

13.22 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 197A—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Charan Singh on the 24th April 1979, namely:—

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1979-80 be taken into consideration."

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad): On a point of order. Rule 219.....

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Quorum?

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Not so unsubstantial.

Please read sub-rule (2) and (3). This section of the Rules is on the Finance Bill itself. This is a separate section for the Finance Bill. Sub-rule (2) reads as follows:

"At any time after the introduction in the House of a Finance Bill, the Speaker may allot a day or days, jointly or severally, for the completion of all or any of the stages involved in the passage of the Bill by the House, and when such allotment has been made the Speaker shall, at 17.00 hours...."

Fortunately the plea which I used to make that this is not sacrosanct has been accepted by the Speaker himself and he has made it 19.00 hrs. now. Today, it is 19.00 hrs.

"...on the allotted day or the last of the allotted days, as the case may be, forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with the stage or stages for which the day or days have been allotted:"

That stage will come later. The proviso is important. Please read the proviso in the light of what had gone on before.

"Provided that if a Minister.. I am glad that at least one Minister is here.

"...has a right of reply to the debate on the motion which is under discussion at 16.00 hours on that day....."

~~Mutatis mutandis~~, it will now be 18.00 hours because 17.00 hours has been made 19.00 hours and so, 16.00 hours will be 18.00 hours.

"...and has not commenced his reply at that hour....."

The motion under discussion now is the First Reading, that is to say, the motion for consideration is under discussion. This proviso applies to the time, temporal limit at 18.00 hours. Please read on:—it is interesting "...and has not commenced" his reply at that hour....."

That means at 18.00 hours. Mind you, the House decided on the Speaker's initiative or may be at your initiative, because then you were in the Chair, that the last stage, Third Reading, would take only one hour. that is to say, from 18.44 hours to 19.00 hours this evening. That is the time allocated for the Third Reading.

Now, in the light of this proviso and also sub-rule (3), the Speaker shall enquire how much time not exceeding one hour, he requires for his reply, that means, how much time the Minister requires for his reply, either the Minister of State or his senior colleague, and shall call upon any member, for the time being, addressing the House to resume his seat. Abruptly and per-emptorily you have to ask the member to resume his seat as will leave available, before 17.00 hours—that is now changed to 19.00 hours—the amount of time which the Minister requires for his reply.

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

Sub-rule (3) reads:

"Where the question or one of the questions required by sub-rule (2)—that is the sub-rule which I have already read—to be put at 17.00 hours on the allotted day or the last of the allotted days is that the Bill be passed, sub-rule (2) shall have effect notwithstanding the amendments to the Bill have been made."

Taking the two together, it is obvious to me—I do not know whether it is obvious to my colleagues and to you—that the Minister has got to tell the Chair and the House how much time he requires for his reply to the debate on this motion for consideration first. How much time will he require? He may consult his senior colleague as to how much time he needs for his reply so that, taking that amount of time into consideration, you, Sir, will ask any member on his legs at that time to resume his seat and give that amount of time to the Minister for his reply and close the discussion on the motion for consideration in 11 hours allotted for the first reading.

The time-schedule is with you. I do not know how much time has been taken and how much time is outstanding. You may throw light on that point as to how much time is left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To complete 11 hours. 1 hour and 15 minutes are left.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: After that, the second reading will begin. So, we must finish the discussion on the motion for consideration, if you have to adhere to the time-schedule, by 2.45 P.M. or by 3 O' Clock. Therefore, may I request you to ask the Minister how much time he will take for his reply to the debate on the motion for consideration and, accordingly, tell us the remaining time for other members, that is to say, if any member who is going to speak, will be asked to

resume his seat, so that the Minister will begin his reply to the debate according to the time fixed now. Unless that done, we will fail to adhere to the time-schedule. I do not wish to curtail the right of reply and I do not want to curtail the time for the members. But unless that is adhered to, we will have less time for the second reading and less time for the third reading and it will be there bull-dozed, steamrollered. According to the time fixed, it must be completed today unless you want to extend the time. If the House wants to extend he time, I have no objection. I will be happy. I do not know if the Minister is willing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will be completed today. According to the time-schedule, 15 hours have been fixed. On that basis, it will be completed today.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: It is imperative for you in the Chair to fix time for his reply and, accordingly, you have regulate the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That I will do.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: How much time will he take? He does not know how much time his senior colleague will take. I do not know who will reply, either he or the senior Deputy Prime Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I will make a comment unless you resume your seat not otherwise. I do not want to be impertinent when you are already standing and speaking.

Sir, Mr. Kamath is ever vigilant about the rights of the hon. Members of this House...

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Everybody should be.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: All are not.

[Shri B. K. Nair]

Tentatively, it was decided that 15 hours shall be allotted for the completion of all stages of this Bill, 11 hours for general discussion, 3 hours for clause-by-clause and 1 hour for the third reading. According to that time-schedule, I think, we must finish the discussion on the consideration motion by 3 O' Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why 3 O' Clock? Why not 2.45?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I will require only half an hour, not more than that. As the House is already aware, the Deputy Prime Minister is, unfortunately, not well; he is confined to bed; he will not be attending the House. With your permission and with the permission of the House, I shall reply to the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ugra Sen. He is not present. Mr. B. K. Nair.

SHRI B. K. NAIR (Mavelikara): Sir, at the very outset I would like to compliment and congratulate the new Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister. It is for the first time in India that a spokesman of the rural India has assumed this exalted office of Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, and the change is amply reflected in the budget proposals also. That is something to be congratulated upon. But having assumed the position of the Prime Minister, I think, it is his right, and it is his rightful claim, that he is not just another Minister of the Cabinet. He should assume full responsibility and authority to act as the Deputy Prime Minister, and among these responsibilities and authorities, I would suggest, it should be his duty to set right the whole economic activities of the country—not merely present the Budget imposing taxes and duties but try to improve the economic health of the whole country. For that purpose, I would suggest, a sort of Ministry of Economic Affairs should be set up because, as it is, the whole

thing is going to chaos. The Minister of Industry is going in his own way; the Minister of Commerce is going in his own way—exports are going down and imports are going up—; the Petroleum Minister does not know what the other Ministers are doing; the Railway Minister is not responsible for transport; the Coal Minister is not responsible for supply of coal. Everything is going to dogs. To set all these things right, a supreme authority like a Ministry of Economic Affairs should be set up. It is all the more necessary now because planning has now taken a second position in this country. Now planning is a sort of rolling plan. 'Rolling Plan' means anything may be done or anything may be left undone. Unless from year to year adjustments are made, unless the programmes that are made on a year-to-year basis are effectively implemented, there will be no possibility of the country recovering from the present state of chaos.

I am making a charge on the Janata Government to the effect that they have been mismanaging the economy of this country in the last two years. While presenting the first Budget before Parliament soon after they came to power, the then Finance Minister, Shri H. M. Patel, even though he was grudging in accepting that things had improved, had to accept certain facts as they were very clear; he admitted in his speech before Parliament that the industrial production had gone up, and the agricultural production had gone up to the extent of 121 million tonnes. He deplored the fact that the economy was in such a miserable condition that the production of 121 million tonnes could not be absorbed, surplus was left, no arrangement had been made for consumption, the purchasing power was very low, and all that. He also admitted that the foreign remittances had been going up and the growth rate had been higher. All these positive factors had been there at that time. But what is the position

now? What are the facts mentioned by the present Finance Minister in his Budget speech? He takes note of the fact—a very important fact—that savings have come down, the mobilisation has been low, the industrial production has been going down, agriculture has just maintained its position—in agriculture, 1979 is no better than 1978; only a marginal or small improvement has been made. He has also mentioned the fact that exports have been going down and imports have been going up. And imports are going up and in all these factors, as compared to 1977, from the speeches made by the Finance Ministers themselves, you will find that there is a colossal degree of mismanagement of the economy and finances of the country within these two years.

It is also a fact that while Mr. Patel started with a Budget deficit of only Rs. 84 crores, Mr. Charan Singh has presented a Budget with a deficit of Rs. 1300 crores. This is according to the original proposal but now after the concessions and the impending oil price increase, and so many other factors, I am quite sure that the deficit this year is not going to be anything less than Rs. 3000 crores. It will not be Rs. 1400 crores as you envisaged but it will be something like Rs. 3000 crores by the end of the year, because the Budget estimates are always down by less than 15 per cent every year. Every year if the estimate is Rs. 100 crores, then it will be Rs. 200 crores. If the estimate is Rs. 200 crores, then it will be Rs. 400 crores. This year I feel the deficit is not going to be less than Rs. 3000 crores.

About the Budget proposals themselves, I will not condemn them saying that it is a Kulak's budget. It is all too absurd because in this House right from the beginning of the Sixth Lok Sabha of which I have been a Member here, throughout the time a lot of tears have been shed about the grievances of the Kisans every day, look at the countryside. They

are working hard and producing food for us putting in great labour. But they are not getting a remunerative price.' All sides, representatives of Kisans and everybody have been shedding tears for the Kisans. Now when the Finance Minister comes up with a suggestion that at least we may make a beginning by cutting down the fertiliser prices, there is a hue and cry, saying 'It is a Kulak's Budget. It will spark off a conflict between urban areas and rural areas'. This also is quite wrong. If somebody reduces the input prices as a first step to help the Kisans—somebody has to make a beginning at some stage or the other—this is an unseemly controversy which is raised. What is the reduction? It is only Rs. 100 per tonne. If it is to be something, it has to be so substantially more. This is nothing reasonable or substantial because I have myself some experience here. Eight years ago the paddy price and the fertiliser price ratio was 1:2 but now the price has gone up by four times and compared to paddy price, the fertiliser price ratio was 1:2 but now the price. So this concession of Rs. 100 is nothing. It is only a small beginning. It should have been substantially more. That is my point.

When you talk of helping the agriculturists, what do we expect to provide? Some pumping equipments and making the cost of pumping somewhat less. These steps are certainly welcome. I also feel that it is not correct to say that there is a sort of conflict as has been made out, between the rural side and the urban side. The conflict is there, it is essentially there. I have been making this charge even last time. I make the charge that 20 per cent of the people of the urban side are demanding and extracting the blood of the 80 per cent of the kisans. That is 20 per cent of the urban people are ruling the country. They have the control over the bureaucracy. They have got the control over radio and newspapers. If somebody takes

The step to lighten the burden on the 80 per cent of the population, it is a welcome thing. The urban people have been enjoying all facilities at the cost of the rural poor and this imbalance has to be removed and in course of time, I hope the imbalance will be removed. This is only a small steps which should be welcomed.

But, then, the mistake is in attempting to set right the imbalance where the solutions sought are not proper. When you impose taxes on commodities like toilet soaps and tooth brush which are essential items of daily necessity, it is not confined only to the urban people. It has a general effect on the increasing cost of production. It goes on increasing the cost of living index. Industrial production cost also goes up. And ultimately it would be a burden on the rural people as such.

Mr. Charan Singh might have intended it to be only a sort of political weapon. In this case it is so because there is an internal conflict within the party. And so he might have felt that it should be a sort of weapon. Certainly it is going to have an impact throughout the country. It will affect the industrial workers, government employees and all sorts of people. That is what I am telling you. The cost of living may go up to 10 per cent because of this increase in the levy. That is not going to stop there. Yesterday the Finance Minister announced some concessions. But, I think, they will not have any effect. They will only raise the price or push up the price. It will only benefit the trade ultimately. It is certainly going to cause a lot of hardship to the countryside people. The concession is just given in opposite direction to what is really intended for.

My point in remedying this situation is this. There should be a separate Economic Ministry. All the other ministries such as Transport,

Coal, Industry and Steel should be under the supervisory control of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Otherwise, there will be no solution found. And everybody will go in his own way and the country will go to dogs.

Another thing is about the under-utilisation capacity. Who will control if each ministry is trying to explain in its own way. It will say that it is the mistake of somebody else. The Steel Minister will say that he does not get the coal; the Industry Minister will say that he did not get electricity sufficient for running the industries. If the units that are to be put up are not properly being utilised, what is the solution for that? The Finance Ministry or the Economic Affairs Ministry does not have any control over the operations. So, there is no solution found for that.

You have been announcing a certain price so far as foodgrains are concerned. But the agriculturists are not getting what they want for their produce. On the economic front these are the steps that you have to take—proper utilisation of the capacity of the units and stable price to the agriculturists based on the cost of production.

श्री सुरेश झा सुजन (दरभंगा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं वित्त मंत्री द्वारा प्रस्तुत वित्त विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ। 1979-80 के बजट पर चल रही विचार चर्चा का आज अंतिम अध्याय है। इस बार केवल 9 मंत्रालयों की मांगों पर और शेष 12 मंत्रालयों की मांगों पर बिना बहुसंख्यक प्रक्रिया अपनाकर चर्चा का अन्त नहीं रिया गया। मैं समझता हूँ कि बजट अधिवेशन में प्रत्येक मंत्रालय पर सदस्यों को विचार विमर्श का अवसर देना चाहिये और गिलोटीन परम्परा प्रक्रिया को समाप्त करना चाहिये।

वित्त मंत्री ने बजट में जनमत का आश्वासन करते हुए जो पिछले दिन कुछ राहत की घोषणा की है, उससे साबुन, दवा, इलेक्ट्रान एवं बिजली बालित करों के कपड़ों का कर-भार कम होगा। साथ ही यह भी वास्तविक होता कि आम आदमी के इस्तेमाल की चीजों, रिफाईनिंग, किरायेदारों के जैसे चीजों पर छूट मिलती।

[श्री सुरेन्द्र झा सुमन]

प्रत्युत्पन्नियों के बर्तनों की, जिन्हें विशेषतः नदीय बाँध ही व्यवहार करते हैं, वस्त्रे दर में मिलने की बात होती। बिना के आधारभूत सर्वोपयोगी कागज की मंहवाई रोकने की दिशा में कदम उठाया जाता। उदाहरणार्थ तीन टन बाँध से एक टन कागज बनता है, किन्तु यदि तीन टन बाँध तीन-चार सी में मिलता है तो एक टन कागज तीन-चार हजार में। उत्पादन लागत में यह अन्तर से दूर होना चाहिये।

बजट अनुदान पर बहुत कुछ चर्चा चल चुकी है, पर इसमें संदेह नहीं कि इस बार का बजट एक नई दिशा को प्रकट करता है। नगर की धीर जो दृष्टि लगी रहती थी, उसे अब बाँध की धीर लगाया गया है। बड़े-बड़े उद्योगों को नगरों में अवसराने के बजाय कुटीर उद्योगों और खेत-खलिहानों की सुविधा ली गई है। किन्तु यह भी मन्थ है कि इससे प्रत्योदय नहीं, मध्योदय ही हुआ है, छोटे किसान-मजदूर नहीं, बड़े किसानों को ही विशेष सुविधा मिली है। मैं महाभारत का विदुर-वाक्य उद्धृत करूँगा—

“वरिदान भर कौन्तेय मा प्रयच्छेऽश्वरेधनम्
व्याधितस्योषधे पथ्यं नीरुजस्य किमोषधे ?”

मैं अपने क्षेत्र दरभंगा के विषय में कुछ निवेदन करना चाहूँगा, जो उत्तर बिहार जिल्ला का मुख्य क्षेत्र है। यहाँ बाढ़-सूखे की द्रष्टे अर्पेट में किसान साल साल बर्बाद हो रहे हैं। सीमावर्ती गंगा-काशी-गंडकी तथा मध्यवर्ती कमला-बागमती-जीवछ बलान-कडेक आदि दर्जनो नदियां साल-साल बाढ़ लाती रहती हैं। फसलों, घरों, सड़कों, पुलों, माल-मलेशियों को बर्बाद करती रहती हैं। तटबन्ध बने भी हैं, तो ऐसे कि बे टूटते रहते हैं। इसी 78 ई० की बाढ़ में केवल बागमती तटबंध 15 स्थानों पर टूटे थे। इनकी मरम्मत में हर साल रुपये की लूट चलती रहती है। यही नहीं, नदी से दूरदराज भाग में सूखा भी रहता है। उदा-हरणार्थ हायवाट प्रखंड का आधारा भाग पानी में डूबा और आधा सूखे का शिकार। बहुलांग में यही हाल दरभंगा-नेओटी-महापुर-बहेड़ी-बेनीपुर-मनीगाछी-बाले-बिस्वी-सिगियो-रासड़ा का भी है। एक प्रकार से हाजीपुर से पूरिया तक का समस्त भूभाग बाढ़-सूखे की अर्पेट में रहता है। सरकारी जीव के अनुसार ही उत्तर बिहार के 8 दर्जन प्रखंडों के लगभग दार्द हजार पंचायतों में करीब 45 प्रतिशत उपज हर साल बाढ़-सूखे से बर्बाद होती है। विशेषतः से अनुमान लगाया है कि 74 से 78 तक 8 सालों में उत्तर बिहार में बाढ़-सूखे से 75 लाख टन से अधिक जड़ी फसल बर्बाद हुई। घर, सड़क, पुल आदि की टूट-फूट जोड़ दी जाये तो 50 सी करोड़ से अधिक की क्षति एक दशक में हुई। यदि एक साल की बर्बादी की राशि ही निर्माण योजना में लवा दी जाये, तो स्थायी समाधान हो जाये।

इसके विवे बार बार कहा गया है कि कोठी नदी पर बराह क्षेत्र में, कमला नदी पर बीजा पानी में और प्रधारा-बागमती के नूनवर में नेपाल के सहयोग से यदि बराह तैवार हों तो बाढ़ की रोक, सूखे में पटीनी तैवार हजार नेपालबाट बिजली के उत्पादन से यहाँ के कृषि, उद्योग-धंधों, इंधन प्रकाश आदि की सारी समस्याएं हल हो जायें और यह इलाका भारत का अन्न भंडार बन जाये।

इसी तरह दरभंगा में एक बड़ा मैडिकल कालेज और हॉस्पिटल है जो अत्यन्त बनी आबादी क्षेत्र में स्थित है। नेपाल तराई के लोग भी यहीं आते हैं। यातायात की असुविधा रहते हुए भी यहाँ रोगियों की भरमार रहती है। यहाँ 524 शय्या वाले 26 लाख की लागत से नये बाँध बनाने के लिए 1962 में योजना बनी, किन्तु 17 वर्षों के बाद 372 शय्या वाले प्रभा भी अब तक ठप पड़ा है, उसमें बिलम्ब के कारण पांच गुनी राशि एक करोड़ 25 लाख रुपये की लागत भा रही है। यहाँ के लिए एक प्रस्ताव था कि यहाँ के सांसद मंत्री ललित नारायण मिश्र के नाम पर मैडिकल इंस्टीट्यूट दरभंगा में स्थापित हो, पर वह पटना में खोला गया।

यहाँ नेत्र रोग का बाहुल्य है, केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा अंधता निवारण स्कीम के अधीन जेडीय केन्द्र खोलने की बात थी।

मैडिकल कालेज के नेत्र विभाग को अपग्रेड करने की भी चर्चा बनी, पर यह कह कर बात टाली जा रही है कि वह हवाई सेवा के मार्ग पर नहीं है और रेल-सड़क की सुविधा भी नहीं है। कहना नहीं होगा कि जहाँ मरीजों की ताबाद अधिक हो, जो अन्य औपचारिक सुविधाओं से सम्पन्न हो, वहाँ यातायात की असुविधा भी सरकार द्वारा ही दूर की जा सकती है। यदि वाली न हो, तो क्या सूखे को खिलाने की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए।

दरभंगा में संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय ने प्रादुर्बोध संस्थान की स्थापना की है, जिसका विकास करने के लिए मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ।

दरभंगा में सैनिक हवाई अड्डा है। उ से नागरिक हवाई अड्डे के रूप में व्यवहार कि जा जाये। दरभंगा में रेलवे के समान परिवर्तन के काम में शीघ्र हाथ लगाया जाये।

दरभंगा में रेडियो स्ेशन भी है। जिल्ला की संस्कृत विद्या और वैदिकी भाषा के लिए केंद्रीय और आर्यसोर्ड कहा जाता है। आकाशवाणी

डाप इन भाषाओं में अधिकाधिक कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत किये जायें।

हलचर प्रदीक को ले कर जनता पार्टी राज-नैतिक मंच पर प्रखरतीर्ण हुई थी और अब हलचर किसानों के हित में उत्तीर्ण हो रही है, यह सर्वथा संतोष की बात है। पिछली सरकार ने कृषि की उपेक्षा कर के बड़े बड़े उद्योग-संघों की ओर ही अधिक ध्यान दिया था। उद्योग में 23 प्रतिशत राशि खर्च की गई थी और विमल कृषि-क्षेत्र के लिए सिर्फ 19 प्रतिशत। किन्तु जनता सरकार ने सर्वाधिक ध्यान कृषि पर दिया है। उसने कृषि पर 30 से 40 प्रतिशत राशि खर्च करने की नीति अपनाई है। फलतः जहाँ तीस सालों में कृषि में 3.8 प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई थी, वहाँ दो वर्षों के जनता शासन में 6 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि हुई है। जहाँ खाद्यान्न के लिए पहले भारत सरकार के नुमायुओं को विदेशों में मोलियां ले कर जाना पड़ता था और भ्रष्ट खरीद में 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने पड़े थे, वहाँ अब भारत दूसरे देशों को भ्रष्ट भेज रहा है, रूस को भी इस बार खाने देने लगा है एवं विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करने लगा है। इस समय सरकारी भंडार में 2 करोड़ टन अनाज जमा है। फूड फार वर्क (काम के लिए अनाज) योजना में जहाँ पिछले साल 30 करोड़ रुपये की राशि दी गई थी, इस वर्ष वह बढ़ा कर सौ करोड़ रुपये कर दी गई है। इस तरह जनता सरकार के बढ़ते कदम सराहने लायक हैं।

इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि राशि बढ़ाने के साथ उसके अधिकाधिक उपयोग के बारे में सावधानी रखनी होगी। स्पष्ट है कि उत्पादन-आय जिस अनुपात में बढ़ी है, उससे कहीं अधिक सरकारी व्यय बढ़ गया है। उदाहरणार्थ स्वतंत्रता के समय लगभग 16 लाख सरकारी कर्मचारी थे, जबकि अब उनकी संख्या 60 लाख से ऊपर हो गई है। 50 रुपये पाने वाला 500 रुपये पाता है। हजार-हजार पाने वाले भी लाख संख्या में हैं। जहाँ एक एस0डी0 ओ0 था, वहाँ दर्जनों विभागीय एस0डी0 ओ0 हैं। जब सरकारी कर्मचारियों की संख्या दिन बुनी बढ़ रही है, तो डी0ए0, टी0 ए0 और मैट्रिकल ग्रेड आदि की राशि रात चीगुनी बढ़ रही है।

कहते हैं कि बजट का 75 से 80 सैकड़ा केवल व्यवस्था में निकल जाता है और विकास के मूल कामों में—बिजली, पानी, सड़क, बांध, स्कूल, अस्पताल आदि में—20, 25 प्रतिशत में भी कोताही रहती है। इसमें भी 12, 13 प्रतिशत नगर विकास में और 7, 8 प्रतिशत तक ही गांवों की सीमा में—किसान मजदूरों पर—खर्च होता है। इस प्रकार की फिजूलखर्ची और बदन्यायी 80 प्रतिशत देहात वाले और 60 प्रतिशत शरीरी की देखा के नीचे रहने वाले लोगों

के देश में ककनी चाहिए। वहाँ हमें पिछले वर्षों की तुलना से संतोष नहीं करना है। हमें तो विकसित देशों की तुलना में देश को आगे ले जाने का सपना पूरा करना होगा। हमें देखना होगा कि जब जापान का बैक एकड़ रखने वाला किसान 18 टन अनाज और 24 टन मालु-टोमाटो उपजाता है, कोरिया का एक 2 एकड़ वाला किसान रेफ्रिजरेटर और टेलिविजन से घर को सजा लेता है, तो भारत का पांच एकड़ रखने वाला किसान साल भर परिवार को क्या नहीं खिला पाता है। कारण स्पष्ट है। भारत में 37 करोड़ एकड़ कृषि-योग्य भूमि में 10 करोड़ एकड़ मात्र सिंचित है और 10 करोड़ एकड़ तो बिल्कुल बंजर ही है। इसी तरह जहाँ भारत में फटिलाइजर प्रति-हेक्टेयर मुक्तिल से 18 के० जी० प्राप्य है, वहाँ जापान में 319 और साउथ कोरिया में 358 के० जी० के बीज के भ्रत वहाँ खाद्यान्न से 4-5 गुने महंगे हैं जब कि वहाँ ब्रिटेन में द्यूदे से अधिक नहीं हैं। पटनी का प्रबन्ध चौधार्द क्षेत्र में है शेष तीन भागों को बारिश पर निर्भर ना पड़ता है। वह भी विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार देश भर में 40 करोड़ हेक्टर पानी बरसाता है, उस में सिर्फ 6 करोड़ हेक्टर पानी का उपयोग होता है, शेष बह जाता है। इस के लिए रिजर्वायर आदि की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

यहाँ 48 करोड़ किसानों के लिए बस 7 करोड़ से कम हैं। गोखन भारतीय कृषि के लिए सर्वस्व है। इस दृष्टि से उसका विकास होना चाहिए। साथ ही गोबध बन्ध होना चाहिए। पर इस देश में महजबी भावना फैला कर दुस्तक के द्वारा गोबध-बन्दी का भी विरोध किया जा रहा है और इस तरह आज भूदान यज्ञ के होता सर्वोपेयी महान् आध्यात्मिक नेता विनोबा जी के प्राण संकट में पड़े हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस ओर अविचल ध्यान दे और उन महर्षि के जीवन की रक्षा का उपाय करे।

अस्तु, संक्षेप में कृषि विकास के लिए आवश्यक होंगे—खेती को चकबन्दी, जमीन के लिए पास बूक की व्यवस्था, फसल बीमा, पशु बीमा, प्रबंधों में कृषि बाजार, परिवहन के लिए गांव गांव में सड़क-परिवहन, सस्ते बीज, प्रचुर राव और सब से बढ़ कर हर क्षेत्र में पानी पहुँचाना।

कृषि विभाग का दायरा बहुत बड़ा है। इस दृष्टि से इस की राशि में और वृद्धि आकांक्षित होगी। संयुक्त आहार के हिसाब से यहाँ राध के लिए 16 करोड़ टन अनाज चाहिए, उत्पादन अभी 13 करोड़ टन मात्र है। यहाँ दलहन, तिलहन की विशेष कमी है। उस की खेती बढ़े। गन्ने की फसल खड़ी खड़ी सूख जाती है। उस की व्यवस्था हो। गेहूँ का उत्पादन तो 70 प्रतिशत स्वतंत्र भारत में बढ़ा है पर खाने का अनुपात 50 प्रतिशत ही बढ़

[श्री सुरेश झा सुमन]

पाया है जब कि यहाँ 70 प्रतिशत लोग चावल जोड़ी हैं। यहाँ विदेशी बीज वाले ताइचन भादि धान की उपज तो बढ़ रही है पर देशी मालमोग, तुलसी फूल, कनकजीर जैसे उत्तम कोटि के धान लुप्त होते जा रहे हैं। उन की रक्षा भी होनी चाहिए।

बाण समस्या बहुत कुछ हल हो रही है और बितरण प्रणाली में गड़बड़ी जारी है। कृषि विरुद्ध विद्यालय खुलते जा रहे हैं। पर कितानी भान पर ही जोर डाला जा रहा है। अब भी कृषि अधिकारी जो, गैहू और केन्डाव मटर के पीछों में अंतर समझना आवश्यक नहीं समझते। उन्हें गांव-गांव में कैंचर-चोचर में क्रियात्मक ज्ञान प्राप्त कराया जाय।

देश में वन विकास का काम अधूरा है। पेड़ पीछों की कमी है। उन्हें जंगलों, परती-भरातों के साथ सड़क-रेल लाइनों के किनारे और बंजर भूमि में भी लगाने की योजना बनानी चाहिए। अनेक देशों में 30 प्रतिशत आय वन संपदा से होती है। यहाँ सिर्फ डेढ़ परसेंट मात्र सोती है। ईंधन समस्या वाले अपने देश में इस और ध्यान अपेक्षित है। कमी कमी अन्न का भाव बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया जाता है। किन्तु जहाँ 10 प्रतिशत बेचने वाले और 90 प्रतिशत खरीदने वाले हैं वहाँ दाम बढ़ाने के बजाय किसानों को खाद बीज सामान भादि में राहत देना, मुफ्त सिंचाई की सुविधा प्रदान करना, ये ही वांछित होंगे।

अस्तु, संक्षेप में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि हर हाथ को काम, हर खेत को पानी, हर बच्चे को पढ़ाई और हर रोगी को दवाई, इन चार खंबों को मजबूत किया जाये तो राष्ट्र के चौमुखी विकास का भवन स्वयं प्रगस्त हो जायगा। साथ ही कानून व्यवस्था, सड़क परिवहन का प्रबन्ध बिजली की प्रांख मिचौनी बूर करने की दिशा में यदि विशेष ध्यान दिया जाय तो विकास का मार्ग महज में खुल जायगा।

अंत में मैं सभापति महोदय, आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आप ने मुझे अपने विचार प्रकट करने का अवसर दिया।

श्री डॉ० जी० गवई (बुलढाना) : सभापति महोदय, आप ने इस वित्त विधेयक पर बोलने का जो अवसर दिया है उस के लिए मैं आप का धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं प्रांकड़ों के जाल में नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ। बहुत से सदस्यों ने हर एक विषय में अपनी अपनी राय प्रकट की है। लेकिन मैं वित्त मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस देश की 60 करोड़ जनता की और और उस की चर्चा की और खीचना चाहता हूँ। जब यह बजट वित्त मंत्री जी ने सदन में पेश किया और उस की चर्चा रेंडिगो, प्रखबारों और यहाँ सदन में हुई चर्चा के द्वारा जनता के कानों तक पहुंची तब उनके दिल धड़कने लग गए, उनकी आंखों से आंसू टपकने लगे। ये धबड़ा गए, उन्होंने समझा यह जो बजट आया है इससे अर्थ-व्यवस्था स्थिर नहीं रहेगी। उनमें धबड़ाहट पैदा हो गई है। देश के सारे किसान और मजदूर चिन्तित हैं। किसानों के लिए बहुत सी बातें

कही गई हैं, कहा गया है कि किसानों को बहुत बड़ी सुविधा दी गई है लेकिन किसानों के लिए क्या किया गया है—यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आ रहा है। किसानों को खाद पर थोड़ी सी राहत दी गई है। इस प्रकार से किसान के मुँह में एक चाकलेट डालकर उसकी जेब से सारा कुछ निकाल लिया गया है। खाद की थोड़ी सी कीमत कम कर देने से किसान का क्या लाभ होगा? बेचारा किसान रात दिन मेहनत करता है, अपना खून पसीना बहाता है, जंगल में, घूप में नंगे पैर चलता है। उसको खाद पर थोड़ी राहत देने से काम नहीं चलेगा। खेत में जो वह पैदा करता है उसके लिए भी उसको गारंटी मिलनी चाहिये। किसान खेत में अनाज पैदा करता है। किसान एक एकड़ में कितनी खाद लगाता है, कितना बीज डालता है, बीज कितना महंगा होता है, कपास का बीज कितना महंगा होता है और साथ ही तकली बीज मिलता है—इन बातों पर भी आपको ध्यान देना चाहिये। किसान बड़ो आशा के साथ खेत में अनाज बोता है लेकिन वह जो इन्फ्लेटाईड खरीदता है उममें भी बेइतमानी चलती है। इन्फ्लेटाईड बनाने वाली कम्पनियों का शायद सरकार से मेल जोल रहना है इसीलिए कीड़े मारने वाली दवाइयों की जो प्रशिया होनी चाहिये वह नहीं होती है। किसान स्प्रे करता है और पीछे कीड़े भी घमते रहते हैं, वह मरते ही नहीं क्योंकि दवाई सर्व्वी नहीं होती है।

14.00 hrs.

मैं इस बजट का समर्थन तो नहीं करूंगा लेकिन यह जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि देश की स्वतंत्रता और अखण्डता को मजबूत रखने के लिए, देश को जिंदा रखने के लिए, जिन्दा दिल बनाने के लिए जो हमारे लाखों किसानों के हाथ खेत की मिट्टी में काम करते हैं, अपनी खून की बूंद को पसीना बनाकर खेत की मिट्टी को गीला करते हैं उनकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान जाना चाहिए। सबसे पहले किसानों के लिए व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये क्योंकि अगर अनाज पैसा नहीं होगा तो क्या हम पत्थर, सीमेन्ट और लोहे के टुकड़े खायेंगे? किसान ही इस देश के सर्व्वश्रेष्ठ नागरिक हैं। इसीलिए हमारे पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री, श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी ने "जय किसान, जय जवान" का नारा लगाया था। हमें जवानों की भी जरूरत है क्योंकि वे हमारी सीमाओं की रक्षा करते हैं, इस देश के लिये वे अपना खून बहाते हैं, अपना जीवन न्योछावर करते हैं। उनकी भी हमें बहुत जरूरत है लेकिन उनका रोटी खिलाने वाले किसानों की तरफ भी हमारा ध्यान जाना चाहिये।

कुछ लोग बोलते हैं—मैं मजाक नहीं करता—कि यह बड़का बजट है और इसने घुटने टेक दिए हैं तथा अब यह ज्यादा नहीं बज सकता है। इस में सच्चाई क्या है, यह तो देखना चाहिए। आज सारे देश की जनता में संघर्षकार फैला हुआ है। मैं बोलता हूँ कि आज य हर आदमी चिन्तित है। आपने एक पैसा बढ़ाया है लेकिन आदमी की जेब से कितना पैसा जा रहा है। आपने किसी चीज पर एक टका, दो

टका यह तीन टका बढ़ाया लेकिन खरीदार से इस पैसे भिदा जाता रहे है। आज सभी चीजों में महंगाई है और महंगाई होने के कारण मिलावट भी हो रही है। खाने का जो कुकिंग थायल है उस में मिलावट हो रही है। इस की तरफ सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए।

कहा जा रहा है कि हबारा बजट करल एरियाज में जा रहा है। गरीबों के घर में, मांफड़ियों में जा रहा है। लेकिन क्या इस से किसी का समाधान हो सकेगा। हमारे नेशनलाइज्ड बैंक जो लोन देते हैं, लैण्डलेस लेबरर्स को लोन देते हैं लेकिन उन मजदूरों को गारण्टी नहीं मिलती। गरीब को कौन गारण्टी देता है? गरीब को खुद की गारण्टी पर लोन दिया जाना चाहिये जिस से कि वह धंधे में लग सके। गरीब को कोई गारण्टी देने वाला नहीं मिलता है। इस के लिए सारे देश में रिजर्व बैंक के नियमों में, रेगुलेशन में सुधार किया जाना चाहिये। किसान को जो पैसा दिया जाता है वह बहुत ऊंची ब्याज दर पर दिया जाता है। किसान को हम फटिलाइजर, इन्फेक्टिसाइड देते हैं लेकिन उस से पैसे पर ब्याज बहुत ऊंचा लेते हैं। यह ब्याज दर कम होनी चाहिए। और किसान को समय पर पैसा मिलना चाहिये। किसान जो खेती में उपज करता है, अपना पैसा करता है, उस के भाव की गारण्टी भी उस को मिलनी चाहिए।

सभापति जी, आज देश में भ्रगर केन की बहुत बुरी हालत है। मैं एक काश्तकार हूँ। मेरी खेती का प्राधा गन्ना सूख गया। उसको उठाने वाला कोई नहीं था। बाद में उठा कर ले गये तो उसको बहुत कम कीमत मिली क्योंकि उसका वजन बहुत कम हो गया था। हमारा बजट इस तरह का बना है जिस से कि नियंत्रण होता है और हमारी शासन व्यवस्था नियंत्रण कुछ और करती है। शासन का ध्यान इस तरफ जाना चाहिए। अगर देश को ऊंचा उठाना है तो सरकार को इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए।

देश में आजकल अनाज बहुत पैदा हो रहा है। मैं यह नहीं बोलता हूँ कि जनता सरकार अपने के बाद अनाज बहुत पैदा होने लगा है और इसके प्रयत्नों से बहुत पैदा होने लगा है। लेकिन यह सही है कि पिछले दो-तीन साल के अन्दर देश में कोई भूख से नहीं मरा है। लेकिन यह बात भी सही है कि आजकल जितना अनाज हमारे देश में पैदा हो रहा है उसको रखने की हमारे पास जगह नहीं है। सरकार को इसकी व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए।

मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि किसान खेत में अनाज कैसे पैदा करता है। एक एकड़ में तीन क्विन्टल फटिलाइजर लगता है, इन्फेक्टिसाइड लगता है। 12 महीने लेबर लगती है। जब जाकर वस क्विन्टल अनाज मिलता है। अब 15 क्विन्टल होने लगा है क्योंकि अब उस पर ज्यादा देहनत की जाती है। उसपर कर्षा जाता है 15 तो कर्षा का और किसान के हक में लौट कर जाता है 14 ही रकबा। किसान को उतका पैसा मिलना तो दूर रहा, उतके उसकी

जेब से सी रूपया चला जाता है। उससे किसान हार हार करता है। बहुत से किसान तो अब खेती छोड़ कर कहीं चपरासी की नौकरी करने की तैयारी कर रहे हैं। मेरा बच्चा प्रेजुएट है। वह दो-तीन साल से खेती करता है। वह बोलता है कि इतनी मेहनत करने पर भी मेरी जेब में पैसा नहीं है तो मैं कहीं चपरासी की नौकरी मिलने पर वह कर लूंगा। और आराम से अपना जीवन बसर करूंगा। आपने बजट को ग्रामों की तरफ भेजा है, हवा की तरह से उड़ा कर कह दिया है कि यह गरीब के घर में जाए, काश्तकार के घर में जाए लेकिन वहां तक यह नहीं पहुंचा है और मुझे सन्देश है कि यह वहां तक जा भी सकेगा। लोग यहां कहते हैं कि बहुत बढ़िया बजट है लेकिन प्राप देखें कि पेट्रोल, डीजल खत्म हो गया है और काश्तकार की आशा भी खत्म होने लगी है। जनता पार्टी के प्रति वह बड़ी आशा लगाए बैठा था। वह समझता था कि यह पार्टी जब देश की बागडोर सम्भालेगी तो भ्रान्त्य ही भ्रान्त्य ही आएगा, सारी दुनिया इसका सुगमन करेगी, मुजला, सुफलां आएगा लेकिन पैसा कुछ नहीं हुआ है। हम आज्ञाद तो हो गए हैं यह बात तो ठीक है। हमने हुकमशाही का ताकत से मुकाबला किया है, तानाशाही का ताकत से मुकाबला किया है और प्रजातंत्र को फिर से स्थापना की है। संविधान को पुनः प्रतिष्ठित किया है। डॉ० अम्बेडकर और देश के दूसरे नेताओं ने जिस संविधान को बनाया था और जिस की छिन्न भिन्न करने की प्रक्रिया देश में चालू हुई थी उसका हमने खात्मा किया है, उन ताकतों का हमने बड़ी बहादुरी से मुकाबला किया है और उनको पराजित भी किया है। जनता पार्टी बनो और वह पावर में आई। इसकी तरफ लोगों की आशाएं लगी हुई थीं और लगी हुई हैं। ऐसी बात नहीं है कि मैं जनता पार्टी में नहीं हूँ या मैं इसका विरोधी हूँ। जनता पार्टी ने मुझे चुन कर यहां भिजवाया है, जनता पार्टी के वोट ले कर और चुन कर मैं यहां आया हूँ। लेकिन अब लोग कह रहे हैं इस बजट के बारे में कि यह मृत्यु की घंटी मृत्यु का शंख बजाने वाला बजट है। इस बजट से सारे देश के लोग नाराज हैं। बीजल की किसान को जरूरत पड़ती है, मोटर वालों को भी पड़ती है, ट्रक वालों को भी पड़ती है। लेकिन किसान के खेत में जो प्रायल पम्प होता है या ट्रैक्टर होता है उस ट्रैक्टर की कीमत भी बहुत ज्यादा हो गई है और किसान अब ट्रैक्टर खरीद नहीं सकता है। उसकी कीमत अस्सी हजार हो गई है। कहां से किसान अस्सी हजार ला सकता है। बैंक से लोन लेता है तो चाँगाई ब्याज उसको पहले दे देना पड़ता है। अब वह ट्रैक्टर लेता है तो खेती की उपज उतनी नहीं होती है कि वह ट्रैक्टर का कर्षा भदा कर सके। इस वास्ते ट्रैक्टर के पीछे वह नहीं जा सकता है। उसके पास जो प्रायल पम्प है उस में डालने के लिए उसे बीजल जरूर चाहिये, मिट्टी का तेल जरूर चाहिये और इनके भाव कम होने चाहिए।

टकों से दुलाई का जो कर्षा है वह बहुत बढ़ गया है। बजट अपने के बाद यह बहुत बढ़ गया है। सोडिंग प्रयत्नों पर आपने ज्यादा टैक्सेशन कर दिया है। उसकी वजह से चाड़े की दर बहुत बढ़

[श्री डी० जी० गर्ग]

गई है। पहले जहाँ साठ रुपये लिए जाते थे अब उड़ की लिए जाने लग गए हैं, यानी डबल से भी भाड़े की बरें बढ़ावा हो गई है। मजदूर को तो कोई चिन्ता नहीं है। वह काम को अपनी मजदूरी से लेता है और आराम से जाता है और सो जाता है। लेकिन किसान की नींव उड़ गई है। उसको नींव नहीं घाती है। उसको पता नहीं लगता है कि कैसे वह अपनी जमीन को सम्भाले, उसको वह कैसे रखे। यह चिन्ता उसको दिन रात लगी रहती है।

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहता हूँ। नोट क्लब पर 26 मार्च से लोगों ने धरना दे रखा है और वे मांग कर रहे हैं कि डाक्टर बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर जो देश के विघाता थे, जिन्होंने देश का संविधान बनाया और संविधान के भी विघाता थे उनका जन्म दिन जो चौबह अप्रैल को पड़ता है उस दिन सरकारी छुट्टी होनी चाहिये, सैटर को वह दिन छुट्टी का दिन डिक्लेयर करना चाहिये। उनको धरना दिए हुए एक महीना हो गया है। इसके बारे में मैंने ध्यान दिलाने वाली सूचना का नोटिस भी दिया है, लिखित रूप में दिया है और बाह्य है कि इसकी इजाजत दी जानी चाहिये और हम सरकार का ध्यान इस और दिलाना चाहते हैं कि गरीब लोग हैं, अम्बेडकरवादी हैं, लैबलिस लेबरर्स भी हैं लेकिन वे अम्बेडकर को चाहते हैं और उनकी मांग मांगी जानी चाहिये। वैसे तो सारा देश बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर को चाहता है। तो उसकी तरफ सरकार का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि उनको आप कोई आश्वासन दें ताकि उनका धरना समाप्त हो।

इसी तरह से जो स्लम एरियाज में जमीन पड़ी हुई है, जहाँ लोग रहते हैं, वह जमीन उन को दी जाए और मोनरशिप राइट उनको दिये जायें। और इस बजट में बूढ़ापन न होते हुए इसमें जवानों प्राये तकिक सारे देश में सुख, शान्ति की लहर फैल जाय, ऐसी बेरी अभिलाषा है। इतना कह कर मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, let me convey on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Finance Minister his regrets to the House that his ill health prevents him from replying to the debate on the Finance Bill. He has, however, closely followed the debate and I have had discussions with him so that an appropriate response could be formulated to the many valuable points made by the hon. Members in the course of the debate.

I must thank many of the hon. Members who took part in the debate and made useful criticism of the proposals in the Finance Bill. While I shall come later to the detailed com-

ments on the various tax measures, I shall begin by replying to three or four points of general criticism of the Budget. If I may sum up, they are:—

(i) Non-developmental expenditure is very high and continues to grow. There is an urgent need to reduce it.

(ii) Contribution of public sector enterprises to the resources needed for development are not adequate. Their working should be improved so that they contribute more resources for financing development.

(iii) The burden of taxation is heavy and growing heavier.

(iv) Nothing is being done for the weaker sections of the society.

I wish to reply to these because I have a feeling that hon. Members when making these criticisms do not view the problem of expenditure and resource mobilisation which we face, as a whole. For instance, I would agree wholeheartedly with every hon. Member who has suggested that there should be a cut in non-developmental expenditure. If, however, one looks at the composition of non-developmental expenditure which is under attack, one finds that the bulk of non-developmental expenditure is accounted for by three items, namely, defence expenditure, interest charges and subsidies; and one may not be all that certain that these can be pruned drastically. Given our geo-political environment, it would be rash to suggest that defence expenditure could be reduced. Similarly, rising interest charges are a reflection of the growing internal debt of the economy. So long as we borrow money for development from banks and other financial institutions, this burden is bound to increase. If we do not borrow the money we will then have to raise resources for development through still greater taxation, a prospect which I am sure will not please any. I would, however, urge the House not to look adversely upon this expenditure because these inte-

rest payments are merely a transfer from one section of society to another and have no serious economic consequences. To the extent that this enables banks to discharge their lending functions according to the priorities laid down, these are amounts well spent.

I am not so sure that in our drive to cut down non-developmental expenditure many hon. Members would want all subsidies to be reduced. A reduction in food subsidy will have wide ranging implications for food prices and general price stability. Similarly, export assistance within limits is necessary to promote our exports. While there is every case for ensuring that such assistance is provided only in essential areas few would deny that in our present balance of payments situation, we should not take any action that will adversely affect our export effort. Government has to meet cash losses of enterprises such as coal in order, among other things, to maintain the prices of these commodities at desired levels. It is curious to find that while Members have complained about non-developmental expenditure, they have also criticised Government for allowing the prices of commodities like steel and cement to go up. That is why I was making the point at the beginning that we should take the overall situation, and not look upon it compartmentally. Hon. Members should not interpret this explanation to mean that we are against reducing the non-developmental expenditure. As the House is aware, the Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, had recognised the mounting government expenditure as a serious problem which needs to be investigated thoroughly, and has therefore proposed to appoint a Commission to look into the matter. What is required is not merely a reduction in expenditure, but much more importantly, an increase in the effectiveness of expenditure which we have undertaken. Just as in agriculture we seek to grow two ears of corn in place of one, in the field of expendi-

ture our endeavour must be to make one rupee do the work of two. The House should, therefore, have no doubt about the earnestness of our desire to reduce non-developmental expenditure and improve the cost effectiveness of developmental expenditure.

I agree with Shri Kanwarlal Gupta, Shri T. A. Pai and other hon. Members that there is an urgent need to improve the working of public sector enterprises. Although I can, I do not wish to seek shelter behind the plea that we have inherited these problems from the previous Government. Public enterprises represent an investment of Rs. 12,800 crores and anyone interested in the development of the country has an obligation to see that they work well and produce a satisfactory return. I am sure the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the concerned Ministries are doing their best to tackle the rather large and seemingly intractable problems which these enterprises face. But their performance will definitely admit of improvement.

There is also another point in this regard. While this Government is committed to the task of improving the efficiency of these enterprises, it should be realised that this cannot happen overnight, because the constraints which need to be removed and factors which need to be changed are many and varied. Therefore, no Finance Minister can take the risk of depending upon something which is in the future and uncertain, and giving up something which is immediate and over which he has greater control. For a Finance Minister there is a great deal of force in the old proverb that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

The tax proposals have been criticised severely on the ground that they impose a crushing burden on all sections of society. I think hon. Members make this criticism because they do not look at both sides of the budget. Since no serious criticism

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has been heard, I take it that hon. Members, on the whole, in favour of the development expenditure that is proposed. We cannot but undertake more expenditure on irrigation, if agricultural production is to increase. Similarly, the power situation in different parts of the country shows how urgent is the need to create more generating capacity and utilise existing capacity more effectively. Hon. Members who have criticised our decision to import cement and steel because of local shortages would certainly support the investment programme for increasing indigenous production of cement and steel.

If all these worthwhile expenditure have to be undertaken, resources have to be raised from within the country. Hon. Members have also pointed a finger at the volume of deficit financing which is contemplated in the current budget. If this is to be minimised, the only way of doing it is through taxation. This is precisely what Government has done, taking care to see that the bulk of the burden falls on those sections of the community which are relatively better off.

Many hon. Members have said that the tax proposals do not do anything for the weaker sections of society. It is an elementary proposition that a change in tax policy cannot confer any benefit on those who do not pay any taxes. That is why the bulk of the measures which will benefit the weaker sections of society are to be found, not in the tax proposals, but in the proposals for expenditure. The expenditure on irrigation, agricultural development, subsidiary occupations, village and small scale industries, the minimum needs programme, is intended to improve the conditions of the poorer sections of society. Similarly, the reorientation of the credit policy of commercial banks, and the growth of regional rural banks are aimed at achieving a part of this objective. That is why, as I said in the begin-

ning, hon. Members should look upon the budget as a whole, and not merely on this or that particular aspect of the Finance Bill.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bose and many other hon. Members have complained about the increase in prices after the budget. It is true that wholesale price index has risen by 4.8 per cent between the last week of February 1979 and the week ended 7th April. Many hon. Members have concluded from the sequence of events that this rise is due to the tax proposals. This motion has been sought to be dispelled through the Deputy Prime Minister's reply to a Calling Attention Motion in this House, and through my replies to the questions. While there is no doubt that a small part of this increase is due to the Budget proposals, the larger part is due to seasonal factors, increases in international prices of commodities like non-ferrous metals, petroleum and edible oils, and increases in the prices of certain controlled commodities like steel and rubber announced by Government after the Budget.

While I want to emphasise that the Budget proposals have not been responsible for the bulk of the price rise that has taken place in recent weeks, I share the anxiety of this House that a sharp rise in such a short period is a matter for grave concern. Government is aware of the need to take appropriate action and is constantly monitoring the situation. However, there is as yet no reason to feel that the situation of price stability has been greatly endangered. I would ask for a certain forbearance on the part of hon. Members on this point because excessive concern itself can generate inflationary expectations and speculative hoarding which may be difficult to reverse once initiated. At the same time, hon. Members should have no doubt whatsoever about Government's intention to control the rise in prices.

My esteemed friend, Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta, has made an incisive analysis of the Budget and has made many constructive suggestions. I appreciate his anxiety that the incidence of tax burden on the small men should be kept as light as possible. But I would like to point out to him that the Deputy Prime Minister has been quite responsive to the suggestions for affording relief to the urban middle class. I would like to recall that even at the time of reply to the general debate on the Budget, he had announced reduction in excise and customs duties amounting to over Rs. 30 crores and all of them had been designed to help the middle class and the relatively poor consumers living mostly in urban areas. He has again announced concessions amounting to over Rs. 16 crores and these would again benefit mostly the middle class consumers. If we have not been able to agree to a larger measure of relief, it is because the budgetary position and the imperative need to sustain developmental outlays at a certain minimum level rule out any further sacrifice of revenue. It may not also be out of place to mention here that after the Budget was presented, Government have taken certain decisions which will benefit a very important segment of our middle class, namely Government employees. The increase in rates of dearness allowance which had been cut by the previous Government, merger of part of dearness allowance with pay and increase in pensions—all these decisions estimated to cost nearly Rs. 500 crores extra in the next five years—should demonstrate convincingly that the Government and the Deputy Prime Minister are quite aware of the problems of the middle class and the need to provide them adequate relief within the resources available.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta and other Members have referred to enhance-

ment of duties on petroleum products. The circumstances which led the Government to decide on an increase in the levy on petroleum products have been explained in detail more than once in this House. I would only like to submit that an increase in the prices of petroleum products either through excise duties or in the form of revision of prices of petroleum products was inescapable having regard to the additional burden which the national economy has to bear in the wake of sharp rise in the prices of crude and petroleum products in the international market. We are fully aware of the hardship likely to be caused by these levies. I would like the Members only to remember that this hardship arises from the factors which are beyond our control. I am afraid that the time has come when the country has to recognise that there are no soft options open to it on the energy front.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta and also some other hon. Members have referred to the difficulties likely to be encountered by small-scale manufacturers producing goods falling under Item 68 of Central Excise Tariff. As was explained in the House day before yesterday, we have not whittled down in any way, in monetary terms, the quantum of concession enjoyed by small scale manufacturers as compared with large scale manufacturers of the same product.

Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan made a specific point about it and I can only say that all these matters are to be examined in greater detail.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore): You said you will answer our questions later on, I will read your own letter back at that time.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: This is one thing which Mrs. Parvathi Krish-

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nan would like to hear. I would also like to point out that the exemption limit has in fact to some extent been enlarged by the provision for leaving out the quantum of exports and value of production of goods other than those falling under Item 68, in determining the eligibility for concessional treatment under item 68. Those goods, which are meant for exports and which are not covered under Item 68, which were being clubbed previously under this item, now they have to be excluded and so, I think, the area has been enlarged.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): How many items are there?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: You and I are accustomed to arguing cases for days together in a court of law. So, there is no end to this argument.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu and a few other hon. Members have referred to the unemployment likely to be caused among workers of WIMCO, as a result of the increase in excise duty on matches of mechanised sector. This is a point to which a reference has been made by hon. lady member, Mrs. Parvathi Krishnan also.

The rationale for the increase in excise duties on the mechanised sector has been explained to the House on more than one occasion. No one can dispute that a mechanised unit can withstand a higher levy than non-mechanised units.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: We are asking wage protection for those workers.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Fiscal levies should be tilted in favour of units employing labour intensive methods of production. The budget proposals are fully in tune with this philosophy. In our judgement it

should be possible for the mechanised sector to maintain production and employment even at the new level of excise duties on its products.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: 8,000 workers are facing retrenchment immediately. We are not espousing the cause of the mechanised sector. We are trying to find out what will happen to the fate of those 8,000 workers. That is what we want to know from the Government. Merely saying that they will be able to withstand the duty is not the point.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Chirayinkil): My point is slightly different. Because of the coinage problem, the Government is not getting the revenue, but the difference of three paise between the price fixed and the actual price goes to the trader. How do you consider that problem with a view to help the consumers?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: All the points that you made yesterday are with us. But I cannot reply point by point. You made a point that we have fixed the price at 17 paise and they are charging 20 paise because 1-paise and 2 paise coins are not available easily. We have taken note of that and we have called a meeting of the representatives of all these units, probably on the 30th instant or 1st May. We are going to sort out this issue. I can assure the House that the workers in the WIMCO will not be thrown out. Whatever is to be done to provide them alternative employment, will be done by us. WIMCO will not be allowed to close down like that, under threats of closure by WIMCO, the Government is not going to surrender. We are prepared to look into every genuine problem and the Government is very much for every worker. Under threats of multinationals or such big companies the Government is not going to change the duty structure. If we come to the

conclusion that it is rational and it is in the interest of the workers and the country as a whole, the Government will revise it and will not hesitate to do so.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA (Serampore): The only difficulty is that you forget your promise very often. Multi-nationals are anti-national.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: So far as Indianising the multi-nationals is concerned you are well aware that 50 per cent of them, about 885 companies, have been brought under FERA limits, within the last two years. Only 10 per cent is left. The Government is going ahead in this regard.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu has referred to the dominance of certain large houses in the cigarette industry. Government are fully aware of the state of affairs in this industry. As Deputy Prime Minister has clearly indicated in his speech day before yesterday, we shall keep the new pattern of excise duties on cigarettes under review so that the interests of the relatively smaller and never entrepreneurs in this field are not adversely affected.

My distinguished friend, Shri T. A. Pai, has observed that the excise duty changes on automobile parts have led to considerable difficulties. I would like to explain that excise duty was till this year's budget, effectively applicable only to a few specified parts and accessories. Considering that a variety of unspecified goods were paying 5 per cent duty and were proposed to be taxed at 8 per cent in this year's Budget, there was no reason why the remaining parts and accessories of motor vehicles, which were hitherto exempt, should not also bear this levy of 8 per cent. However, care has been taken to ensure that parts and accessories going into the manufacture of motor vehicles as

original equipment do not suffer any duty; only the replacement consumption would get taxed. While the cascading effect of the levy has thus been avoided, procedural relaxations have also been allowed to enable smooth change over.

Shri Pai has also referred to the excise duty on hookha tobacco under a specific entry and has pleaded for exemption from what he called a 'sadistic levy'. May I say that only branded hookah tobacco has been brought under the tax net. The unbranded hookah tobacco which is consumed by the poorer people will not pay any excise duty and, in fact, has been relieved of the tobacco stage duty which has been withdrawn completely in this year's Budget.

Shri Pai has wondered why the excise revenue has shown a downward trend in the last financial year when the industrial production had registered a growth of 8 per cent. The excise duty collections, which were somewhat below expectations in the earlier part of the year, picked up towards the closing months, and are expected to catch up with the Budget Estimates when final figures for this year are available. It would not be correct to compare the growth in excise revenue with that of industrial production for various reasons. For example, items like coal, electricity etc. which carry considerable 'weight' in the index of industrial production account for only a small percentage of the total central excise revenue. On the other hand, items like petroleum products, carry low 'weight' in the index of industrial production but account for about 25 per cent of the Central excise revenue. Further, on some major revenue yielding commodities like sugar and aluminium, we had had to reduce the excise duties in 1978-79. As of now, we however, hope that the excise revenue realisation will not fall short of the Budget Estimates.

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Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu had referred to the problem of evasion of excise duty. May I say that I share his concern and refer to some of the steps already taken to check tax evasion.

Banderols for payment of excise duty, and modified physical control on matches have been re-introduced. Production based control has been introduced with effect from 1-2-78 in respect of over 100 tariff items, on the basis of the recommendation of the S.R.P. Committee. Production based control envisages supervision on production at various stages and more proximate control by excise officers over factories, with a view to minimising the scope for evasion.

Preventive control has been intensified and the preventive organisation has been strengthened by creating a two tier preventive system i.e. at the collectorate headquarters and divisional headquarters and equipping them suitably. A Directorate of Anti-evasion to plan and coordinate the work on an all-India basis has also been created recently.

14.38 hrs.

M[R. SPEAKER in the Chair

Audit wing of the Department has also been strengthened. We have also decided to recruit Cost Accounts Officers and other experts in various disciplines in order to have better and effective control over exisable units.

Central Excise duty on unmanufactured tobacco which was very prone to evasion of duty, has also been abolished in this Budget and has been shifted to manufactured products. Thus a very vast area of evasion of duty has been eliminated.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA:
What about chewing tobacco which agricultural labourers use?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I also use it. That is why I have not exempted it. I have not exempted the chewing tobacco because I may be charged of exempting an item which I myself am consuming.

I shall now deal with some of the more important points of criticism made by hon. Members about the proposals relating to direct taxes.

The hon. Member, Shri T. A. Pai, for whom I have great respect used, if I may say, an uncharacteristically strong word, while referring to the surcharge on income tax. He described the proposal to levy surcharge as a fraud on the States. Shri Pai is long on memory and strong of facts. But in this case, I am afraid, his memory has let him down. May I remind the hon. Member that there was a Union surcharge of 10 per cent on income tax when his party was in power? Surely, Shri Pai would not have intended to imply that the Leader of his party, Shri Chavan, and his close personal friend, Shri Subramaniam, both of whom have held Finance portfolio would have remotely thought of committing a "froud" on the States. May I also point out that unlike in the past when surcharge on income tax was levied without so much as a word of apology to the States, this time the Deputy Prime Minister went out of his way in his Budget Speech to explain why he has been constrained to levy a surcharge for the Union purposes. He has also pointed out that while the revenue surcharge accrue exclusively to Centre, he had taken special care in respect of his other proposals to see that the States get their legitimate share of the additional resources mobilised by the Centre. States will benefit to the extent of nearly Rs. 200 crores from the effort made by the Centre in the present Budget.

Some of the Hon'ble Members have argued that the exemption limit for income-tax, which presently stands

at Rs. 10,000 should have been raised. May I point out that in relation to our per capita income the exemption limit for income-tax in our country is already relatively high. We cannot raise the exemption limit further without causing serious erosion of resources particularly because such erosion will affect the States most adversely. As Hon. Members are aware 85 per cent of revenue from income-tax is distributed amongst the States.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta and some of the other Hon. Members have urged that the rates of income-tax should be reasonable and that relatively low rates of taxation will permit better tax compliance and curb generation of black money. I do not deny that there is some force in these arguments. I would only like to point out that if we have been constrained to raise the marginal rates of income tax slightly from 69 per cent to 72 per cent, it is because in a year when, on budgetary considerations, we have been obliged to raise resources on a significant scale relatively better off sections of society could not have been left out on considerations of equity.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta has referred to the need for levy in income-tax on agricultural incomes exceeding Rs. 12,000. Without going into the question whether this suggestion is desirable or feasible, I would only like to point out that under the constitution the taxation on agricultural incomes fall within the ambit of the States. We do, however, take agricultural incomes into account for purposes of determining tax rates on non-agricultural incomes.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA (Delhi Sadar): Will you recommend to the State to tax the rural rich?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Yes please implement the Raj Committee Report.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I am coming to that.

It may also be relevant to point out that the Committee under Dr. K. N. Raj, which had gone into the question of feasibility of agricultural income-tax had come to the conclusion that levy of agriculture tax will result in many problems and the same objective could be better achieved through an agricultural holdings tax.

MR. SPEAKER: How long are you like to take?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: I will finish in a few minutes, before 3 o' clock. Even this suggestion has not been acted upon by most of the States.

Shri Vinodbhai Sheth has criticised the proposal to curtail tax concessions in respect of savings in the form of Life insurance, subscription to provident fund etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Shall I interrupt your speech for a moment. The Prime Minister has to make a statement; the matter is very important.

14.43 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
RE: ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVES
FAST AND PROPOSAL TO AMEND
THE CONSTITUTION**

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): The Home Minister made a statement the other day in the House about Acharya Vinoba Bhave's fast. The latest reports that have reached us would indicate that Acharya's condition is fast becoming unsatisfactory. We have already explained the efforts we have been making to find a satisfactory way out. It has been suggested to us that we should also consider legislative proposals to suitably transfer the entry regarding preservation, protection and the improvement of stock from the State List to the Concurrent List. Leading Sarvodaya workers have conveyed it to us that the Congress (I) Party as well as the Congress Party in Parliament will extend