

MR. SPEAKER: Is there not some balance of discipline in this House? Any hon. member can persuade this gentleman? This is too much. I am going to name him.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Jagpal, I am going to some other subject

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing

12.06 hrs.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri V. N. Gadgil on the 19th February, 1981 and seconded by Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma on the 20th February, 1981, namely:

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

'That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 16th February, 1981.' "

Hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am somewhat in a dilemma. I had hoped to avoid any kind of recrimination and repetition of the comparisons which so upset and excite the Hon. Members of Opposition. But the tenor of many of their remarks, the quoting of figures out of context—The Hon. Member who launched the attack seemed to attach almost scriptural significance to a particular document—these leave me no choice but to refer to that period. But I assure you Sir, and the House that I do so without any bitterness or any feeling of satisfaction. I do not seek alibis nor do I wish needlessly to irritate anyone.

The non-performance or the mis-performance of the Janata Party and Lok

Dal Government is not hidden. Much of it was admitted by the hon. Members sitting opposite themselves at that time as well as later. These debates are always interesting, not only for the ideas expressed but for the measure one has of the speakers. I have listened to many of the speeches but not all. Apart from a few, there was more sound and fury than substance. From our side several hon. Members made spirited defence and many of the points made by the Opposition were well answered. This makes my task easier.

I was amazed to hear an extraordinary statement accusing us of making the President express our views. The President's Address has to reflect the policies and perception of the Government in power. That happens to be the constitutional position. It is ridiculous to say that we have brought the President within the pale of controversy. The President's Address, if it is well recognised, is a policy document of the Government. Had it been the president's own statement hon. Members would not be introducing amendments.

An astounding and non-sensical theory was propounded that Shri Charan Singh's Government was our creation. Nothing can be farther from the truth. We protested strongly that he had no claim to form a Government at that time. (Interruptions)

When we resigned in 1977 we left the House in good condition. It was harmonious in the sense that the law and order situation was satisfactory. The communal situation, while not what we desired, seemed to be under control, the grain godowns were overflowing and foreign exchange reserves were excellent. But what did we find on return? The intervening years proved to be years not merely of drift and indecision but, what is much worse,—years of disally. The thrust that we had given to the economy in the mid seventies had generated its own momentum which continued to take the country forward for a while even afterwards, until for want of direction and support it began to slow

down. Had the momentum been kept up in the years 1977 to 1979, the country would not have been in the state we found last year when the G.N.P. fell by about 4.5 per cent.

Since several hon. Members have spoken of the performance for 1977 to 1979, it is worth our while to compare the results of the policies for the three years, 1974 to 1977 with the results of the policies of the Janata Party and Lok Dal Governments in the succeeding three years. You have probably heard the figures. But I give them again for the record. You will notice that where we needed increase, that is in the actual growth of the G.N.P. it came down from 4.1 per cent to 3.3 per cent, the industrial growth rate from 6.7 in 1974-77 to 3.2 in 1977-80, the growth rate of exports (at current prices) from 26.8 to 7.8 in 1977-80. The growth rate of the index of agricultural production came down from 1.7 in 1974-77 to 0.8 in 1977-80; and where we needed a decrease, for instance in the wholesale price index—counting 1970-71 equals 100 on a point to point basis—from 5.2 it rose to 8.8 in 1977-80. The growth in consumer price index—March to March basis rose from 5 per cent to 6.2 per cent.

The World Bank report was cited with great flourish in referring to the performance of the fiscal year 1976-79—a vain attempt to show how much was done by the Janata Party. This document was prepared by the World Bank staff and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Bank's Executive Directors. Perhaps the hon. member was under the impression that the figures he read out referred only to the Janata Party and Lok Dal period. Actually, in World Bank parlance, this term "fiscal period 1976-1979" includes the period 1975-76, 1976-77 as also 1977-78 and 1978-79. In these four years, the highest growth rate was in 1975-76, which was 9.6 per cent. I have earlier mentioned what happened in 1979-80 to the growth rate, i.e. it slumped by minus 4.5 per cent. This same World Bank report states that

the stabilisation measures taken in 1975 brought the severe inflation of that period under control. We do not want, nor is there need, to quote from the World Bank reports or for that matter any other report prepared by a foreign agency, as our Socialist and Marxist members seem so keen to do. The facts of our achievements speak for themselves. What is the fact of the achievements of Janata Party and Lok Dal Governments? During those three years, the rate of growth works out to 3.3 per cent, which is less than the trend of growth rate of 3.5 per cent and lower than the average annual growth rate of 4.1 per cent during the three years preceding the Janata-Lok Dal rule. Even the 3.3 per cent growth rate during 1977 to 1979 was made possible only by the long-term policies followed and the momentum created by my earlier Government, as I stated at the beginning.

Inflation, Sir, is the main subject of conversation everywhere. The current Economic Survey gives figures which show how we have brought down the inflation rate from last year. Obviously we have not yet been able completely to reverse the trend set by the last few years. However, the price situation has somewhat improved.

It was alleged by one hon. member that India's rate of inflation is the highest in the world. I do not know from what source the hon. member gets his information. According to the latest IMF International Financial Statistics, the increase in consumer price indices in India from December, 1979 to September, 1980 was 7.5 per cent. I should like to give the House some comparative figures. They are: Korea 24.3 per cent, Mexico 22.5 per cent, Pakistan 14.2 per cent, U.K. 12.8 per cent, Philippines 11.2 per cent, Indonesia 9.8 per cent, USA 9.5 per cent and India, as I mentioned earlier, 7.5 per cent. However, this is no satisfaction to us and even though it is extremely difficult to insulate our economy from international inflationary pressures, we are trying hard to keep prices from rising. But some items like oil, as everybody knows, are not in our control.

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On our return to Government, we gave priority to halt the drift and to initiate new programmes to sustain economic development. The main thrust of Government policy is to increase production. In agriculture, we must expand irrigation, provide quality seeds and chemical inputs and strengthen extension services. The following figures speak for themselves. Fertiliser consumption in 1979-80 was 5.2 million tonnes. In 1980-81—the figure is provisional—5.6 million tonnes. Area under high-yielding varieties in 1979-80 was 35.2 million hectares and in 1980-81 48 million hectares. Institutional credit for agriculture by cooperatives and banks has gone up from Rs. 2,550 crores to Rs. 2,990 crores.

Industrial performance in 1980-81 was much better than in 1979-80. We have taken steps to ensure better utilisation of installed capacity, remove restraints on production, raise limits on investments on small-scale units, ancillaries and tiny units.

Performance within each sector of the infrastructure was closely monitored by the Special Coordination Cell, problems were identified and better coordination effected. As a result of which the industrial growth rate improved from 1.4 per cent in 1979-80 to 4 per cent in 1980-81. Electricity generation (as the percentage over previous year) improved from 2.2 per cent to 6 per cent. Coal production improved from 106.9 to 115.0 m.t.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Jugglery of figures.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Cargo handling by major ports (from April to November) improved from 480 lakh tonnes to 510 tonnes.

I was told that for some unknown reasons the word 'export' was regarded almost as a bad word by the previous Government. So we had to take major initiatives to rescue it from stagnation.

The public distribution system has been strengthened. The off-take figures show that rice was 3.28 m.t. in 1979-80 whereas in 1980-81 it was 4.34 m.t. In wheat, improvement has not been very much. But still it is an improvement from 5.14 m.t. to 5.9 m.t.

During 1980-81, 40,000 fair price shops were opened mostly in rural areas.

It was amusing to hear that credit was being taken by Opposition parties for securing higher sugar cane prices. Actually, this was made possible only by our implementation of rational sugar pricing and distribution policies. This policy brought the total sugar production upto what is the highest in the last five years, 29 lakh tonnes till 7-2-1981. Those who created the gigantic sugar muddle in 1979 can hardly take credit for this reversal of the trend.

We prefer to help the kisan rather than enter into competition in shouting slogans of sympathy for him. When I said that 25 per cent of the Plan outlay would be set apart for farmers, I meant it. The level of investment for agriculture, rural development, irrigation and special area development, which benefits rural areas, is indeed of that order.

The other repetitive theme of a particular party is that of the import of foodgrains to build buffer stocks during 1974-77. I dealt with this comprehensively in my reply to the President's Address last year when I pointed out that the buffer stocks could not have been built but for the higher procurement of foodgrains by our Government. Please remember that it was our Government which was responsible for the policy of buffer stocking as an important factor of managing inflation and an instrument to provide essential commodities at reasonable rates to weaker sections of the society. For our part we intend to continue these policies. It is wholly wrong to accuse us of slowing down procurement. We are following it up. Already the procurement of rice in

kharif 1980-81 has exceeded 4.7 million tonnes, as against 3.6 million tonnes in the whole kharif year of 1979-80. But West Bengal which has had a very good harvest, I hear, has procured much less than it can and should do. I hope this is not according to some plan of theirs.

We have also been accused of depleting our foreign exchange reserves. May I remind hon. Members that in 1966 the position was really bad. Our reserves started accumulating from 1975 onwards in a big way, mainly due to bigger export efforts in the earlier years and increases in remittances from Indians abroad. But the reserves are not built for their own sake. They give us a cushion to manage the balance of payments problem, and should be used when necessary to finance imports, especially when they rise sharply, as in this year, because of the increase in the prices of POL products. The figures for POL imports are as follows: 1978-79 Rs. 1,677 crores; 1980-81 Rs. 5,600 crores (estimated). Against this increase in imports of about Rs. 4,000 crores for only one item, our draw down of foreign currency assets is expected to be only about Rs. 400 crores.

For a country's growth, the infrastructure is of the utmost importance. A sad but inescapable fact is that the infra-structure, including the public sector, was carelessly neglected. The following is the position:—The growth rate in electricity generation in utilities only in 1974-77 was 9.8 per cent. In 1977-80 it went down to 5.9 per cent. The growth rate of production of coal and lignite, which was 8.8 per cent in 1974-77, went down to 0.6 per cent in 1977-80. The growth rate in railway traffic in ton kilometres was 9.5 per cent in 1974-77 which went down to 0.2 per cent in 1977-80. The growth rate in the production of finished steel was 15.6 per cent in 1974-77, which went down to minus 4.6 per cent in 1977-80. This is from the Economic Survey.

In our scheme of things, the public sector has a special place. Its working has improved and we expect it to over-

come the inertia of 1979-80 and do as well and even better than in the period of 1974-77. The average pre-tax profit of public sector undertakings in 1974-77 was Rs. 3.6 crores. In 1977-80 it went down to Rs. 1.90 crores.

I am glad that industrial labour has responded positively to the measures we have taken so far. The number of man-days lost on account of labour problems in 1978 was 28.34 million; in 1979 it increased to 43.87 million; the provisional figure for 1980 is 12.91 million. But some people can't leave well alone. Attempts are being made to misguide labour and to vitiate the favourable industrial relations' situation. I appeal to the responsible sections of labour leadership not to allow themselves to be misled but to help us to serve the long-term interest of workers, which lies in increased production and in a sound and stable economy.

Family planning is indeed very vital for the whole world, and specially in our circumstances. It is in this area that we have had the most crippling set back in the last year. Our Party and Government have never advocated compulsory methods, and we have considered the programme not merely as a measure of population control but for healthier families and the general well-being of our people. One hon. Member said, and I fully support him, that this programme not only needs all-out effort by the Government but full co-operation of all the sections of the people, regardless of party or other considerations.

A rather feeble effort was made to project that outlays on science and technology were poor compared to what the Janata Party Government had provided. Of course, theirs was a Plan, as I said yesterday, that never was, because it was not approved by them. We all know what sort of interest that Government had taken in science and technology, and the consequent frustration of our scientists and technologists. Were not the achievements of our science denigrated in public, especially in so far as our

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peaceful nuclear experiment was concerned? It was an odd coincidence, and I want to make it very clear that for this I am not blaming either the then Government or our scientists, but it was strange coincidence that even the Bkaskara they sent up into space refused to send back information. It is a dark chapter in the history of our science and technology. I assure the House that we have the greatest commitment to science and technology and that our outlays on plan and non-plan expenditure will be significant as well as result-oriented. We shall continue to give all support to our brilliant scientists and technologists.

The law and order situation is one which worries all, and I share that anxiety. But one must see the problem in perspective. During the last years of my previous regime, agitations were deliberately fostered, giving rise to a climate of violence. The elements responsible for this were permitted to operate unchecked and thereby gained respectability. Later, during the Janata Party/Lok Dal inter regnum, caste and communal considerations came to the fore. The outcome is there for all to see—disregard for authority, demoralisation of law enforcement agencies, the politicalisation of government apparatus and heightened communal and caste tensions.

Now, while the Central and State Governments are taking measures to curb lawlessness, some parties have taken it upon themselves to encourage, if not foment, a variety of fresh agitations without the slightest regard to the damage caused to national life and national economy.

Each individual's or group's welfare depends on the total picture and the overall progress. And progress depends on the produce from our fields and factories. Progress depends on the functioning, quality and output of our schools, colleges, universities and other public and technological establishments.

Should any of us say or do anything to clog these wheels of progress and growth? I leave it to each one of you here in this House, and to the nation, to judge whether there are elements in our country who have incited and are inciting various sections. There are also those who have double talk of higher price to farmers and lower price to consumers—price-rise and anti-price rise about the same commodity. The attempt is to hamper production, by getting workers to stop or slow down work, by trying to paralyse the distribution system, to create tension and even a fear psychosis. Whatever the legitimacy or otherwise of various demands, is it in the national interest to give slogans like "RAASTA ROKO" or "RAIL ROKO" or "KAM ROKO"?

An hon. Member complained of my not visiting all the places where disturbances occur. In this, I cannot totally ignore the advice of the local administration. Some situations, especially communal ones, become very tense and it is considered advisable to go only when there is relative calm. At other times going helps to restore confidence. On occasions one has noticed that frequent visits rekindle sorrowful memories and keep emotions on the boil, thereby delaying normalcy.

The agitation in Assam has been going on for a long time. The Government have adopted a most patient and constructive attitude. It is indeed a pity that this has not evoked adequate response from the leaders of the agitation. Now, a new element has been introduced—terrorism: the throwing of bombs. Such a development cannot be countenanced by any government.

We have had prolonged consultations with the leaders of political parties on this issue. It is unfortunate that a political party which claims to be a national one has now chosen to come out in favour of an agitation, which has caused untold hardship to the people of Assam and the North-East, and considerable

damage to the economy there as well as the national economy. Amongst those most upset are the plains and hill tribal people. However, Government will continue its efforts to find a solution acceptable to all concerned.

There was understandable disquiet regarding feelings of insecurity amongst minorities. My party and I have always stood for those who are weaker, either economically, socially or because of numbers. Hence we are committed to the protection of minorities whether religious or linguistic. By the way, yesterday while I was listening to, I do not think it was the Member who was speaking, I think it was somebody who was interrupting, this member told a story about the Hindi language and how somebody had said in Bombay—

ब्रह्म आनी है कि आना है ? जवाब या "आवन" है.

which is the language spoken from my part of U.P. But it reminded me of a similar story.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East): You are from Medak.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Shall I say from where I was born?

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): Well, when the Prime Minister comes to Bombay we shall describe that.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It reminded me of another story. It is an old, pre-independence story. Two English officials, who were learning Urdu from different teachers were arguing among themselves. One said that this is a 'tashtari'. The other said 'no, my teacher has said it is a 'rakabi'. So, they decided to consult the bearer. The bearer said

... "हुजूर, हम तो इसको पलेट कहते हैं।"

One of the measures to foster communal harmony is the revival of the National Integration Council. Even

though some persons refuse to join the Council, we hope that these deliberations will lead to useful results.

Yesterday, I heard there was criticism of my trip to Sravanbelgola. I went to Gometeshwara to pay homage to one of the great streams of Indian thought which has made deep impact on our history, on our culture and even on the methods adopted in our freedom struggle. Hon. Members know that Gandiji was influenced by it and took up ideas of non-violence, non-possession and so on.

एक नानवीर सदस्य: आप कोई टैम्पल न छड़ें।

श्री जगपाल सिंह (हृद्दिवार): आरंगजेब भी यहाँ किया करता था।

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Members are rightly exercised over the agitation in Gujarat. It is most distressing. My heartfelt sympathy is with all those who suffer and specially because there, those who are suffering are the weakest of our people. It is deplorable that some political parties are encouraging people to persist in this ill-advised movement. The Government have moral obligation and constitutional responsibility to advanced the educational interests of the weaker sections of our society and in particular, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

श्री राम विलास पान्दान : (हाजीपुर): श्रीर नाली वजाओ। (अवधान) असम की सरकार को प्रधान मंत्री जी बर्खास्त कीजिए। गुजरात की सरकार गुजरात में आन्दोलन चला रही है।

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: And that we must and that we intend to discharge this responsibility in full measure. Naturally we must see that merit does not suffer and that no section feels discriminated against. I hope

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that the more responsible sections of the society will help to bring about an early restoration of peace.

One Member made an astonishing remark about my Government's interference in educational institutions. The troubles in these bodies have been started by some Opposition parties meddling with students or terrorising the staff. It is in States run by one of these parties that there is real interference on a big scale to the detriment of the effective functioning of prestigious institutions—Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and the Bose Institute.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Not true.

MR. SPEAKER: Order (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: You are misusing.... (*Interruptions*) Not true.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am not talking about English, I am not talking about primary education. I am talking about the higher institutes of science.

I think, yesterday, it was said that various universities also have been interfered with, actually 6 out of 7, and, so far as I know the seventh university is Viswabharati which is a Central university. So, they cannot interfere with it.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: I did not expect the Prime Minister to use this opportunity to malign a State Government.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am not maligning any State Government

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: We can have debate in the House.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Why should we have a debate?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: If it is not true, if they have not interfered, I shall accept it. I am not arguing about this. This is the information we have from the local people and those concerned with these bodies. (*Interruptions*) It is not from officers.

Similarly, I have had delegations from the Ramakrishna Mission complaining of the taking over of their polytechnics and schools. We know that this institutions enjoys worldwide renown for its dedicated and fine educational, medical and relief work. (*Interruptions*). If these matters are wrong, I shall be the first person to accept and admit it.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Will the Prime Minister accept the challenge? What you are telling is not true.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order No interruption please.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: If you prove, it is true, I will resign from this House...

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We feel it is confirmed information. But if it is not as I have already said I am prepared to look into it. There is no question of anybody resigning. I am not threatening the hon. Member.

Now, I come to foreign policy. It seems to me that there are a few hon. Members who live in an imaginary world of their own. One spoke of the normalisation of relations with our neighbours during the Janata Party regime. History cannot be so easily distorted. It was my Government which took the first step for normalisation with Pakistan and the last major initiative in this direction was

*Not recorded

the Simla Agreement. . Willingly giving up our river waters to the extent of damaging the Calcutta Port cannot be called normalisation. Good neighbourly relations can exist and grow only on the basis of reciprocity and mutual benefit. To this path we shall steadfastly adhere. We are as anxious as anybody. In fact, we think it is essential to have good relations with all our neighbours and we are doing everything possible for this. Another hon. Member spoke of lack of moral character. Strange words indeed from that party.

Events have demonstrated the rightness of our principled stands on various issues. The recent Non-Aligned conference has highlighted our balanced, constructive and active approach. The hon. Member, Shri Vajpayee's later statements to the Press revealed unsuspected depths of humour, perhaps unconsciously. How else can we explain his approbation of India's role at the Havana Summit? Through the Janata Party-Lok Dal interregnum, the question among the Non-aligned was "India where are you?". In that period, various factors, including international factors, led to the weakening of the Non-Aligned Movement, and when I met world leaders in Salisbury and Belgrade, the wondered if the movement could survive or would it break up.

Thus, the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned countries was held at a time when perils abounded to world understanding and especially to non-aligned unity. There were propagandistic statements and homilies, and many did their best to sow suspicion among us. But every one recognises that, in Delhi we were able to avert the danger of division and, to that extent, increase our capacity to work for the lessening of international tensions. I must compliment our Foreign Minister and his team of officials for their patient, unruffled and untiring work to iron out points of difference and to persuade the antagonists to come closer. We

now have a constructive initiative on the Iran-Iraq question. Regarding Afghanistan, leaders from all parts of the world who met me have commended as practical the Indian stand which seeks to help create an atmosphere for an early political solution.

AN HON. MEMBER: Publicly or privately?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Somebody asked, "publicly or privately". We have not changed our stand. It was made clear privately and publicly, in every possible forum.

Much is made of the fact that our Draft did not refer to one or two points. Now, it is clear that this was not a national draft, nor an elucidation of the Indian point of view, but a consensus paper. It was a compilation of various ideas aimed at evolving a common approach which became an excellent starting point and achieved maximum agreement.

As I said earlier, this does not mean that we have, at any time, changed our views or that they were not clearly made known to all. News from different quarters of international community informs us of a generally favourable reaction to the Conference. Here in this House the fact that we are criticised by opposing sections speaks volumes for our non-aligned stance. Anyhow, I do not expect impartial judgement from those who have made it their policy to attack me, whatever I do or say.

Our farmers are true patriots. They suffer and serve sweating in their fields, protecting our borders or through their sons who labour in factories. Their spirit of service and sacrifice has kept this nation going. Our Farmers' Rally was indeed an impressive and inspiring event. It gave farmers from all parts of the country, even from the remotest areas in the.. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar): I want to know whether it was a government rally or not.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It was not a government function, Sir. But when anything takes place on this scale, it is important to the nation.

It gave our farmers from all parts of the country, even from the remotest areas in the North and North-East, opportunity to come together and demonstrate Indian unity in spite of great distance and diversities. It gave them the feeling of participation in the larger national effort.

Observers were especially impressed by the exemplary behaviour and discipline of such massive numbers, unprecedented at any time anywhere in the world. This should be a source of pride to all Indians.

Our working classes have always shown a high sense of patriotism more so during difficult times and I do sincerely hope that they will act with patience and restraint and do nothing to hamper production in factories or work in offices. Within the means available, the Government have been always anxious to do justice to all sections of people, and shall continue to do so. But we cannot ignore the poorest amongst the poor who call for immediate attention. The better of people cannot be secure unless the weaker sections are made stronger. There is not or rather should not be rivalry between any section.

My speech would be incomplete without a word of appreciation of our Armed Forces. The entire country admires the manner in which they serve and sacrifice for our security and in times of peace bring relief to victims of various calamities. We remember also our Exservicemen.

As I have said earlier, it is not my desire to score debating points or to continue an endless discussion on the past. To-day's world moves much too fast to allow us that luxury. I have no quarrel with the Opposition. I wish them well. They have somehow to criticise the Government which we do not

mind. Sometimes the criticism is theatrical and sometimes tends to gimmickery. Perhaps they think that this will help them. They are the best judges of what they should do. I am more concerned with what we and our Party do and we shall not allow any one to divert our attention from basic problems. I have repeatedly appealed for and offered cooperation. I am sorry to say that the response has been more towards confrontation. Opposition parties most of them have trod the path of confrontation all these years. Can we not give a trial to cooperation and discuss matters with cordiality? I doubt if any one disputes the view that the situation, in various ways, in and around our country is serious. The future is already upon us: All countries are faced with hard decisions. We have no soft options. This situation demands a concerted and stupendous endeavour which can only be achieved by constructive cooperation from Hon-ble Members, from political parties, from farmers and workers from professionals and intellectuals, from women and from youth, in fact, from all our people. If we can consider our problems in that larger context, in the context of the nation's problems and difficulties and international situation, Sir, I have no doubt that this country has the strength to overcome these obstacles and to march forward towards socialism, towards a better life for our people by solving then many problems. This cooperation I seek from the hon. Members of all sides of the House. I commend the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

श्री रामब्रह्मण पामब्रह्मण (हाजीपुर) :
प्रधान मंत्री जी जैसा मा गुजरात राज्य पर पर भा रहे । गुजरात जन रहा है, हरिजन प्रादिवामी मारे जा रहे है । आपने सदन में कहा है कि गुजरात की मिच्छुणन बहुत खराब है । प्रधान मंत्री जी हरिजन और बाँकर सैकणन्य को स्प ट प्राःवामन दें । . . .
(उपबचान)

Mr. Speaker: We are going to discuss it.

SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): On a point of clarification (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. Shall I put all the amendments to the vote of the House together or does any hon'ble Member want any particular amendment to be put separately? I find nobody is pressing. I shall now put all the amendments together to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the main Motion to the vote of the House. The question is:

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

'That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 14th February, 1981.' "

The Motion was adopted.

12.56 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THIRD REPORT

SHRI G. S. NIHALSINGHWALA (Sangrur): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers laid on the Table.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED HIKE IN THE PRICES OF COAL, PIG IRON AND STEEL

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर (मोतिहारी): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविनम्रनीय लोक-महन्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की और माननीय वाणिज्य तथा इस्पात और खान मंत्री का ध्यान दिनाता हूँ तथा अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे इस सम्बन्ध में अपना वक्तव्य दें ;

"कोयला, कच्चा लोहा और इस्पात के मूल्यों में वृद्धि, जिसके कारण उद्योगों और जनसाधारण को कठिनाई हो रही है, के समाचार"।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मधुकर जी, अब इसको लचके बाद लेंगे।

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Seven Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—Contd.

REPORTED HIKE IN THE PRICES OF COAL, PIG IRON AND STEEL—CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: Now, the Minister may make the Statement.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, The compelling reason for the recent increase in iron and steel prices is the need to generate

*Amendment Nos. 1 to 96, 115 to 122, 210 to 221, 375 to 411, 421 to 428, 437 to 453, 463 to 471, 488 to 520, 538 to 517, 331 to 317, 359 to 363, 355 to 357, 359 to 394, 601 to 620 and 653 to 694.