

[Shri V. S. Vijayaraghavan]

After collecting the remaining amount from them, the sub-agents and the chief agent would quietly disappear. In many cases, there is to be no flight and even in those cases where the flight is arranged, they will be trapped at the airport of the country of their destination because the visa would be fake. This is not the story of a hundred people but many thousands are cheated in this way.

These agents who commit such naked fraud on the poor and innocent people are a menace to the society. The Government has a moral responsibility to protect the innocent people from this open robbery.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to act firmly against these agents and take such measures so that the unwary people do not become victims of these predatory agents.

- (vii) Need to provide fast Railway Service for passengers between Meerut and Delhi.

श्रीमती ऊषा वर्मा (खेरी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस अत्यधिक महत्व के प्रश्न पर दिलाना चाहती हूँ :

रोजाना हजारों लोग मेरठ से दिल्ली आते व जाते हैं, फिलहाल उनको रेल से जाने में ढाई से तीन घंटे लगते हैं और जिन लोगों को दफ्तरों में आना-जाना हो, उनको अत्यधिक असुविधा होती है। अब सर्दी के दिन आने वाले हैं और सुबह छः बजे दिल्ली या मेरठ से रवाना होने वालों की हालत बखूबी जानी जा सकती है।

मैं रेल मंत्री से आग्रह करूंगी कि जिस तरह से दिल्ली के आसपास के सूखरे इलाके मसलन सोनीपत, पानीपत, चरीदाबाद आदि जगहों के लिए इलैक्ट्रिक

रेलवे का प्रावधान किय जा रहा है, मेरठ-दिल्ली जंक्शन पर भी शीघ्र ही इलैक्ट्रिकेशन किया जाना अत्यधिक आवश्यक है। इस तरह से ये दूरी घट कर करीब एक या डेढ़ घंटे की हो जाएगी।

12.30 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION IN RELATION TO STATE OF ASSAM AND ASSAM BUDGET, 1981-82—GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (ASSAM) 1981-82—contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up further discussion on Item Nos. 10, 11 and 12. Time allotted is three hours. We have exhausted two hours and forty minutes. So, only 20 minutes are left. Shri Chitta Basu was on his legs. He will take only three minutes. Then Mr. Ravindra Varma will be the last speaker. After that the Minister will reply.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I have only three points to make and I will not take more than three minutes.

There has been a prolonged dialogue going on between the agitation leaders and the Government of India. We, the Members of Parliament, and the people at large do not know as to what has been the actual dialogue between them. There are conflicting news coming out from different sources. Such things would create further complications rather than helping the dialogue. May I request the Government to come out with a white paper stating the position of the Government in this respect and the stand taken by the agitation leaders on those points. On an earlier occasion also I mentioned it and the Home Minister was pleas-

ed to say that it was a good suggestion and the Government shall make available such a detailed white paper on the subject whenever they feel it necessary. I would request the Government to redeem its promise.

The people of Assam have been the victim of continued neglect from the Government of India. I will point out certain projects which require special consideration or attention of the Government, particularly the Finance Minister.

There is a Loktak Hydro-electric Project in Manipur. No adequate funds have been placed for the construction of this project.

There is also the question of extension of broad gauge line to Gauhati. Due to paucity of funds the work on this project is not advancing.

There was a proposal of having a paper making plant at Silchar. Nobody knows at what stage this proposal rests.

The Kopili Hydro-electric Project has gone four years behind schedule. How can the Government claim that the demands of the people of Assam and North-eastern Region will get proper attention from it.

There is a proposal of having a LPG plant. This plant was sanctioned during the Janata rule. The project was to utilise natural gas which is being flared away at the rate of 10 million cubic metres per second over the past 13 years. Now the Government should explain the actual state of affairs regarding the establishment of this plant.

Coming to the last point, the Brahmaputra Control Board Bill has already been passed. But no adequate funds have been placed to start the work.

There are other items also which can go to prove that the genuine and legitimate grievances of the

people of Assam have not received proper attention from the Centre. Therefore, when the Finance Minister replies to the Demands, he should make specific mention about these projects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I knew that Mr. Chitta Basu will finish in time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Basu, he is complimenting you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I always finish my speech within the allotted time.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He has completed a three-minute speech in six minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is capable of completing it in 30 minutes also.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA (Bombay North): Sir, the presidential proclamation under article 356 was promulgated at the fall of the Ministry headed by Shrimati Anwara Taimur. The most charitable thing that I can say of the Ministry is that it could never demonstrate its authenticity. It could never shed the appearance of an interloper, smuggled into power from somewhere, and sustained in power from somewhere else. When the State went to the polls, the Congress (I) could not secure a mandate from the people. The Ministry could not prove that it had support of a majority of Members in the House. When the State went to the polls, 8 Members were returned on the Congress (I) ticket. After the fall of the previous Ministry, there was a prolonged period of incubation, two successive stretches of President's Rule, during which the party itself, seems to have been in incubation. At the end of this period, when the State was on the threshold of a

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constitutional crisis, Shrimati Taimur was authorised by the Governor to form a Ministry. At that time, 8 had swollen to 41 through the unholy technique of inducing defections. I do not know whether some other techniques can be used and some other things can be inducted in the incubator, but certainly it was a case of inducing defections while the State was in the incubator.

Sir, at the best of times Shrimati Taimur claimed that she had the support of 47 members. I can very well understand, though not condone the Governor, deciding that the faithful and others could not be weighed with the same balance. Therefore, cannons were set aside for her. She was never asked to prove that she had the support of 41 members of the House. The Governor never said that she had to prove her majority in the House forthwith, in a session of the Assembly. The Governor never said that within a certain period of time the Assembly must meet so that her majority could be proved. These normal criteria were set aside. Then the Ministry went on merrily for 3½ months, praying that the cup may pass without facing the Assembly or proving its majority and the Ministry might have gone on eternally till the Kingdom comes, without facing the Assembly, but for a constitutional conundrum.

The Assembly had to pass the budget. A session was summoned, no budget was presented, but Supplementary Demands and a Vote on Account and Appropriation Bill were presented. I do not have the time to go into the sordid unprecedented drama that was enacted in that session. A Cut Motion was adopted. My learned friend here, speaking in this House, said that the Cut Motion was adopted, but it did not amount to a

vote of no-confidence in the Government, because the Government itself voted for the Cut Motion.

I do not want to enter into the argument at this moment, but the fact remains that the Cut motion was adopted, and the Government could not get the Appropriation Bill and the Vote on Account passed by the House. The House was adjourned and, on the strength of the advice tendered by a Ministry that could not prove its strength in the House, that could not get its Demand passed by the House, the Governor decided to prorogue the House and to promulgate an Ordinance, the Appropriation Ordinance. The seal of office of the Governor was used as a rubber stamp to promulgate, to perpetrate a constitutional monstrosity, an impermissible impropriety, which cuts at the very root of parliamentary and representative democracy. The corner stone of parliamentary democracy and representative democracy is that the representatives of the people have the right to vote amounts from the exchequer, that taxation and expenditure should have the sanction of the representatives of the people. If, therefore, the House can be by-passed, if the will of the House can be circumvented and thwarted, if the expenditure and taxation can be on the basis of the promulgation of an ordinance by the Governor or Governor-General, one is reminded of the old days when the Central Assembly meeting here could have thrown out a budget but the Viceroy could have certified it, and it would have become law.

Sir, are we going back to those days? This dangerous doctrine that undermines the very concept of representative parliamentary democracy was put forward and defended by the hon. Members sitting opposite.

I do not want to go into the details of this case, but, Sir, the enor-

mity of a dogma which believes that a House can be bypassed is something which should be exposed and exploded.

Meanwhile, what happened in Assam? The ineptness of the administration, the obsession with political survival, unconcern for the paramount economic issues that were afflicting the State and the people, and increasing tensions among social groups resulted in internal rumblings in the party. The Members of the party themselves began to say that their support to the leader was conditional, and that unless the leader was removed they would not vote for the party. Therefore, even the number of 47 was dependent on conditional loyalty, contingent and conditional loyalty. The Tea Garden Group (TGG) withdrew its support. The PTC withdrew its support, and then the Leftist group withdrew its support and the Ministry resigned.

It is very clear, therefore, that the Budget that we are discussing today in the absence of the Members from the area concerned, or most of the area concerned, is a budget that has to be understood in the context of the political and economic situation of that area. We all know that what has been ailing the State is the question of foreign nationals in the State. It was very glad the hon. Home Minister, the other day, while intervening in the debate said that he recognised that the question of Indian nationals is a national issue....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know that you would complete your speech within the fixed time. That is why I need not tell you.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: Thank you very much... that it was a national issue; that a solution should be found through negotiations; and that every Indian citizen would agree that foreigners should be removed.

Sir, it is a long way that the Home Minister has come—and I must congratulate him for that—a long way from the time when the *bona fides* of the movement were questioned, it was caricatured and denigrated as an anti-national movement when the reality of massive public support was denied and when an attempt was made to divide the ranks, plant agents provocateurs and to use terror and repression to deal with a vital matter of national importance. I must congratulate him for the distance that he has traversed. He said that the negotiations have been going on in an air of conviviality or congeniality. He spoke in Hindi. Where the Home Minister is, there is a high degree of humour, conscious or otherwise. It is not conviviality that is absent, the risk is of triviality. However, I do congratulate him for achieving this atmosphere of conviviality. There is no doubt that negotiations have taken long. Negotiations on such issues take time. But, Sir, a year-and-a-half is not a short period. One agrees that the consensus that is achieved should protect the interests and integrity of the nation, the citizens and the electorate, and also at the same time protect the interests of every genuine Indian citizen irrespective of language, religion or the area from which he comes. But frequent postponements, changes of levels of negotiations, downgrading of the level of representation shifting, confusing conflicting statements from the representatives of the Government, the demand for commitment from one side and the reluctance to be clear on proposals from the other side make one sometimes wonder whether it is a part of the tactics of a war of attrition, meant to wear down the adversary but not to commit yourself. If it is so, then that will not be something conducive to the creation of consensus. Now, Sir, he said that conditions should be created for a consensus, I agree. As far as the students and agitators are concerned, today

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there is no agitation in the State. But what about the Government? Indiscriminate arrests of journalists and of students, the use of the CRP, the BSF, the National Security Act, censorship, MESO,—is all this conducive to create an atmosphere in which a consensus can be evolved, an atmosphere of reconciliation, an atmosphere of give and take?

Sir, the hon. Minister tackled of removing foreigners, I do not want to take your time, otherwise I would have quoted from his characteristic Hindi. Whatever language he uses is characteristic. So, the hon. Minister talked of removing foreigners. How do you remove a foreigner without determining that he is a foreigner? Therefore, detection, deletion and deportation are processes which you cannot sweep under the carpet. The definition of an alien acquires significance. And the definition of an alien has to be a legal exercise, and not an exercise in humanitarianism. Therefore, if someone talks of the Constitution, the Citizenship Act, the Passport Act and says that these must provide the basis of the legal definition of citizenship. Then no one can say that it is irrelevant, that these are irrelevant considerations. Nobody can say that. (Interruptions) Well, you may say. I do not think that you say so loud enough.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:
The first part of your speech is being spoiled.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: It all depends upon whether you agree or not. I agree with you that that is so.

The Hon. Minister talked of humanitarian considerations and international obligations. The question of

definition of citizenship, of the status of being a citizen or otherwise, depends on legal definition. Once the definition is arrived at, in applying it to a person or a case or a category, there can be humanitarian consideration. My learned friend will not say—in a court of law that if a man is accused of murder, then because the President has a right to extent clemency, the case should not be proceeded with or pursued according to law. The case will be pursued according to the law, and after that even if some one is found guilty, the President may exercise his right to extent clemency. Even though definition becomes an important matter, when the definition is arrived at two matters arise. One is that it should be tempered with humanitarian considerations. The other is that the status of the person should be determined by a quasi judicial authority, not by denunciation, not by discrimination or by a witch hunt. There is no doubt about it. But if international obligations are referred to, if they are invoked, then it becomes imperative that the Government should let the people know what these international obligations are. They are not negatives meant to be developed in a dark room. We must know what these international obligations are. It cannot be left to the Executive to decide at their sweet will what these international obligations are.

Now, I want to refer to the question of violence. If I do not do so, it will not be proper for me to conclude.

Whatever I have said should not be taken to mean that there is any justification to resort to violence for any group against another group or against the State. There should be no sympathy with violence. But my complaint, is that there has been palpable unconcern, almost complicity from those who were incharge of the administration. Often times an effort is

made to lay the blame for acts of violence at the door of agitators. But when people are apprehended; suspects are apprehended, it has often been found that they had nothing to do with the agitators and the detection of some persons led to infinite embarrassment for those who were in authority. I do not have time. Therefore, I do not want to go into this question at length.

This discussion, as my hon. friend Shri Chitta Basu pointed out, refers not only to the political question which comes up, when we deal with the related item—the first item on the agenda, but it deals also with the Budget of the State. It is highly unfortunate that the Budget of the entire State has to be disposed of in a few minutes, and Members who want to participate in trying to understand, analyse the adequacy of the Budget of the State have to confine themselves to two minutes or three minutes.

I am concluding. I am aware of your indulgence and I shall not misuse it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The understanding has come to a close now.

SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: The administration is rudderless, listless. These has been fall in industrial production in agricultural production. As my friend pointed out, the State is chronically at the mercy of floods; and there have been four waves of floods this year. There has been sever damage to ahu and jute crops. The problem of erosion is plaguing Dibrugarh, Majuli, Palasbari, Teraberi and other places. The Brahmaputra Board for which we voted here has not been constituted. The loans for flood control schemes have been reduced from Rs. 16 crores to Rs. 10 crores. If I had the time, I would have read out the figures to show how, under practically every head, there has been a reduction in the outlay.

The value of money, my hon. friend, the Finance Minister, will not contend has increased in these years. So, if the outlay has decreased, and the value of money has decreased, despite all his efforts to control prices, it means that the outlay that is available for the State of Assam is much less than what it was. Therefore, it is very grave situation.

I do not want to take more time of the House because you seem to indicate that I should now conclude. I would not like to be guillotined. Therefore, I would conclude by saying that it is a very and state of affairs, that specially when the responsibility for running the administration of the State is in the capable hands of hon. gentlemen like Mr. P. Venkatasubbiah and Mr. R. Venkataraman the State should have received a raw deal at the hands of this Government.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (नई दिल्ली) : मुझे तीन बातें कहनी हैं केन्द्रीय सरकार इस बात पर सहमत है कि 1971 के बाद जो लोग बाहर से आए उन्हें पहचाना जाना चाहिये, उनके नाम मतदाता सूची में से निकाले जाने चाहिये और उन्हें वापिस भेजा जाना चाहिये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस मासवासन को पूरा करने के लिए अभी तक क्या किया है, दस साल के बीच में विदेशी बड़ी संख्या में आए हैं। क्या सरकार ने उन्हें पहचानने का कोई कदम अभी तक उठाया है और उठाया है तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है? क्या यह सच नहीं है कि अभी भी सीमा को बन्द नहीं किया गया है, न कांटेदार तार लगाए गए हैं और न पुलिस चौकियों की संख्या बढ़ाई गई है। अभी भी बंगला देश से लोग आ रहे हैं। यह आने का काम कब तक चलता रहेगा। अगर चलता रहेगा तो असम में विदेशियों की समस्या कभी हल नहीं होगी। अगर सरकार

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

आन्दोलन के परिणाम स्वरूप 1981 में भी विदेशियों का आना बन्द कर दे तो मैं आन्दोलनकारियों को इसके लिए बधाई देने को तैयार हूँ। सरकार सचमुच में इस मामले में कुछ करना चाहती है या नहीं यह इस बात से पता लगता कि इस समय विदेशियों को आने से रोकने के लिए क्या किया जा रहा है। खेद के साथ मुझे कहना पड़ता है कि कोई कारगर उपाय नहीं अपनाए गए हैं। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहता हूँ कि आन्दोलनकारियों के साथ जो बात-चीत चल रही है क्या उसके बारे में विरोधी दलों को विश्वास में लेने की आवश्यकता नहीं है? क्या विरोधी दलों के नेताओं को उम्मीद बूलाया जाएगा जब सरकार मुसीबत में होगी? इस समय बाधा किस की ओर से पैदा हो रही है? अन्तर्गत का राष्ट्रीय प्रश्न हल क्यों नहीं हो रहा है? अगर आन्दोलनकारियों को कोई ऐसा रवैया अपना रहे है जो गलत है तो विरोधी दलों के नेता आन्दोलनकारियों से भी यह कहने के लिए तैयार होंगे कि उनको अपने रविये में परिवर्तन करने पर सोचना चाहिये। लेकिन इस समय विरोधी दल कहीं तस्वीर में नहीं है। बाद में उन पर आरोप लगाया जाएगा कि वे समस्या को उलझाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। लेकिन जब आप सुलझाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं तो थोड़ा हमें भी विश्वास में लेने की दूरदर्शिता दिखाइये।

तीसरी और अंतिम बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब कांग्रेस आई की सरकार वहाँ कायम हुई थी और चल रही थी तो अफसरों की नियुक्तियाँ करते समय साम्प्रदायिकता से काम लिया गया था,

अफसरों के तबादले साम्प्रदायिक आधार पर किए गए थे और उद्देश्य आन्दोलन को दबाने का था। अब वहाँ राष्ट्रपति शासन कायम हो गया है। अब प्रशासन को ठीके करने की जरूरत है। कांग्रेस आई की सरकार वहाँ जल्दी से लाने की कोशिश मत करिये।

श्री संतोष मोहन देब (सिलचर) : क्यों नहीं ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्योंकि आपका बहुमत नहीं है, क्योंकि आप दल बदल के आधार पर सरकार चलाना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि आप लोगों का सीदा करना चाहते हैं, नीलामी लगाना चाहते हैं। ऐसी सरकार बनी थी, टूट गई। आगे बनेगी तो चलेगी नहीं। किसी पार्टी की सरकार के चलते अन्तर्गत की समस्या को हल करना कठिन होगा। राष्ट्रपति राज के भीतर सब दलों की सलाह से, आन्दोलनकारियों की सहमति से इन प्रश्नों को हल करने का प्रयत्न करिये।

जब सरकार चल रही थी तो एम० एल० एच० होस्टल में एक बम विस्फोट हुआ था, उसकी जांच का आदेश दिया गया था। बम विस्फोट के बाद पुलिस के कुत्ते बुलाये गये थे और पुलिस के कुत्ते जहाँ बम फटा वहाँ आने के बाद हवा को सूँघते सूँघते चीफ मिनिस्टर के बंगलों की तरफ गये थे। बाद में वह जांच खत्म कर दी गई। इतने इन्तजाम के बाद एम० एल० एच० होस्टल में बम विस्फोट कैसे हुआ? जांच का क्या परिणाम निकला? यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister while intervening in this debate has explained to the House the complicate situation that is now prevailing in Assam. Our friends especially Shri Vajpayee, have made allegations against the Government that the Opposition has not been taken into confidence. In my humble opinion, it is not correct. This agitation is not the creation of the present Government. It is the baby that has been given to this Government by Shri Ravindra Varma's Government. The moment our Prime Minister has taken over charge, she called for the meeting of all the Opposition parties and discussed this problem at length on a number of times, twice, thrice. The Opposition parties meeting was held and a consensus was tried to be arrived at so far as the complicate problem of Assam is concerned.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will you now take the Opposition parties into confidence?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: There has been a constant dialogue with the leaders of the agitation and AASU and the GSP. Some of the several matters that were being discussed have been solved.

With regard to strengthening the border and increased security arrangement, the modalities with regard to deletion, detection and deportation of the foreigners, on all these matters, there has been a continuous discussion with the agitation leaders; And moreover the minorities representatives also met the Home Minister as well as the Prime Minister. Their representations are also with the Government. The linguistic, minorities and religious minorities have made representations. It is not as though the Opposition has not been taken into confi-

dence. I would like to tell the Hon. Members that at the appropriate time the Government of India will certainly take the Opposition parties into confidence.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is the appropriate time?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Talks are going on. Only yesterday, some progress has been made and now the talks have been adjourned. They are being conducted at an official level and the AASU students as well as GSP have sent their representatives. They have been carrying on negotiations. They are going on. I would like to inform the Hon. House that discussions were held in a very cordial atmosphere with the leaders of the AASU who came here. Some sort of a discussion has taken place. Some progress has been made.

With regard to other matters that were mentioned in their Memorandum, some steps have been taken by Government with regard to modalities of defection and also the Citizenship rights and strengthening the security arrangements.

With regard to strengthening the border and seeing that no infiltrators are allowed to enter Assam, some steps have been taken by Government of India.

At the same time, an assurance is being given time and again that the identity, culture and language of the people will be protected because they form the mainstream of our national life.

13.00 hrs.

Assam State is a part of India. All these matters are being discussed.

My hon. friend, Mr. Ravindra Varma, made a frontal attack on the Government and he used some words like incubation, defection, etc. There is the example of Maharashtra before us where, when there was defection, the

[Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah]

Janata Party also entered into a coalition and formed the Government. So, all these matters are there.

About the financial aspect and also the several measures that have been undertaken for the economic improvement of the north-eastern region and also Assam, these will be very comprehensively dealt with by the Finance Minister.

With these few words, I commend this Resolution for acceptance by the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Finance Minister. I think he will not take much time, and after his reply, we shall pass it.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thane): What about the bomb explosion inquiry?

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: About the bomb explosion, I can only say that what Mr. Vajpayee has said about it is not correct.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): One clarification.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No clarification, I have called the Minister. We have already taken more time.

The Finance Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to express my deep appreciation to the House for the commendable restraint with which this very explosive situation has been handled. In fact, the distinguished Members who participated in the discussion did not add fuel to the fire...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We never do it.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN:.... but tried very much to ease the situation by....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Fortunately they happen to be former Ministers also.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN:.... by making constructive suggestions. I would, particularly, like to mention one of two very valuable suggestions made in the course of the debate. Shri Chandrajit Yadav laid emphasis on the solution of this problem and he made a very pertinent statement: he has said that, so far as minorities are concerned, no distinction should be made on the basis of religion and that we should try to solve this problem on a humanitarian basis. That is exactly what the Government is trying to do.

A number of hon. Members asked whether the Government was resiling from the position it had taken about the cut-off year 1971. I wish to assure them that the Government are negotiating with the people to find a solution which will be acceptable not only to the Assam agitators but to the entire House. As my distinguished colleague has said, nothing would be done by Government without taking, in the ultimate analysis, into confidence the House and the Opposition. I should also say that the Prime Minister has been having a number of consultations with the Opposition leaders on this issue and has tried to carry the Opposition with her in the course of these negotiations. She has mentioned the status of the negotiations amongst the various leaders of Parties in our country. This is a very difficult situation and everybody will agree on that. All that we should try to do in this difficult situation is to find

some solution which will be acceptable to all and try to solve the problem rather than exacerbate it.

The political aspect of it has been very ably dealt with by my colleague, the Home Minister, and also the Minister for State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I would only mention one or two points which Shri Vajpayee has raised. Shri Vajpayee asked the question as to what the Government had done to stop infiltration.

Sir, I would like to point out that the vigilance in the India-Bangladesh border has been strengthened. Additional border outposts have been opened in Assam border and patrolling is being strengthened. Actually a full complement of force under the prevention of infiltration of foreigners scheme has been sanctioned by the Assam Government. The ravine police has also been strengthened and the patrol boats with out-boat motors have also been put into operation. We are also trying to issue identity cards with photographs to the voters in the North-Eastern as well as Eastern-Regions in a phased manner and to maintain an upto-date births and deaths register. Well, this will naturally take some time but the efforts are now being made to prevent infiltration. It is not only by putting a sort of a barbed wire fence that it should be done; it has to be done by a very great and sustained effort to guard the borders and the patrol is being strengthened. That is being done.

Sir, I hope this will give some assurance to hon. Members that the matter is not neglected. On the other hand, it is being dealt with utmost consideration that it requires. The prolonged agitation in Assam has done a lot of damage to Assam itself and its economy. Most hon. Members referred to the neglect of Assam and said that in the decades, Government of India have not shown the due consideration that should have been given to a backward State.

Sir, if Assam has suffered, it is not because of any neglect by Government of India, by the Central Government but, it has suffered because of both geography as well as history. If you look at the situation where it is located and the various difficulties as also the physical features of this area and if you also look at the attention that was paid by the British before 1947 to this area, you will easily understand that most of the problems related to the date anterior to Independence rather than after that. I can give you some figures of what the Government has done to expose this myth that Assam had been neglected.

Sir, you take the central assistance to the Assam State, after Independence, you will find that it has been treated on a special category. Actually, Assam is one of the States which comes under the category of special States and it is not governed by the Gadgil Formula which distributes the central assistance on a pro-rata basis on 60 per cent of population, 10 per cent on tax effort and so on. In the Third Plan, while the per capita central assistance for the States' average was Rs. 55 the per capita central assistance for Assam was Rs. 119. In the Fifth Plan, the per capita central assistance for all the States was Rs. 65/- while the per capita central assistance for Assam was Rs. 119. In the Fifth Plan, the per capita central assistance for all the States was Rs. 102 but, for Assam, it was Rs. 166. In the Sixth Plan, the per capita assistance to all the States is Rs. 258 but, for Assam, it is Rs. 565

The charge that the Centre has neglected Assam is not at all sustained on the figures which I have given. If you look at the per capita income also, Assam is not the least or the most backward State as some hon. Members described it during the course of the debate. Actually, you will find that the per capita income of Assam is Rs. 791. In Bihar in which we have invested more than Rs. 4,000 crores in the central projects, it is only Rs. 645, in Madhya Pradesh, again, where there has been a very large amount of cen-

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

tral investment, it is Rs. 776 and in U.P.—it is one of the big State—the per capita income is only Rs. 715. Therefore, you cannot say that Assam has been neglected and that the per capita income of people in Assam is the lowest in the country. I am anxious to dispel this kind of impression because it will mislead the people who are agitating in Assam. It will make them feel that they are justified in the kind of agitation in which they are indulging in because they have been neglected.

Even if you take the question of number of people below poverty line you will find that in Assam the number of persons below the poverty line is 51.10 per cent whereas in Bihar 57.49 per cent; Maharashtra 57.73 per cent and Tamil Nadu 52.12 per cent. Even by that test you cannot say that Assam is backward or it has been neglected.

I do not want to go on giving these figures. I only want to assure the House that Assam receives the best consideration from the Central Government and Government is very anxious to see that people of Assam receive not only their due share but a little extra because of its geographical and historical situation. I do not want Assam agitators as well as people of Assam to go under the impression that they are in any way treated in a step-motherly fashion.

I will now deal with the Plan also. In the Fifth Plan we provided for Rs. 474 crores whereas in the Sixth Plan we have provided Rs. 1,15 crores. In the current year also the Central assistance to Assam is Rs. 172 crores inclusive of Rs. 12.55 crores as special assistance for hill areas. We have introduced a third line air service in Assam—Vayudhoot—because we found that the area is not properly connected. The transport and communication system is poor. Therefore, we wanted to expedite transport facilities by introducing the third-level air system. Shri Ravindra Varma said that in the cur-

rent year's budget though in monetary terms it is higher yet in real terms it is lower. Well, it is true. But I must point out that in real terms the receipts are lower. People only want me to index expenditure but if I want to index income then there is lot of hue and cry. We can only cut the coat accordingly to the cloth. We are trying to see within the resources available we are fair and reasonable. For agriculture we have provided Rs. 45.94 crores. In Central sector outlays aggregate Rs. 42 crores. The position is that in the budget there will be an overall increase and there may be sectoral differences. In certain sectors we may reduce expenditure whereas in certain other sectors we may increase it. What one should look at is the total picture. One should not pick out two or three items, for example, say in respect of Brahmaputra flood control you have reduced expenditure by so much or as Mr. Banatwalla said for natural calamities you have reduced the expenditure. When we have provided larger expenditure in the overall, it means that the relative priorities have been taken into account and we have provided those items where the priority is higher larger amounts that are necessary for them. In fact, you can take the final figures and compare them with last year. The last year's Budget was presented in November. Therefore, the expenditure in respect of natural calamities was included in the Budget. But this year we are providing only the 'margin money' and we have not yet incurred all the expenditure in respect of natural calamities and when the final figure comes the amount will be much larger because we will have to provide for relief in respect of flood and other calamities. Therefore, in comparing, you must look into the comparable figures and not take the figure of November where full account is being rendered with March figures where we are only making a provision for the 'margin money' and not the total expenditure in respect of this item.

Therefore, I want to make it clear that so far as the present Budget is

concerned, we have provided not only a larger sum of money, but we have also given larger emphasis on all important aspects.

Take for instance the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP). Now, under this year's Budget we are going to provide Rs 132 lakhs mandays of employment under NREP. This will show a larger expenditure because we think that the emphasis should be on providing larger employment to the people and therefore certain money should be diverted to it.

Some hon. Members also mentioned that adequate attention has not been given to power generation. Here also the figures do not justify the criticism. On the contrary you will find that the existing installed capacity in Assam is only 152 M.W. and the 6th Plan provision is for 458 M.W. an interest of 300 per cent in this Plan period itself. We have also included in the current year a provision for Bongaigaon Thermal Project and Lakhwa Thermal Project and the Lower Borpani Project. So, all these schemes are to be taken into execution. So, I find that in respect of provision for power generation, this is perhaps the largest ever provision made so far as Assam is concerned.

Now, take Communications also. If you look at the Railway line construction, you will find that there is provision made for the construction of the parallel B.G. line, New Bongaigaon to Gauhati, which is expected to be completed in 1981-82. The conversion of Gauhati-Dibrugarh Section to B.G. (580 K.Ms.) is being taken up in the current year. It would cost Rs. 100 crores.

There are number of other on-going schemes. Emphasis has been laid on communications and the development of road transport in this area. National Highways have also received very high priority. The Badarpur-Silchar-Imphal

Road (N.H. 53) for a length of 320 K.Ms. is being raised to the level of a National Highway. We have made a total provision of Rs. 16 crores for Roads in this Budget. 900 Kilometres will be added as new road during the current budget.

Therefore I would like to emphasise that adequate attention is being given to the most vital sectors of the economy namely, power generation, transport, communication and roads.

Some hon. Members asked some questions about industrial projects, about paper projects and all that. I have also got figures for these.

The Nowgong Paper and Pulp Project has a capacity of a hundred thousand tonnes. You know the cost may go up. The total cost as on 1-4-80 is Rs. 217 crores and it is expected to be commissioned in 1983. Then you have a second Pulp and Paper Project at Cachar with a capacity of a hundred thousand tonnes and its total cost would be 217 crores. An outlay in the current year of Rs. 217 crores has been provided for. It is likely to be commissioned by the end of 1983. The Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemical Complex will be taken up for construction. The anticipated cost of this project is likely to be Rs. 186.40 crores. Therefore, if you look at the main industrial projects also, Assam has received not only its due share but a little more than its proportionate share. Well, in moving the budget of Assam for the last year, I said that I would go to Assam and try to take note of the various needs of the State. I did go to all the North Eastern States to provide for their immediate needs. But the situation in Assam did not permit me to go into Assam and really devote a personal attention to their immediate needs. I do hope that the situation will improve during the current year and I will be enabled to go and personally see that the best is done.

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

One question has been raised from time to time, that is: what is the royalty that they will get in respect of the crude? Now only recently we have increased the royalty of crude from Rs. 41 to Rs. 61. Under the law, the crude royalty can be raised once in 4 years, but the crude royalty has been raised only recently. Though this is the law, I still maintain that the Government always gives to these matters a very sympathetic consideration. I thank the House for the patient hearing they have given and in any event the Government of Assam is carry on. Whatever it is, we have got to pass the budget and see that the Administration of Assam is carried on and we enable the State to come back to normalcy and march forward with all of us

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the statutory resolution approving the Proclamation in relation to the State of Assam, moved by Giani Zai Singh to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 30th June, 1981 under

article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Assam."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motion Nos. 1 and 2 moved by Shri G. M. Banatwalla to the Demands for Grants (Assam) for 1981-82 to vote.

Cut Motions No. 1 and 2 were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Assam) 1981-82 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1982, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 72."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants (Assam), 1981-82 Voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand on* Account Voted by the Assam Legislative Assembly on 31-3-1981		Amount of Demand** Voted by the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
1	2	3		4	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	State Legislature . . .	18,56,400	..	34,47,600	..
2	Council of Ministers . . .	8,05,000	..	14,95,000	..
3	Administration of Justice . . .	55,68,300	..	1,03,41,700	..
4	Elections	26,34,600	..	48,92,400	..
5	Taxes on Income and Expenditure	2,69,800	..	5,01,200	..

1	2	3	4		
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
6	Land Revenue and Land Ceiling . . .	2,63,39,500	..	4,89,16,500	..
7	Stamps . . .	314,800	..	5,84,200	..
8	Registration . . .	9,77,000	..	18,14,000	..
9	State Excise . . .	24,01,400	..	44,59,600	..
10	Sales Tax and Other Taxes	34,46,100	.	63,99,900	..
11	Transport Services . .	1,17,48,100	..	2,18,17,900	..
12	Electrical Inspectorate .	2,74,800	..	5,10,200	..
13	Small Savings . . .	1,07,500	..	1,99,500	.
14	Financial Inspection . .	78,800	..	1,46,200	..
15	Civil Secretariat and Attached Offices . . .	1,11,91,300	..	2,07,83,700	..
16	District Administration .	1,06,24,100	..	1,97,30,900	..
17	Treasury and Accounts Administration . . .	36,40,000	..	67,60,000	..
18	Police . . .	11,21,88,000	35,000	20,83,49,000	65,000
19	Jails . . .	59,70,000	..	1,10,87,000	..
20	Stationery and Printing .	49,89,800	..	92,67,200	..
21	Administrative and Functional Buildings . . .	3,32,54,800	2,95,60,300	6,17,59,200	5,91,20,700
22	Fire Services . . .	31,98,300	..	59,39,700	..
23	Vigilance and Special Commissions . . .	3,95,100	..	7,33,900	.
24	Civil Defence and Home Guards . . .	57,00,500	..	1,05,86,500	..
25	Guest Houses, Government Hostels, etc . . .	9,22,200	..	17,12,800	..
26	Administrative Training .	2,04,400	..	3,79,600	..
27	Vital Statistics, etc. . .	3,44,500	..	6,39,500	..
28	Pensions and other Retirement Benefits . . .	1,24,31,200	..	2,30,86,800	..
29	Aid Materials . . .	33,09,200	..	61,45,800	..
30	State Lotteries . . .	10,75,800	..	19,98,200	..
31	Education . . .	33,71,29,000	66,700	62,60,97,000	1,33,300
32	Art and Culture . . .	38,46,900	..	71,44,100	..

1	2	3	4	5	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs	
33	State Archives	35,000	..	65,000	..
34	Medical and Public Health	15,18,61,400	45,00,000	28,20,28,600	90,00,000
35	Sanitation and Sewerage .	4,68,000	..	8,69,000	..
36	Housing Schemes	80,15,000	12,00,000	1,48,85,000	24,00,000
37	Residential Buildings . .	92,33,200	1,13,37,000	1,71,47,800	2,26,74,000
38	Urban Development . . .	55,15,600	8,50,000	1,02,43,400	17,00,000
39	Information and Publicity	21,04,500	..	39,08,500	..
40	Labour and Employment .	87,89,400	..	1,63,22,600	..
41	Civil Supplies	42,43,600	..	78,81,400	..
42	Relief and Rehabilitation .	43,400	..	80,600	..
43	Welfare of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and others	1,71,01,000	10,00,000	3,17,59,000	20,00,000
44	Social Welfare	75,55,500	..	1,40,31,500	..
45	Prohibition	15,43,500	..	28,66,500	..
46	Pensions to Freedom Fighters, Rajya Sainik Board, etc.	13,86,000	..	25,74,000	..
47	Natural Calamities	2,42,20,000	..	4,49,80,000	..
48	Social and Community Services	1,80,100	..	3,34,900	..
49	Planning Board	11,12,700	..	20,66,300	..
50	Cooperation	2,13,41,400	1,57,83,600	3,96,34,600	3,15,67,100
51	North Eastern Council Schemes	91,53,600	53,62,300	1,69,99,400	1,07,24,700
52	Statistics	43,75,700	..	81,26,300	..
53	Weights and Measures . .	11,45,600	..	21,27,400	..
54	Trade Adviser	1,91,100	..	3,54,900	..
55	Agriculture	11,57,37,100	81,00,000	21,49,39,900	1,62,00,000
56	Irrigation	1,55,95,300	8,36,36,300	2,89,62,700	16,72,72,700
57	Soil and Water Conservation	1,43,81,200	52,74,700	2,67,07,800	1,05,49,300
58	Animal Husbandry and Veterinary	3,01,08,000	..	5,59,15,000	..
59	Dairy Development	44,23,800	..	82,16,200	..
60	Fisheries	71,27,100	66,700	1,32,35,900	1,33,300

1	2	3	4
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
61 Forests	6,07,76,500	..	11,28,70,500
62 Community Development .	2,93,66,100	..	5,45,36,900
63 Industries	74,24,900	9 6,50,000	1,37,89,100
64 Sericulture and Weaving .	1,55,99,500	83,000	2,89,70,500
65 Cottage Industries .	85,95,800	56,30,000	1,59,64,200
66 Mines and Minerals .	28,23,100	16,63,33,300	52,42,900
67 Flood Control	1,95,27,200	4,73,66,700	3,62,64,800
68 Roads and Bridges . . .	6,42,45,700	5,55,40,300	11,93,13,300
69 Tourism .	10,99,300	..	20,41,700
70 Payment of Compensation and Assignment to Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions	1,36,73,900	..	2,53,94,100
71 Assam Capital Construction	..	10,63,300	..
72 Loans and Advances to Government Servants .	..	1,65,66,700	..

*Authorised to be withdrawn from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam by the Assam Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 1981.

**Includes amounts authorised by the President of India under article 357(1)(c) of the Constitution of India vide Ministry of finance Notification No SO. 610(E) dated 27-7-1981.

13.23 hrs

ASSAM APPROPRIATION BILL*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R VENKATARAMAN): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam for the services of the financial year 1981-82

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment

and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam for the services of the financial year 1981-82."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I introduce the Bill.

I beg to move:**

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam

*Published in Gazetteer of India Extraordinary Part II Section 2, dated 24-8-1981.

**Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.