he say while issuing the order? We all know that the order was issued just to stab the Tau whom he removed just like a sweeper without even giving a show cause notice. After all it was his politics. It is their business and we have nothing to do with it. But what has happened is this. The order did not contain the list of communities. It simply stated that 27 per cent of the reservations would be given for the backward communities and the list had to be prepared duly from the list given in the Mandal Report and the lists in all the States. Why did he not release the list. He was the Prime Minister then. If he were really sincere towards the backward community, he should have prepared the list. Now we find it very strange when he asks the present Prime Minister why in these two weeks he has not prepared the list. This is very surprising

Shri Paswan is not here. I wanted to ask him a few questions. In those days when he was a cabinet Minister I met him and I pleaded with him why the converted Christians from the Scheduled Castes should not be given the privilege when he extended the same privilege to Neo-Buddhists. But he refused to do that. What was his calculation? He did some simple arithmetic. 27 per cent reservation for 52 per cent population belonging to backward communities. V. P. Singhji, Paswanji and Yadavji prepared the arithmetic. With 52 per cent of backward people and 22 per cent of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, they have 74 per cent of the total population of the country in their pockets. With this calculation in mind, they asked the President to dissolve this august House. On these communal lines, they wanted to go to the people straight. The President did not give his permission. All of us know the whole thing and it is history now.

Sir, I am reminded of a story. There was a school teacher in the pre-independent India. Nowadays the teachers are an organised lot and they are very powerful. Because of their organised power nobody can touch them whether they teach or not, whether they go to school or not. But in those days, the future of a teacher depended entirely on the report of the schools inspector. A poor primary school teacher was teaching arithmetic to the Fifth Standard students, when the schools inspector came to a visit. He put a question: "If the length of the class room is 20 feet and the width of the room is 10 feet, what is my age?" The teacher was shocked. He thought that it was some new arithmetic not known to him. He asked all the 30 students one by one. One of the boys who was very intelligent, answered that his age was 40. It happened to be the exact age of that inspector. He was surprised and patted the boy and asked him how he arrived at the answer. The boy said that it was very simple. He had an elder brother who was 20 years old

[Sh A. Charles]

and he was half mad. The school teacher must definitely be 40 to put such a question. This is the arithmetic of Shri V. P. Singh too. What was your strength in the Ninth Lok Sabha? And what is your strength now in the Tenth Lok Sabha. That is why I am reminded of this story.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are all smiles, even though you too do not have a simple majority!

SHRI A. CHARLES: Though we are short by a few, we have got the will of the people. We have the support of the people.

The former Prime Minister talked about consensus. He started his Prime Ministership with a consensus. He had said that everything will be done with a consensus. I want to ask my BJP and Leftist friends one question. Did he consult them when he issued the order regarding implementation of this controversial Mandal Commission's Report?

He even failed to consult them when he betrayed the whole nation by playing the communal card. He divided the country. I am sure the historians will record that here is the man who has brought the entire country into a crisis by playing communal and caste cards. Now, he says the present Government has taken a unilateral decision and that amount to non-consensus. What was that decision which he took? What right has he got to ask this Government that we are taking a unilateral decision? We are for consensus. On issues, we consult everybody. One of the hon. Member has just mentioned about Panchayati Raj Bill. Who opposed that Bill? In that 30 per cent reservation for women was there. Who betrayed at that time? I challenge if that Bill is introduced here, are you prepared to support it.

We stand committed to that Bill? We stand committed to the people. I want to mention something about the Industrial Policy and also about Fiscal Policy but due to lack of time, I am not going to touch these topics.

So many changes are being brought forward throughout the world. Even in the Soviet Union, large changes have come. But unfortunately, our friends in the opposition who come from Kerala and West Bengal cannot understand those changes. We are for changes. We are for progress.

So, with all the strength at my command, I stand to support the Motion of Thanks.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have got an opportunity to speak after a long wait. I would like to draw your attention to a matter which no other Member has pointed out. I would like to read out what is mentioned in Article 244(1) and (2) of the Constitution of India. It is about Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. After going through it, one comes to know how much justice Congress Government has done to them. Over and over again it is repeated that a lot is being done for them. Reservation is being made for them. These things are mentioned in the speeches of almost all big leaders. But they do not follow what is provided there in the Constitution.

[English]

Article 244(1) and (2) of the Constitution says:

"The provisions of the Sixth Schedule shall apply to the administration of the tribal areas as are specified there." How far the Congress Government, in its rule, implemented the provisions? This is my question. Have they done so? I ask the Ministry, the Government of India and the ruling party to go through the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

Justice should be meted out to them. They are not beggars who want your pity or protection. They want their rights. They are being suppressed and denied jobs. It should be borne in mind that they do not want your pity. This was what Shri V. P. Singh wanted. The backward classes do not want to live on mercy. They want their rights and equality. That is why Congress joined hands with the BJP and made the Government fall and now the former is talking of doing a lot for the SCs/STs. Dams are being constructed and factories are being set up and lakhs of people are getting displaced. Where are they being rehabilitated? Has anything been thought about them. For whom is the dam being constructed? Lakhs of poor people are getting displaced in Adivasi areas. Where should they go? Some of them get compensation whereas some do not get anything. This matter should be seriously considered. This is why terrorism and atrocities are increasing Naxilism is on an increase in the tribal areas. What is the reason behind it? The poor are being suppressed by the high castes for their selfish interests. Every year foreign exchange worth seven hundred and a fifty crore is earned. But what is the use? It is not used for primary education in these areas. People have been befooled. Some Members say that there would be 'Hindu Rashtra' (Nation). About Hindus I would like to point out that the President is a Brahmin, the Vice President, Prime Minister, Chairman of the Planning Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Shri Sheshan are all Brahmins and Hindus. I am not abusing the Brahmins. They are depriving them of the rights provided to them under the Constitution. It has been categorically stated therein. There was agitation in Nagaland and North East. After lot of bloodshed they gave them their due. The Congress Government understands the language of gun only. It listens to those who fight for their rights. If it continues things will

deteriorate throughout the country. I dare say, this Government is blind. It cannot look. There was a report recently that 40 million hectares of land can be saved from the fury bloods. Tribal projects have been formulated but never implemented. Pollution of river Ganga is another problem. The need of the hour is to first save those 40 million hectares of land. Report says that with timely step 33 million hectares of land can be saved. There is large scale land erosion in West Bengal because of river Ganga. Big villages and fertile land is likely to be submerged therein. The Government policies are not correct, Townships and colonies are coming up on fertile land. They do not have a soft corner for the farmers. If they wanted to do something concrete for them they should leave fertile lands and set up colonies and Five Star Hotels in the deserts in Rajasthan. Townships are coming up on thousands of acres of fertile land. The farmers and poor are being exploited. The poor living in slums in Delhi do not have anything to eat and they try to get the left overs from dust bins and dumps. I have seen this with my own eyes. The poor people do not even have roof over their heads in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, whereas we are under the burden of heavy debt and are pledging our gold and smuggling Indian currency. Is this the concept of free India. Such a Government cannot run for long. That is why the people have not given full mandate to the ruling party. It is a lame Government. I therefore urge the Government to seek cooperate of all. The mistakes of the previous regimes, when you were in power should be rectified otherwise the people of the country will never forgive you.

[Sh. Piyus Tirkey]

All of you have taken the oath of allegiance to the constitution of India and it specifically mentions about the Government's duty to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Tomorrow itself you should introduce a Bill to make special provisions for areas marked as backward in all the States of the Country. You can either set up autonomous districts or autonomous regions.

[English]

I will ask the Government to go through the Constitution and do the needful immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI (Bijnor): Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I wanted to say some thing particularly to Shri Buta Singh, who has moved this Motion. Unfortunately he is not present in the House, at the moment. The hon. Members have raised almost every issue but one thing that surprised me was that not a single Member considered it necessary to raise the issue of the problems being faced by about five lakh sanitary workers in the country. Shri Buta Singh is considered as a crusader for the cause of these people and it is said that their upliftment is of utmost concern to him, but when he joined the Cabinet few years back, he did not make any effort to improve their lot and he too forgot them. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards their living conditions. These sanitary workers, who work in Municipal Corporations, Notified Areas, Zilla Parishads and villages, are not paid salaries for eight to nine months. They are engaged on a daily wage basis and are exploited. Those who make loud proclamations about democracy and those who have been administering the country for about forty years have along been mute spectators to the exploitation of these sanitary workers. No effort has been

made to make their jobs permanent. They are being exploited. When India attained independence, the population was estimated to 35 to 40 crores and it is said that today we are 85 crores although I feel that it is near about 100 crores. However, the number of sanitary workers has not increased in proportion to the increase in the population and consequently the burden of maintaining cleanliness and sanitation has fallen on their shoulders. Is the Government providing any assistance to them? Has the Government ever thought of uplifting them, improving their standard of living, of providing them facilities to which they are entitled? Unfortunately, nothing is being done for them. Instead, they are being exploited further. I would like to tell you what's happening at B.H.E.L. (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited), Hardwar. Contractors are entrusted with the work of sanitation. They are charging 40 to 50 rupees per sanitary worker but the contractor gives only Rs. 10/- per worker. Why is it so? Why that poor fellow is being exploited like this? Had Shri Buta Singh been present in the House, then certainly I would have reminded him of the loud proclamations he had made about improving the lot of these unfortunate people and also the fact that he never raised this issue even once in this august House, once he joined the Union Cabinet. I wonder whether there is a single hon. Member, who hasn't been benefited by these people, but they never deemed it necessary to bring to the notice of House, the tragedy of these poor people.

Sir, I oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, precisely because nothing has been said about them in the Address. You can go through it and verify the authenticity of what I am saying.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: You are right.

SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI: I would like to tell the House and the Government that although they are weak, they have got the potential to

make life hell for each one of us. Hell would break loose, if they decide to use the broom-their most potent weapon, in order to seek justice. If they stop working for just eight days, India would be facing a disastrous situation. Epidemics will spread. This is a community, which serves the society, by putting its own life and health at stake. Perhaps, that is the reason why they have been ignored in the President's Address and neglected by the Government. Congress Governments have been responsible for this continuous exploitation over the years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you look at the condition of the sanitary workers in schools, you will find that although they have been working there for 15 to 16 rupees or 25 rupees or a maximum of 50 rupees. When the salaries of teachers, the peons can be increased, then why not of these people. If it has not been done, it is simply because the Government is not sincere about their welfare. Whether it is at the District level or the Block level, these people are engaged as watchmen-cum-safai Karamchari. They are paid so meagre salary that they are not able to properly maintain their families. They are not in a position to provide proper education to their children and if at all some of them manage to get education, he is asked to do the sanitation work. At many places, these children are made to work during day and night and if ever they are found enjoying some spare time, they are compelled to bring fodder for the buffaloes.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that it should pay more attention to these people. The fall of the Government is imminent, if it is not done, I appeal to the Government to make their jobs permanent and to consider them as Government servants. In notified areas, towns, and municipalities why they are not employed on a permanent basis and paid regular salary? If it is not done, then how these people can keep their body and soul together? I request the Government to make arrangement for the payment of their

salary through banks or post-offices. Otherwise they would be in trouble and consequently, they can create problems for others as well. If they are not paid, their children would remain an educated and would have a bleak future.

They are forced to pay bribes ranging up to 10,000 rupees to get the job of a sweeper. Reservation has become the in-thing. Harijans, backward classes etc., all of them enjoy the benefits of reservation. I wonder why this benefit of reservation in job, is not extended to these people? Why they are not being provided with such facilities? I urge upon all the hon. Members to give a suggestion to the Government.....(*Interruptions*). This is not mere rhetoric, Sir, a large section of our society is being exploited and I am just highlighting it. I would not like to take much of your time but certainly I would like to urge upon the Government to declare them as Government servants and pay their salaries regularly as their condition is deteriorating. As far as I know, in the villages, these people lead a hand to mouth existence. There, they are given 5 kilograms foodgrain and one 'Roti' per day. Why 'Safai Karamcharis' are not engaged at the block-level? It would not only help in maintaining cleanliness in villages, but also in small towns where heaps of waste are a common sight. The local authorities admonish them and they are warned of suspension, but these sanitary workers do not get adequate time to cope up with such a heavy workload. According to the Manual Report the number of sanitary workers should be increased, their salaries should be paid in time and they should be treated as Government servants.

Sir, I would like to say one more thing. If the birthday of Prophet Mohammed could be declared as a public holiday, then why not of Valmiki? After all, Maharishi Valmiki did so much for this country. He enriched Hindu society and philosophy with his immortal epic the 'Ramayana'. He prophesied that Lord Shri

[Sh. Mangal Ram Premi]

Ram would reincarnate after ten thousand years and save mankind. I would like the Government to declare 'Valmiki Jayanti' as a public holiday, to respect the sentiments of these people. With these words, I conclude and oppose this Motion once again.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): At the outset, I would like to express my unhappiness on behalf of my colleagues who are Hon. Members for treating us as untouchables. We have come here from very far away places in the northeastern area like Manipur, Nagaland, border areas of Assam. We expected that while giving chance the treatment will be state-wise. First you may give preference to bigger States. But after that the smaller States may also be given chance. But when you treat party-wise, we may not get a chance. We regret for this.

Sir, I rise to oppose this Motion. The President in his Address has rightly mentioned that the situation in Assam, Nagaland and Manipur has continued to cause concern. This is because there are troubles in Assam, in Nagaland and in Manipur. In Manipur, as you know, up-till now there has been in force the Special Powers to the Armed Forces Act. Please imagine under what circumstances it might have been enforced. This is not enforced in other States having special status. It is enforced in Manipur, in Nagaland and in some parts of Assam. Why is it so? I would like to bring before this House the seriousness of the situation and the circumstances prevailing there.

Sir, I hope, I shall not be misunderstood as parochial when I refer to the affairs of Manipur only because the time at my disposal is almost over. As you know, Manipur has got strategic border area bordering Burma and other parts of India. This Manipur State was a native State. It merged with India only in the year 1949. The Maharaja of this State was forced to sign the merger agreement. The

Maharaja signed it under duress. So, in this way, the Manipur became a part and parcel of India. But the people feel quite disappointed by this merger. Some sections of these youngsters took arms and rose in revolt against the Central Government because these youngsters felt that they have been betrayed. The situation had been created by the negligence of the Government of India. I am bringing this fact before the House.

Sir, Manipur was an independent sovereign State upto 1891. It fought for the last war of Independence with the British in the year 1891. It was the last State in India to fall before the Britishers who took it in 1891. But, still the Britishers gave it Statehood by allowing it to be a native State. According to the merger agreement, the people expected that they would be treated well, but they are quite disappointed now. As you know, Sir, Thomas Pane had said: "Where there is liberty, there is my home", but Gandhiji said: "Where there is no liberty, there is my home". With that spirit, of Gandhiji, our beloved Prime Minister Late Nehruji visited Manipur and at that time he asked for giving away the Kabow Valley to Burma, which was a part of Manipur. At first, the people resented to it. They did not agree to it. But Nehruji wanted to give it away to Burma because at that times Nehruji wanted to do this favour to Burma because he wanted to be friendly with that country...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yumnam, your time is over.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: I will take some more time, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken five minutes...

(Interruptions)

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Sir, I have spoken for more than twentyfive years in the Assembly.

This is my maiden speech in the House. So, I must take some time more.

So, Sir, in lieu of parting away this Kabow Valley from Manipur, the people asked for something from Nehruji and he agreed to it. But it was not so formal. He agreed that the Manipuri language must be made one of the national language in VIII schedule. After Nehruji, we pleaded it with Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I took a deputation and met Shrimati Indira Gandhi and she agreed to some extent, although it was not announced officially. I was given a chance to see her when I had gone to attend a Conference of the Presiding Officers in Calcutta, Shri Bal Ram Jakhar was the Speaker. He was presiding over the Conference. I was summoned from Calcutta by Shrimati Indira Gandhi while she was the Prime Minister. It was on that very ill-fated day that I was summoned from Calcutta to see her. I took permission from Shri Bal Ram Jakhar and went to meet her. But on that very ill-fated day, as soon as I arrived in Delhi, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was killed. The plane was late by about fifteen minutes, otherwise I could have met her and I could have even averted the very ill-fated incident.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi had agreed to some extent, although it was not announced officially that Manipuri language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and it should be recognised as a national language. Other leaders of this House, like Advaniji, leader of the BJP, have accepted that Manipuri language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advani announced it in a public meeting at Imphal. The other Left parties, including CPI, CPI(M), have committed it to their manifesto that Nepali and Manipuri languages will be included in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution. Shri V.P. Singh, while he was the Prime Minister, almost took a decision on it and in fact he conveyed a message to us

through the Chief Minister, Manipur that he is going to announce it in a convocation function of Manipur University in Manipur. I am glad to find that our senior Member, Shri Indrajit Gupta and others have also put up an amendment to the effect that they will support this move of inclusion of Manipuri in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India. So, almost all the parties, National Front and other Left Parties, B.J.P. have committed for the inclusion of the Manipuri and Nepali languages in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution. I also hope that the Congress(I) Party will endorse it and I hope the Government will put up a Bill for this purpose.

Now, about the richness of the language, I need not say much. I would only say that the renowned scholar Shri Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, a doyen of Indian languages remarked that this Manipuri language is the most developed in all the Tibeto-Burman Speech family. And to give the justification for accepting this language to be the national language, I would like to give some points only. It is the mother tongue of about two million people. It is the official language in the State. The Manipur State Assembly has passed a Resolution to this effect and an Act has been enacted.

It is the Court language, used in the lower courts. It is a major Indian language. It is the medium of instruction of examinations from the primary level to the post-graduate level. It is recognised by the Sahitya Academy of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member may please wind up. You have taken fifteen minutes. You may now wind up.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUM-NAM: Sir, the Manipuri language has all the justification for the recognition as a national language of the country. Hence, I urge the Government for bringing a proposal in the

[Sh. Yaima Singh Yumnam]

form of a Bill so that the Constitution can be amended suitably to include Manipuri, as well as Nepali languages, in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Coming to the other matter that I have put up in the form of amendment, I would like to mention one thing. As you know, there are seven constituencies of the Manipur Assembly which have now fallen vacant. The Hon'ble Speaker of the Assembly has disqualified seven M.L.As. from the membership of the Assembly.

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): Sir, there is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the quorum bell be rung.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, there is a quorum. Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam may continue. Mr. Yumnam, you have already taken more than 20 minutes. So, kindly wind up your speech.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH: He has already taken 35 minutes, I have got the record, and you are telling that you will give time for a new Member to give his maiden speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What to do? Your colleagues should cooperate.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Mr. Chairman, since the leader of the opposition has now entered in the House I have to repeat again about the Manipuri language. Shri Advaniji addressed a public meeting at Imphal and very sympathetically he assured the public that he will take up this issue of Manipuri language for inclusion of this language in the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: I am very happy to know that the BJP will be supporting it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up, you have already taken 20 minutes. All other Members are waiting. Please wind up now and cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Sir, in Manipur, the Speaker of the Manipur Assembly, by his order which was issued on 24th July, 1990, disqualified seven MLAs because of their defection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member should speak on the President's Address. You have already taken more than 25 minutes and it is very difficult for me to accommodate other Members. I would request you to kindly wind up now.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Sir, for almost one year now, the Govt. have not filled up those seven vacancies in the Assembly. I would like to ask the Government to tell whether the people of those seven constituencies will be left without any representation in the Assembly. In Delhi, the capital of the country, at least one of the roads in capital should be named after the great martyr who fought for the cause of Manipur and for the emotional integration of the people of the country.

PROF. MEIJINLING KAMSON (Outer Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to clarify one point. The hon. Member has given some wrong information. In Manipur, no doubt these seven MLAs were disqualified, but the case is still pending in the Supreme Court. In view of that there is no question of having any election there. So, the people are not deprived of their representation. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not reply to his clarification. You can wind up now. I am going to call the next Member.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Sir, I am not given enough time to speak. So, in protest I conclude my speech now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very unfair that you have made such a remark on the Chair. Now, Mr. Jeevarathinam.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I wish to say a few words in support of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Hon'ble President of India, Shri R. Venkataraman is a great statesman. His public life spans over a period of more than half a century. In shaping the destiny of the nation, he had and he still has a major role.

The country is undergoing crisis after crisis for the past 2 years. Hon'ble President has ably assisted in tackling all the crises. He helped democracy to take deep roots. I, therefore, thank the Hon'ble President on behalf of this august House.

The people of the nation have placed their faith in Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao and his Finance Minister and they hope that there will be a solution to all the economic problems facing the country.

All those persons who have come to this House from North India in the name of Ram were at one point of time or the other, supporters of colonialists. They were the persons who rejoiced over the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and distributed sweets to celebrate the occasion. Today, they are in the House

under the umbrella of a different organisation. Whatever may be their past, I would appeal to them to extend their cooperation to this Government.

If there was no Mahatma Gandhi, we would not have got our freedom. If there was no Nehru, there would not have been any democracy in this country. I and you would not have come to this House.

The patron Leader of DMK, Shri E.V. Ramasamy Periyar opposed the freedom struggle. The present leader of DMK has joined hands with the LTTE which brutally assassinated the youthful Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in a bomb blast. The DMK Government which was in power for the past 2 years did not check the growth of LTTE. The DMK Govt. in the State and the Janata Dal Govt. at the Centre were responsible for the kind of situation in Tamil Nadu in which we had to sacrifice a Prime Minister. Both the parties were taught a good lesson in the last elections.

20.00 hrs.

Let me now come to the drinking water problem. There is acute shortage of drinking water in my Arakkonam Parliamentary Constituency. I request the Hon'ble Minister to immediately provide the necessary financial assistance to the State to tide over the problem.

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): There is no quorum, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the quorum bell be rung.

(Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE (Aurangabad): There is no quorum, Sir.

* MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the quorum bell be rung.

(Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quorum bell is ringing. Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions.)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: There being no quorum the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

20.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 19, 1991 | Asadha 28, 1913 (Saka)

*Not recorded.