

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]

The Government will continue its policy of maximising procurement for the purpose of building up buffer stock. The all-India target of wheat procurement has been fixed at 5198 million tonnes. The Incentives Bonus Scheme for supplies of wheat to the Central Pool will be continued in order to maximise procurement. The bonus amounts will be utilised by the State Governments for providing fertilisers and other inputs to the farmers.

In the interest of maximising the procurement, restrictions will be continued on the inter State movement of wheat. Each State will be treated as a separate zone for purposes of movement of wheat and wheat products as during last year. The mode of procurement such as purchases in regulated markets and/or through a system of levy will be decided by the State Governments. The marketing of wheat within the State will be regulated by the State Governments through such administrative/statutory measures as may be considered necessary by them.

Government's attention has been drawn to the falling prices of barley and gram and it is apprehended that, with the arrival of the new crop, there will be steep fall in their prices. Price support operations would be arranged for purchase of barley and gram as and when it becomes necessary.

Government are anxious to ensure that the interests of the farmers are

fully protected and in no case should any producer get for foodgrains of fair average quality less than the procurement price fixed by the Government. It is hoped that, with the co-operation of the State Governments, it would be possible to achieve this objective as also to reach the procurement targets fixed for the various States and bring about an overall improvement in the food economy.

12.05 hrs

GUJARAT BUDGET, 1976-77 - GENERAL DISCUSSION AND DEMANDS* FOR GRANTS

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up items Nos. 9 and 10 together. For General Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Gujarat for the year 1976-77, the time allotted is 2 hours. Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Accounts and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of Gujarat to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against:

Demands Nos 2, 3, 5 to 12, 14 to 20, 22 to 31, 33 to 60, 62 to 69 and 71 to 77."

Demands for Grants (Gujarat), 1976-77

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
2	Council of Ministers	10,79,000	..
3	Elections	1,42,17,000	..

*Moved with the recommendations of the President.

1	2	3
5	General Administration Department	74,47,000 ..
6	Economic Advice and Statistics	58,69,000 ..
7	Other Expenditure pertaining to General Administration Department	30,79,000 10,90,000
8	Finance Department	38,22,000 ..
9	Tax Collection Charges (Finance Department)	3,99,64,000 ..
10	Treasury and Accounts Administration	2,27,10,000 ..
11	Persons and other Retirement Benefits	7,19,00,000 ..
12	Other Expenditure pertaining to Finance Department	51,38,000 26,93,000
14	Legal Department	22,81,000 ..
15	Administration of Justice	3,88,30,000 ..
16	Other Expenditure pertaining to Legal Department	24,17,000 18,97,000
17	Food and Civil Supplies Department	8,75,000 ..
18	Civil Supplies	23,76,000 ..
19	Food	2,28,46,000 60,15,00,000
20	Other Expenditure pertaining to Food and Civil Supplies Department 9,74,000
22	State Legislature	41,22,000 ..
23	Loans and Advances to Government Servants in Gujarat Legislature Secretariat 1,72,000
24	Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation Department	23,55,000 ..
25	Co-operation	4,06,94,000 5,55,12,000
26	Agriculture	15,02,51,000 4,89,33,000
27	Mirror Irrigation, Soil Conservation and Area Development	6,66,80,000 35,19,000
28	Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development	5,64,18,000 15,75,000
29	Fisheries	1,70,76,000 6,75,000
30	Forests	2,79,55,000 1,47,14,000
31	Other Expenditure pertaining to Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation Department 61,81,000
33	Education and Labour Department	24,82,000 ..
34	State Excise	34,66,000 ..
35	Education	1,13,64,53,000 40,00,000
36	Labour and Employment	2,23,40,000 ..
37	Social Security and Welfare	9,90,89,000 18,26,000

1	2	3
38	Other Expenditure pertaining to Education and Labour Department	64,00,000 36,67,000
39	Tribal Area Sub-Plan	12,90,73,000 5,20,57,000
40	Home Department	10,91,000 ..
41	Tax Collection Charges (Home Department)	20,56,10,000 ..
42	Police	34,12,58,000 ..
43	Jails	1,15,90,000 ..
44	Information, Publicity and Tourism	1,14,09,000 ..
45	Other Expenditure pertaining to Home Department	1,45,05,000 2,06,10,000
46	Industries, Mines and Power Department	15,80,000 ..
47	Tax Collection Charges (Industries, Mines and Power Department)	29,04,000 ..
48	Stationery and Printing	4,58,45,000 ..
49	Industries	2,51,45,000 2,36,92,000
50	Mines and Minerals	76,61,000 55,00,000
51	Power Projects	75,00,000 32,62,00,000
52	Other Expenditure pertaining to Industries, Mines and Power Department	30,36,000 34,88,000
53	Panchayats and Health Department	30,62,000 ..
54	Community Development	10,09,12,000 ..
55	Medical	24,37,41,000 ..
56	Family Planning	5,74,00,000 ..
57	Public Health	14,82,09,000 4,59,17,000
58	Urban Development	2,61,78,000 50,000
59	Panchayat Raj	3,04,08,000 ..
60	Other Expenditure pertaining to Panchayats and Health Department	5,16,40,000 1,06,22,000
62	Public Works Department	36,56,000 ..
63	Non-Residential Buildings	10,15,91,000 1,32,05,000
64	Housing	2,20,29,000 1,50,87,000
65	Irrigation and Soil Conservation	35,65,52,000 48,85,62,000
66	Ports	5,66,79,000 4,51,76,000
67	Roads and Bridges	12,69,91,000 2,57,12,000
68	Gujarat Capital Construction Scheme 80,00,000

1	2	3
69	Other Expenditure pertaining to Public Works Department	27,13,000 79,55,000
71	Revenue Department	60,13,000 ..
72	Tax Collection Charges (Revenue Department)	3,22,27,000 ..
73	District Administration	4,80,09,000 ..
74	Relief on account of Natural Calamities	4,55,00,000 5,00,000
75	Dangs District	3,03,17,000 6,74,000
76	Compensations and Assignments	89,41,000 20,00,000
77	Other Expenditure pertaining to Revenue Department	75,50,000 65,03,000

*SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Ausgram): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to take part in the discussion on the budget for Gujarat presented in this House yesterday by the Finance Minister. It is a great irony that we have to discuss this budget in this House when it should have been done in the assembly. I might remind this House that the Janata Front Government had presented their budget for 1976-77 before the State Legislature on the 13th February, 1976. It could not be passed by that assembly because the Congress party had manoeuvred to bring about a fall of the Janata Front Government by purchasing the MLAs like cattle. They indulged in unethical methods and the President's rule was imposed in Gujarat on the 12th March, 1976 and the Assembly was kept in suspended animation. It is in these circumstances Sir, that we are being forced to discuss the budget which as I said earlier, should have been discussed in the State Assembly. The child (Budget) produced by Janata Front was snatched away by the Centre (Subramaniam) and now placed before Parliament. The Budget is thus not Parliament's own child.

Going through the provisions made in the budget I find that the revenue receipts during 1976-77 would be of an order of Rs. 483.26 crores and the year 1976-77 is expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 43.08 crores. We also find Sir, that in order to cover a part of the deficit the Government propose to undertake additional resource mobilisation measures and as a result of which this deficit will be reduced slightly. The Government propose to impose new taxes and the yield from this source would be Rs. 17.66 crores. Thus even though the deficit will be reduced yet there will be an uncovered gap of Rs. 25.42 crores. I also find, Sir, that the Budget has made a provision of Rs 15 crores for tribal sub-Plans and this would be supplemented to the tune of Rs. 3 crores by special Central assistance.

I would like to say, Sir, that instead of taxing the wealthy, the Government propose to levy a tax on the poor who are not in a position to bear the financial burden of the tax. The uncovered gap in the budget would induce the Government to take measures which would ultimately put the

*The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Krishna Chandra Halder]

common and the poor men of Gujarat into financial difficulty and I oppose such tax being levied on the poor. You are aware of the fact Sir, that during 1974-75, there was a severe famine in Gujarat and as a result of this many people and thousands of cattle heads perished in the State. During 1975-76 many projects were initiated in order to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers and also some schemes were taken in hand to improve the availability of drinking water in the drought prone and famine affected areas of Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how far these schemes have been implemented. It would be good if the house is told the targets fixed under each of these schemes and the achievements made and the steps being taken to fulfil the rest. Last year the weather God was pleased and we had a good monsoon. The foodgrain production in the country is very good because of the good rain fall and even it has surpassed the production figures of 1971-72. But we cannot forget the fact that whenever there is a bad monsoon, the State of Gujarat has been subjected to the calamities of famine, drought, cyclone etc. It is therefore very essential Sir, that when we have a good crop we should try to strain all our resources in order to procure and conserve the foodgrains for the days when monsoon may not be as charitable as it was last year. We should also try to build our buffer stock so that when famine comes, the Centre would be in a position to rush assistance and foodgrains to this State which is very prone to famine and drought. Along with this it is also very necessary that all efforts should be made to expedite the small irrigation projects which were undertaken during 1975 in the drought affected areas and also speed up the plans for rural electrification as without this, the interests of the rural masses cannot be protected adequately.

Sir, as I have already stated, the budget makes a provision of Rs. 15 crores including a Central assistance of Rs. 8 crores for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in the State. I hardly need to emphasise that this fund should be properly utilised and it must be ensured that the benefits of the schemes undertaken should reach the backward people and there is no diversion of funds earmarked for this purpose to other projects.

Gujarat, as we all know, is the Centre of the textile industry. Unfortunately, there is a recession in the industry and huge stocks of manufactured cloth are lying unsold. As a result, thousands of textile workers are being laid off and it is quite likely that if the situation continues they may also be retrenched. Before the situation takes this grave turn, I will request the Central Government, who have tinct responsibility in this regard, to make a proper assessment of the situation and take suitable measures to see that these textile workers are not retrenched for no fault of theirs.

By imposing the President's rule in Gujarat, the Central Government have assumed all powers to itself to deal with the affairs of Gujarat and there is no doubt that this budget will be passed by this House in no time. But I cannot help mentioning about the way the party in power in the Centre is behaving. It has defied all canons of democratic principles, norms and even decency. In Gujarat through the game of defection the Centre succeeded in bringing about the fall of the opposition Government there. But the Assembly was not dissolved nor fresh elections were ordered. Instead we find that the assembly was only suspended. Why was it done like this? Obviously the Congress party wants to take more time to purchase more MLAs to swell their strength and when they find themselves in good strength with the blessings and support of the Aya Rams and Gaya Rams they would

once again form a Ministry in the State.

Now, let us see what happened in Tamil Nadu. The DMK was in power. The Congress party tried their best to break the party and win to their side some MLAs through bribes and corruption but when they finally failed to achieve their objective they imposed the President's rule saying that there was a corruption in the State and the State machinery could not be run in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. But strangely enough unlike in Gujarat, the Tamil Nadu Assembly was not suspended but it was dissolved. A very strange thing happened in the State of Uttar Pradesh. After the mid-term elections, the Congress was returned in majority and Shri Bahuguna who enjoyed the confidence of the Prime Minister was sent from the Centre to become the Chief Minister of the State. But the situation did not remain stable even though the Congress had and continues to have a safe majority in the Assembly. Due to the political games of Shri Kamalapati Tripathi, Shri Bahuguna could not stay for long. The Assembly was suspended and not dissolved and once again Shri Tiwari has come to occupy the Chief Minister's seat.

The main purpose of citing all the above examples is to show how the Centre adopts a double standard in dealing with the same issue. Whenever there is a Government formed by the opposition party and where the Centre fails to convert them, they dissolve the assembly under some pretext or the other but in other cases where the Congress feel that they can attain a majority even through defection they do not dissolve the assembly but allow it to remain suspended and encourage the Aya Rams and Gaya Rams to swell their party ranks. Today, the country is under emergency and every citizen of the country is being advised to be disciplined but the ruling party does not seem to be aware of the importance of giving a lead to the nation by following the preachings

themselves. They have taken away all the democratic rights of the people but they themselves do not want to behave in a democratic manner. The anti-defection Bill has been put in cold storage and it is there for the last three years. As I said a couple of days ago, the intention of the Government is always very clear. They do not want to enact a legislation to prevent defection because they have always gained by defections and perhaps they may introduce the Bill when they are in safe majority in all States. But I must remind this House, Sir, that this state of affairs will not continue for ever. The people will assert for their democratic rights and oust this Government which has no regard for democracy. It may take some time but it can never be ruled out. In the end, I must say that the Janta Front Government was dislodged by the Congress party through undemocratic methods and I strongly oppose the budget

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Gujarat Budget. I am really very happy to get an opportunity to give my thoughts on this.

So far as Gujarat is concerned, the State is at present under President's rule. Before the promulgation of President's rule, there was a popular Government formed by the Janta Front. We very well know how the Janta Front Government was formed in the State of Gujarat. Some hon. Members from that side, specially hon. Kumari Maniben Patel, had stated yesterday that the Janta Front never wanted the support of the KMLP MLAs to form the Government.

According to me, there cannot be any universal untruth to state like that that they never wanted support from KMLP MLAs. I know and everybody knows in this country that the ex-chief Minister, Babubhai Jasbhai Patel having the majority of only

[Shri Natwarlal Patel]

86 members in the Assembly had gone to meet the ex-Chief Minister, Shri Chimanbhai Patel who was president of the KMLP party for getting support. KMLP Members had extended their support only after the request was made by the ex-Chief Minister Shri Babubhai Jasbhai Patel.

Right from the beginning, we know that this Government was not functioning for the sake of ideals, for the sake of doing something for the people, but only to enjoy power and that is the only reason why they lived for a very short time in the State of Gujarat.

I would like to state something more than that. So far as defection problem is concerned, hon. CPM Member, Shri Halder was giving us advice. I have got great regards for him as an individual and as a friend of mine, but he belongs to CPM party and unfortunately, he has to act according to the policy of CPM. As a matter of fact, we very well remember that some time back, there was some struggle in the name of Nav Nirman. So far as CPM is concerned in this country, what role have they played there? I do not know, what is the policy of this party. After coming to Delhi, I have studied one thing about this party and that is that they always add fuel to the fire, and nothing else they know.

So far as Janta Front Government was concerned, they were not in a position to behave in a better manner, because the Chief Minister and all the Ministers had to work at the behest of Jan Sangh workers and RSS workers. While they were talking in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, as a matter of fact, they never acted according to Gandhian philosophy. By heart they had to implement the programmes of Jan Sangh and RSS in the State of Gujarat. There was a great contrast in what they were talking and in what

they were doing. While they were talking in terms on Gandhian philosophy, in practice, they acted to fulfil the wishes of Jan Sangh and RSS people.

During the regime of Janta Front Government in Gujarat State, there was no development work, they never bothered about it, they never wanted to do anything; all the development work was at a standstill. Not only that, according to me, they were more concentrating on elections. They wanted to exploit the situation as they were in power.

I must say that so far as the outcome of elections is concerned, that is never in the hands of the Chief Minister, that is never in the hands of the Ministers or ruling party, that is always in the hands of people. According to me, whosoever is supported by people, by Janta, would win the elections and this has been proved true during Panchayat elections in the State of Gujarat. We got a great majority in Panchayat elections even though our party was not in power in Gujarat. It is absolutely untrue to say that so far as ruling Congress is concerned, in Gujarat we have lost our ground and that we are away from the hearts of people. The recent Panchayat elections have proved that even being not in power, we could win the hearts of the people of Gujarat. We have got 40 per cent of the votes.

So far as emergency is concerned, there was nothing like emergency before the President's rule was imposed. After the President's rule has been imposed in the State I am sure things will be better.

So far as the 20-point economic programme is concerned, our State is quite away from this 20-point programme. Nobody bothered to imple-

ment it. Not only that, very responsible leaders of the Janta Front, including the Chief Minister, used to criticise the 20-point economic programme and they used to criticise emergency also. Several times we have drawn the attention of the Centre to this. I do not know why they were very lenient to these people. Anyway, so far as the government at the Centre is concerned, it is a Congress Government. We never bother to disturb any State Government unless and until there is some very important problem on the part of that State. So far as the Janta Front government is concerned, there are so many things that I can narrate. But looking to the time at my disposal, I do not want to speak on it.

So far as Gujarat is concerned, during the regime of the Janta Front, people suffered a lot. Now, we are under President's rule. So far as progress of Gujarat is concerned, that would depend upon the Centre. Now, according to me, so far as Centre is concerned, naturally, often it has to give certain directives and certain guidelines to the State authorities for the implementation of the 20-point economic programme.

So far as this budget is concerned, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to provide more financial assistance as they have provided for Tamil Nadu, to see that there is adequate progress in the State of Gujarat on a par with other States.

In Gujarat, today the situation of agriculture is quite worse. This year agriculture produce are going down we have a bumper crop and prices of every day and prices have fallen to a tremendous extent. There is no price support from the government of the State. At the same time, I am sorry to say that there is no price support from any central machinery

also. Groundnut oil and groundnuts today is a problem for our agriculturists. Groundnut which was sold at one time at Rs. 55 for 20 kg today is sold at Rs. 28. Even at this price there is nobody to buy. It is a great tragedy for our farmers. Government of India have taken certain steps by exporting some groundnut oil. According to information available to me, this work was handed over to the STC and STC purchased some oil from Sourashtra but the target is round about 50,000 tonnes but they purchased and stopped purchasing after buying only 5000 tonnes of oil. I do not know why this has happened. I understand that it must be on account of the Central Government's directive. Anyway, I would like to urge upon the Finance Ministry and through the Finance Ministry, hon. Prof. Chatopadhyaya who is concerned with this problem that there must be export of groundnut oil to other countries. When it is surplus we should do it. Either you purchase and export or allow these people to export. There is no alternative. Otherwise, it will have very bad repercussions amongst our farmers. Next year our farmers will not grow more. It is not a crime that they have grown more. They may not get more price but at least they must get a reasonable price. It does not matter if there is no profit but, at the same time, they should not be asked to do the business in loss. According to me, this is not only a problem with our Gujarat farmers but it applies to the whole country. That is why at this stage, on this valuable occasion, I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to give adequate financial assistance to the State Government to purchase groundnuts and groundnut oil or direct the FCI to purchase groundnut and groundnut oil and other agricultural produce in Gujarat.

I will touch one or two points more. So far as the royalty problem is concerned, it is pending since a long

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time, I do not know why it should take so much time. Several times we have approached the hon. Minister Mr. Malaviya who has to take a decision regarding this. He is always sympathetic to us, but, mere sympathy for the people of Gujarat would not solve our problems.

We should decide something in favour of a deficit State like Gujarat. We should get Royalty as per our demand. Price of oil has shot up like anything in the world. So, there is justification in our demand and our request should be accepted. The hon. Minister of Petroleum should finalise this matter and give us whatever has been demanded.

Sir, Gujarat State is known as Gujarat of Mahatma Gandhi. Whenever you go to any foreign country and you say I come from Gujarat, he would immediately say, Oh, you come from the place of Mahatma Gandhi. Everybody knows the place where Mahatma Gandhi was born. But recently the dynamite conspiracy took place in Baroda. It was a great conspiracy and the conspiracy was going on during the Janta Front regime in Gujarat. Miss Maniben Patel said about this. She said the State Police investigated into the matter and they could catch them. So far as the State police were concerned, they did this very late, I should say. The Gujarat Government should have found out this sort of conspiracy much earlier. They never bothered about it. All antisocial elements of the country, all anti-national elements of the country, were safeguarded in Gujarat.

Two months back I came to Delhi and one of my friends met me in the Central Hall. He asked me: What is going on in Gujarat? I told him that

here is nothing in Gujarat. He told me 'All anti-social elements get shelter in Gujarat. They are doing everything against the country and your Government does not bother to look into it. At that time I was not prepared to believe that gentleman. But now this sort of conspiracy has come out. So, what that gentleman said has come out to be true. It is the duty of the Governor to have looked into the matter. That Janta Front Government has miserably failed in various respects.

Before I sit down, I would make this request to the hon. Finance Minister.

Gujarat is a State which is a deficit State in many respects. So far as Finance is concerned, my only request to the hon. Finance Minister is that adequate finance should be given to them, so that they may implement the 20-point economic programme and other programmes successfully, without any sort of hitch in the way. This is my request to the hon. Finance Minister and I hope the hon. Finance Minister will kindly consider our demands.

With these words I conclude thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Gujarat Budget.

कुमारी जयिबेन पटेल (साबरकण्ठा):
चूँकि मेरा नाम लिया गया है इसलिए मैं सफाई पेश करना चाहती हूँ। जब वहाँ मिनिस्ट्री बनी तब मैं बड़ी थी। तीन दिन तक गवर्नर रुके रहे ताकि हमारी मिनिस्ट्री न बने। तीन दिन तक हमने बिल्कुल ६० स० लो० ५० को एक्कीव नहीं किया। इसीलिए तीन उसमें गए..

श्री नटवरलाल पटेल: : सब बात अज्ञानों में घा गई है।

कुमारी कमलदेवी चव्हेल : घा-ने नाम न सिद्धा होता तो मैं बिल्कुल न बोलती। यह साफ है कि हमने उसको एप्रोच नहीं किया। जो सही बात है उसको घाप कितना ही बार कहें, वह गलत नहीं हो सकती है।

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Tellicherry): When we speak about the Gujarat budget here, Sir, I would like to bring before this House some of the major problems for which solutions have to be found out by the Central Government who is now running the affairs of Gujarat. It is a well known fact that Gujarat needs water and electricity. This is a State which is drought prone and deficit in its food production and it is mainly due to the fact that there is lack of irrigation facilities in that State. When the budget is introduced here I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what exactly is the Government going to do about it. There is a little increase in the amount allocated for irrigation and electricity but not much. It can be said to be marginal. The people of Gujarat would like to know, I suppose, what will happen to the Narmada project and Navagaon dam project. I heard about this project and the delay in coming to an agreement with the neighbouring States of Gujarat during the days of Nav Nirman Samiti agitation. When I was in Gujarat many people told me that without this project the problems of Gujarat would remain unresolved in regard to water. I do not think Government is taking any serious step in the direction of solving this. There are very many ticklish problems involved in this question. One is the height of the dam on which the other States will have dispute. Now there is an advantage since Gujarat is under President's rule and the neighbouring State governments are also being run by the Congress party. In this new atmosphere the Government can start

negotiating to solve this problem. I would say if the Government succeeds in solving this problem of setting up this dam and finding solutions for this inter-State water dispute then I am sure that will be a great achievement for the Centre. So far as the Centre is concerned, I do not think, the Government is moving in that direction. You got two opportunities in the past. After the Nav Nirman Samiti agitation there was President's rule imposed and again now there is President's rule. I do not think Government has done anything in that direction.

Secondly as has also been pointed out by Mr. Patel, there is the question of small royalty amount which is being given as a pittance to a State which is financially and economically so backward. I fail to understand the reason as to why today the Government cannot re-consider the question of royalty, giving a higher royalty to the crude which is produced in that State. Today the production of crude means a lot to this country's economy. It saves foreign exchange and it is an invaluable asset to the country. Gujarat is producing it. For that, if I remember aright, Rs. 18 per tonne was the royalty fixed long long ago. Today the situation in the oil economy has changed. So I would urge upon the Government very strongly to consider this matter sympathetically and I would extend my full support to the friends from Gujarat in their demand for getting an increased royalty for the oil they are producing.

Another question is that of roads. I understand from reports that the State has a very bad road system—I may be wrong, because I am not from the State. But the amount granted is insufficient if the road system is bad. There may be good trunk roads. But I think the villages are far far from the main roads. So the villages and small towns in Gujarat should be connected with a very well-organised road

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan]

system. I think the amount allotted is insufficient.

Another problem on which the Government is silent—and which the government is posing in a different way—is about the prices of agricultural commodities in Gujarat. The Government makes a very tall claim that there is a bumper harvest this year. It is a good thing, there is bumper harvest. But when a bumper harvest is there, it will create its own problems in the economy. I must say here that the Janata Front Government miserably failed to solve any of those problems although they had made a commitment to this effect before the elections. If I remember correctly, the JF Government had said that they would provide a cushion to support prices from crashing when Gujarat had a good harvest of groundnut. I think the procurement price was Rs. 150 per quintal. The Government miserably failed in fulfilling its promise. When there was a bumper harvest in groundnut, the peasants who produced it were the biggest sufferers because they did not get the price they should have. Who benefited from it? The big moneyed people—for which also Gujarat is famous—who cornered the bumper harvest, pushing the poor peasants who produced it into misery and tears. What is the guarantee in this Budget that you are taking measures to solve this problem? When you are speaking of a good harvest and good time in future, what measures are you taking to solve this problem? The problem has also affected cotton and other prices. Now the Government is only happy that the production is good. But I would tell them that merely by having a good production, you are not going to ensure a better economic condition for the poor people in this country unless you organise an equitable distribution system, and intervene to purchase when prices crash. I think Gujarat with a higher production is on the

verge of crash in the prices of agricultural commodities. I do not think the Government is suggesting anything in this Budget in this regard. I would like the hon. Minister to come forward with concrete proposals about these things.

I have a fear that this Budget will have an inflationary impact on the economy in the State. They are leaving Rs. 26 crores as an uncovered deficit. When the hon. Minister replies, I would like to know from her in clear terms how they are going to meet this situation. If this is left as an uncovered gap, it will naturally lead to an inflationary impact on the economy. Coming back to the problem which was referred to by everybody, the political situation which necessitated the introduction of the budget in this House, I have a few comments on that. Yesterday there was a debate on President's rule in Gujarat. At that time I made certain observations about which my hon. friends on that side, especially Mr. Stephen, took strong exception and Mr. Daga shared that feeling. I was saying that in Gujarat the Congress Party indulged in unholy tactics to keep itself in power. The split in the Congress party based on certain principles took place all over the country but I thought that that process did not take place in Gujarat and because of this unprincipled and opportunistic alliances which the Congress tried, certain things happened. Mr. Stephen said that I was trying to say that there were progressives and reactionaries in the Congress. You can reach any conclusion you like... (*Interruptions*) KIMLOK party which is a menace in the politics of Gujarat, the party of the big rural rich in that state, had not descended from heaven; its leader was in fact a former Congress Chief Minister... (*Interruptions*). I am not accusing anybody; let them not misunderstand. When you think of the future of the state, keep that in mind and do not indulge in that kind

of opportunistic policies; they will not lead you or the country anywhere.

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pali)— We can look after our affairs; why is he poking his nose into our party affairs?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: It is not a mere party affair, it is the affair of the country and because of that kind of attitude there is political instability there and we are today discussing the budget of that state. The people of that state had to pay a heavy price, with their lives, for that kind of political situation and those who are responsible for it should think about it.

In regard to the future I should like to say that the government should implement the twenty-point economic programme. It is not as a ritual that I say this. Without democratic or popular participation, if you rely completely on bureaucracy for the implementation of this gigantic programme which will have a great social impact, it will not be implemented; it will be a failure. Why do I say so? Because, in respect of Tamilnadu we were hearing yesterday the unanimous views of hon. Members that there was no implementation committee at the lower level, at the grass roots level. It may be at the state level. But it is at the grass root level that you should form implementation committees with people ready to cooperate with you, with sufficient powers to bring the bureaucracy in line with the implementation of the programme. It was a serious matter and in the case of Gujarat also I am afraid government had not taken steps to ensure popular involvement in the implementation of the programme. When I used the expression yesterday, 'like-minded parties', Mr. Stephen did not like that expression. I do not mind. But let us not think that there is no left and right in this country. It is often said by some persons that there is no left

and there is no right and that there is only the country. It is not like that. In this country there is a section, organised political parties who are trying to bring about conditions of fascism and they are called reactionaries. Those parties and those forces should be opposed on the political plane and they have stood firmly in this country on a sound economic basis which was provided by the monopolists, by the big landlord interests in this country. They were backed by the imperialists. Still some people are saying that there is no left or right in this country.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not go too much into that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): Sir, the left and the right are like the left-hand and the right-hand of the same body of a person. If that is the conception.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN. What I am saying is when you implement the 20-point programme in Gujarat, you will have to seek the co-operation of those people who are ready to support it, not those people who are ready to sabotage it. That approach should be there and without it, if you just follow an ostrich policy, I am very sure it will not help you, it will not help the country. These are the observations that I wanted to make. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will try to clarify these points when she replies.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA (Jamnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very realistic budget presented in Parliament. I am sure the people of Gujarat are going to join me in congratulating the Government for saving them from a high dose of taxation as was proposed by the previous Government in the State. Sir, I take this opportunity of mentioning a few things more which I would not probably have been able to do, as these are the State subjects. Before the State

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Government gave up power—the Central Government has of course not imposed the President's rule but we are under the Governor these days—the State's Budget was presented, Sir, I do not know whether it has been an oversight by the administration today or whether they have carried on what the previous Government had mentioned. I would like to be very specific here in mentioning about the sales-tax that they have imposed on all fish and marine products in Gujarat. I do not understand the logic behind it. As far as Gujarat is concerned, we have bigger coast line than any other State in India. Our maritime resources have not been exploited fully. Our fishery industry has still not reached the stage which could be compared with even the backward States of this country who are also maritime States. There are other States like Kerala where the fishery industry has developed long ago and it has come to the take-off stage where from the inshore fishing they have now gone to off-shore fishing. Even in those States where 50 per cent of marine products are exported they do not have sales-tax on fishing and marine products. They have purchase tax. Purchase tax is only on shrimps. Now, shrimp is an item which is exported because we cannot afford to eat this kind of fish in our country and also because of the price that we are getting from the foreign market. I would not have minded if the State Government had imposed tax on shrimps but still that would have retarded the growth of the fishing industry in Gujarat. The Gujarat Government expects a revenue of about Rs. 40.0 lakhs to Rs. 50.0 lakhs by way of sales-tax. I am sure that they are going to ask you also that these taxes should be imposed on the traders and on the industry and not on the fishermen.

We know that whenever such a tax is imposed, it goes down to the fisher-

men. The fishermen in Gujarat are poor. We recently had an example of the export duty levied on all wool that was exported. There too Gujarat was affected. The argument given then was that this export duty was expected to be paid by the exporter and not by the shepherd. But after a year, the result is that the export duty is being charged by the exporter from the shepherd and the shepherd gets lesser income today while the trader has kept his own margin of profit intact. The same thing will happen with the fishing industry also. The consumer of the marine product is not going to pay more, the trader is not going to reduce his profit margin. It is finally going to come down to the small fishermen. I plead that this growing industry in Gujarat should be released from taxation. On the contrary, they should have given more encouragement and incentives to this vital industry. Gujarat does not get fish only from the sea. It is probably the only State where inland fisheries have developed. The districts where inland fisheries are operating are the backward districts like Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Panchmahal, etc. The fish from these regions goes to Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P. and even Assam. We have to compete with fishermen from other maritime States of India and there is a very small profit margin left. Do you mean to say that the trader is now going to reduce his profit margin and allow the poor fishermen, who are mostly adivasis, to carry on their profession? I do not know why this has been brought in. I only wish the Government would take this more seriously and at the first stroke abolish the sales tax on fish and marine products from the State. You can consider it later on. I wish public opinion there was ascertained, the fishermen contacted and then this tax imposed. Why must Gujarat take the lead in imposing a tax which has not been imposed anywhere in the country, while this industry is still undeveloped there?

There is another important factor about which also I would not be able

to say much here because it happens to be related to the Gulf of Kutch, where there are coral islands which are unique in nature. In the Arabian Sea, north of Lakshadweep Islands, if there are any coral islands, they are in the Gulf of Kutch. They are now being destroyed because certain industries have been given licences to extract sand from the sea. Instead of sand, they are extracting lime from the coral reef and in the process they are destroying nature. I am sure they could have carried on their extraction of sand somewhere else where there are no coral reefs. Here it is easy because nobody is there to check and they have been extracting coral, thereby destroying a national property.

13.00 hrs.

I would only request the Government to investigate as to whether they have got permission to remove the natural beauty from this coral island. I may mention in this connection, one island which is called as Parotan. It is in the gulf of Kutch. It is a unique island where certain species of marine life are there, which you will not find anywhere in the world. Researchers from foreign countries come to study these fish and worms that are living there. This island is being destroyed. I would request the Government to see that this industry which is exploiting the natural wealth of this country should be stopped and an inquiry is made

There are a few other points which I would like to mention. One is about development of tourism in Gujarat. Unfortunately tourism and fisheries are two subjects which have always been neglected by the Government of Gujarat. For almost a year, we do not even have a Director of Tourism. Not only that, if you look into the Budget you will find that they have included tourism with publicity and information and have given it a very small budget. Gujarat has the potential of becoming a major tourist attraction centre in the country. If our State Government

could take more interest in developing our beach resources, our wild life centres and historical monumental areas, I am sure, the tourist elsewhere in the country will be flowing more towards Gujarat. Though I know that this is not the right place to mention about tourism, the State Government may not consider this at all. I would only like this to be brought on record that tourism should be given equal importance in the activities of the State of Gujarat and our tourist potentialities should be fully exploited.

One more point which the previous Government forgot, and which probably the present Budget is also missing out. I come from a far flung district of Saurashtra. In this district, we have an airforce base in Jamnagar. The Civil Aerodrome and the Air Force Aerodrome happen to be at the same place. There is no approach road for the civilians of the city going to the airport. There was a compromise among the State Government, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism. A paltry sum of Rs 60,000 is required for this purpose which they have not been able to provide in this Budget. I hope they will be able to find the money from somewhere for this important road which links the city with the airport.

About this far flung district which happens to be a neglected district of Saurashtra, I am sure. Dr. Mehta will also agree with me that his and my areas are the two drought stricken areas of the State. Of course, we have other districts also but these are the chronic districts. Every year Government has to pump in lakhs and lakhs of rupees for giving relief to the people of these drought stricken districts. I have been asking for the past 11 years that why cannot you find out ways and means of bringing in permanent measures, measures whereby money is not required to be doled out like that but measures like starting of minor irrigation schemes. And be that

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you will not only be giving relief to this drought-stricken area, but you will also be adding to the national income, whereby agriculture will also prosper. I would not like to take more time on the subject with which I had started off first, but I feel it my duty to mention something about the fisheries again Gujarat, which has a coast-line of 1600 kms, has got only two fisheries harbours, approved by the Centre. Two fisheries harbours have been approved for every maritime State in the country, even Karnataka has got 2, Goa has got 2 and Orissa has also got 2. The harbours have been approved irrespective of the length and the size of the coast-line. I do not say that because we have got 16,000 Kms of coast-line we should have more than two. The world team had come to the two ports which were just mentioned and which were located only 2 miles apart. Both of them were approved. From these ports they were taken back to Ahmedabad and were flown out of the Gujarat State. Is it commonsense that when you are going to develop a fishing harbour for deep-sea fishing, you must have the two ports just 25 miles apart? We have a coastline of 16,000 Kms. Why then not consider having the other part in other areas like Jamnagar or Kutch? To-day, because there is no infra-structure and because there are no facilities for the fishermen to operate from Kutch they have to base themselves either in Veraval or in Porbunder and from there go up to Kutch. The result is that the Indian fishermen are unable to catch fish there but the Pakistani boats are coming there and catching fish our waters (*Interruptions*). I do not think we have got even the resources to catch them or even to control these waters. This subject which has really been neglected needs to be encouraged and I only hope that the State Government will take more interest; and I would request the hon. Deputy Finance Minister to give more serious thought to the question of sales tax which has definitely affected the

small man, the small fisherman may not be able to survive this tax because it is he who is affected more, and not the trader.

SHRI H M PATEL (Dhandhuka)
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, this budget is a very satisfactory budget. It was prepared by this late Janata Front Government, and therefore I do not see why I should oppose it. Indeed, what grounds are there for my opposing it? I am glad, and I would congratulate both the Governor and the Government of India for coming forward with the same budget without any modification.

Right at the outset I would refer to one matter Government says here

"The State Plan outlay for next year has been fixed at Rs 1325 crores.

It also says

'Rs 129.43 crores amounting to two-thirds of the plan outlay has been allocated for schemes covered under the 20 point economic programme.'

It would seem that the Janata Front government was not quite as negligent as has been suggested about the 20-point economic programme. That is what they had provided for and the Government of India considers that that was adequate and therefore, they have come forward with the same amount. I would like to say that similarly the provision for power generation during 1976-77 is also satisfactory. But I would like to tell the Government of India in particular, that they should take care to ensure that their approval is given in good time to several projects which have been submitted to them that is Government of India for their approval and for allotment of funds. If they are not sanctioned in time there would be difficulty in later years in regard to the power supply in the State.

But, what is even more serious is, though there are schemes which may ensure that the power requirements are met adequately during the Fifth Plan period, there is really no scheme whatsoever, which has even been considered and to which approval has been given, so far as the power requirements for the Sixth Plan are concerned. Having regard to the fact that it takes a certain number of years to generate power, it would be a good thing if during this period, when politics will not interfere with the consideration of projects, they take such steps as would advance, as would make it possible, for plans to be approved for the generation of power during the Sixth Plan.

This means for one thing early and speedy consideration of the nuclear power station to be established in the State. A great deal of time has been wasted in the selection of the site etc. Since it will take something like ten years from the date that you take a decision for such a power station to be completed, the sooner you take a decision the better it will be from the point of view of power supply.

In the same way, I would like to refer to irrigation. I am glad, my hon. friend, Shri Chandrapan, drew attention to the Narmada project, and the importance which it has for Gujarat. It is one of the States which is drought-prone to a very large extent. Unless a decision is taken in regard to the Narmada project at an early date, it would not be possible for much progress to be achieved in a large of the State. I realise that nothing can be done in regard to the Narmada project until the tribunal gives a decision. But, once the decision is given, the Government of India might begin to apply its mind to see that the award of the tribunal is implemented with the utmost speed.

Coming to Bajajisagar Project, I think more funds would be necessary to be allotted. When the Government of India is itself responsible for the

progress of the State, I hope it will deal with this problem with the same seriousness with which the Govt. of Gujarat dealt with the relief funds during the period of scarcity last year and the flood relief when there were floods. I hope it will make available to the State increased funds.

Then I would say that the Kadana project should be completed before the date that was originally fixed. World Bank, which is specially interested in it, would also appreciate the completion of this project at the earliest possible date. In this regard, I hope that the Central Government will assist the Government of Gujarat in seeing to it that so far as the land that has to be acquired within Rajasthan State is concerned, acquisition proceedings are completed expeditiously and in a manner which is satisfactory to both the State.

I would like to emphasize the point that was made by Mr. Chandrapan in regard to royalty on crude oil. The case for the enhancement of royalty to be given to the State is extremely strong. In fact, it is unanswerable. Nevertheless for some reason or other, the Central Government has been delaying a decision on it. Now it might take favourable and fair decision and take the credit that might go with it and see to it that the enhancement is adequate.

I would like to refer to the price support policy which the Janata Front Government initiated in regard to groundnut growers. I hope that that policy will be pursued with the same vigour by the Centre and, equally in regard to other foodgrains where action has to be taken by the Food Corporation. I hope the Government of India, because it has itself now become responsible, will see to it that the Food Corporation functions more efficiently by purchasing in such a way that the prices are supported and maintained.

The former State Government had chalked out a very good plan for ensu-

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ring supply of drinking water to thousands of villages in respect of which water scarcity was felt in an acute form in 1974-75. I hope the Government of India will follow it up with vigour, and, if possible, add more funds to the programme so that more villages are freed from the peril of Shortage of drinking water.

There are certain very important problems relating to education with which the State was faced. It has decided to introduce from the next academic year new scheme of education, the 10+2+3 scheme, without providing the necessary funds for the purpose. There were practically no funds available. Nevertheless, to comply with the wishes of Government of India, the State had it has gone forward with that scheme. This can only result in the scheme being a failure rather than a success. Therefore, I would urge the Government to make a special allocation of funds to see that that scheme does not fail. It is of very vital importance not only to the State but to the country that this new scheme of education succeeds. It is a valuable scheme, but if it fails just for want of funds, then I think it will have disastrous consequences because it will be very difficult to put things right afterwards.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira): This year's budget is being presented in the House. The State Government was under severe criticism for stagnation, for high taxes. Our party was the one who had felt so. Adopting the same budget is, therefore, not justified, and I would request the hon. Minister to give a few concessions.

The plan expenditure for 1975-76 was Rs. 218.66 crores. The plan expenditure for 1976-77 is Rs. 196.25 crores. In other words, whereas the entire country has gone up in plan expenditure by over 31.5 per cent, we have retrograde activities. This is un-

fortunate particularly when any one would go through the record of the performance of any input, whether it is in a financial form or in physical form. The State has not only some potential but also a record of performance which is unequalled despite adverse circumstances.

The recent report of the National Agricultural Commission has shown that in several respects, the State with all its handicaps, has come out No. 1 in most of the agricultural commodities, so far growth rate was concerned. This was so in a decade which was not easy for any agricultural operation. Now, if we are not to take care of the State when the responsibility has come to us, then we would not be justified in claiming the performance, which would ultimately be poor at the end of the period when the time has run out. Therefore, I strongly urge the Finance Ministry not to discriminate in regard to Gujarat as against Tamil Nadu, because Tamil Nadu has been given Rs 24 crores as extra money. The other day, the Finance Minister was generous enough to give extra money to Tamil Nadu for development plans which are considered to have fallen back to see that those plans were not left out.

The State has spent over Rs. 80 crores during the last two years out of its own limited resources for meeting natural calamities. The people of the State, for no fault of their own, have passed through difficulties which it is quite impossible to describe here; it had to be seen to be believed. These were droughts and floods. This cycle of droughts and floods was quite an unusual feature, but still the State administration and its people put their shoulders together to come out of them successfully. They have come out from a reasonably bad situation to a reasonably good situation and we are in a position to make a take-off. The intrinsic capability of the people of the State of Gujarat should be utilised for the National purpose.

If you put seeds in one place, the seeds sprout. You show me a single State in the country where public investment has borne more results than in the State of Gujarat. On the one hand, we have FCI and on the other, we have the Gujarat State Fertilizers. The share of Gujarat State Fertilizers forth Rs 100 is fetching Rs. 500 to 600 in the market. The Fertilizers Corporation of India, on the other hand, is not making both ends meet and the high cost of the overhead of that institution is unnecessarily hurting agricultural production and raising our inputs for which we have again and again to come before the House for raising the prices. This is not fair, because the poor farmers do not know where the cost has been incurred and the result is that the cost of inefficiency of that huge establishment is borne by the farmers of India. The same holds good in respect of other features, whether it is education or whether it is industry.

We have the Koyali refinery; just see the balance-sheets, the Koyali refinery versus any other refinery in India and you will come to the definite conclusion that there is no comparison in productivity. In other words, the gain to the country cannot come by investing money alone; it can only come by a better utilisation of the resources.

Last year, when I was talking to the Minister for Energy in this House, I asked him the pointed question in which State the investment in power has borne the maximum result and where was the best utilisation of whatever investment had been made in power. With some difficulty he said that it was in Gujarat. So, this is another area where investment has given the optimum result, namely investment in power, though we have no surplus power and we have no surplus installed capacity. It is true that the limited installations we have got were substantially inherited from the earlier periods and the few that

we have installed during this period have been thermal. The State of Gujarat is not gifted with natural resources like hydro—as Mysore and Kerala where the entire hundred per cent is hydro; in Gujarat it is 100 per cent thermal. In other words, the dependability of the thermal power stations which is essentially related to a complex operation in the State of Gujarat would be the least and, in spite of that, if you take the country's census, you will find that Gujarat has been a gifter.

So, the investment we are making in the Plan, of Rs. 196 crores, is totally inadequate and it should be raised. I would like to make it clear that it is totally inadequate and we should raise it, and the Finance Minister is strongly urged to provide the money. Forget about the Janta Government or whatever it is. We were complaining against them and we still feel that what they were about to do by way of high taxes and lower rates of Plan investment were going against the interests of the people of Gujarat. That is why I make this request to the Finance Minister. Of course, he is from our own Party and I support the budget but, still, it is my duty to point out this factor.

Then, the Finance Minister made two statements before presenting the budget. One of them was that he would like to economise; and this is a point on which I would lend my strongest support. Now, on the whole the cost of collection in the State is Rs 399 crores plus Rs 20.56 crores; That means that about Rs 25 crores are required to collect Rs. 256 crores, and that is nearly 10 per cent of the amount. Eliminate it, where the collection cost is high and the receipt is low—whether it should be 'X' item or 'Y' item can be left to discretion, to be worked out in detail. But why should we make an investment or incur expenditure where the return on collection is not much? Moreover, if the same amount of money is allowed to be left with the people, the

[Shri D. D. Desai] .

person who has to pay the amount has the means to produce and, therefore, with these very means, he can generate much more capital which, in any case, is going to come into the coffers of the Government some day or the other—besides the Government itself has the objective of developing the State.

So, this is one more feature where I would strongly urge upon the Finance Minister and also the officials to take care.

Repeated droughts and floods have been the unfortunate unpredictables in regard to agriculture. Gujarat has excellent possibilities for irrigation. Whatever little irrigation is available has given the optimum result and that, once again, is another feature. Can you show me one State where an acre ft. of water has produced more foodgrains or more crops than the State of Gujarat? I am making a flat statement which nobody can challenge—to show me, if it is possible for anybody to do so. Whether it is animal-husbandry or whether it is agriculture, investment has given the highest productivity there. Therefore, when we are talking about investment in irrigation, we must see that whatever irrigation projects are outstanding are allowed to be completed and funds are made available to the State at the earliest date and whatever provision we have made in the budget should be enhanced to the extent necessity exists to complete these projects.

On the front of agricultural producers, our misfortune is that we have produced too much; the prices of groundnuts and of other foodgrains have dropped. The other day I requested the Agriculture Minister to make open market purchases and he has agreed to make purchases. If you do not make purchases now and if the farmers are to sell at the present rate

which is below their cost of production, it is quite obvious that, in the next year, he will not have the money to produce foodgrains or other crops which would then upset our total economic operation. Therefore, whatever is to be done has to be done quickly, because time is of the essence....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please try to conclude.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: You are not giving me time. Sir. I have many things to say. The question of oil royalty is there. There are so many items of importance wherein we can do substantial things....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may make them in a very useful manner to the Minister.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I would request the hon. Minister to take care of the interests of Gujarat. In banking alone, whereas we deposit Rs. 750 crores in nationalised banks, the loans that are given to the State are hardly Rs. 400 crores; Rs 300 crores are just funnelled out. Is it the way how the State can be made to prosper? We do not say bad things, but what we want is that the State should be provided with whatever resources are necessary to develop the State. The problem of unemployment is there. You are not giving me time, Sir .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given you almost 15 minutes.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: Thank you, Sir. On the whole, I support the Budget. Whatever little I have said is by way of suggestions. It has nothing to do with criticism. It is upto the Finance Minister to see that Gujarat gets its due and a fair treatment now that the Centre is in charge.

SHRI BHALJI BHAI PARMAR
(Dohad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is mentioned in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister:

"The large negative balance of the State at the close of the current year is primarily due to the expenditure incurred on drought relief during 1974-75 and 1975-76."

It means that the State is running in deficit. The Central Government is, therefore, requested to give more help to this State. Now it is under President's rule. Therefore, it is the direct responsibility of the Central Government and I hope that the Finance Minister will do the needful and see that this deficit is made good. So much of deficit will remain after the close of the financial year.

The Finance Minister has mentioned in his Budget speech:

"It is estimated that the food-grain production in the State during 1975-76 will be about 47.15 lakh tonnes surpassing the previous best of 44 lakh tones in 1970-71. It is estimated that the production of groundnut during the year will be 18.60 lakh tonnes, and of cotton, 18 lakh bales. As a result of the increase in foodgrain production and the measures taken to contain inflation, the prices of agricultural produce have shown a welcome downward trend, bringing considerable relief to the poor and middle class people."

In this connection I would request the hon. Minister to give support facilities for agriculturists because they are producing foodgrains. They do not get credit facilities. In order to help them, support facilities must be given for production of foodgrains like maize, etc.

Now I come to the budget proper. This budget is being discussed in this House because there is President's rule in Gujarat. We know that the

President's rule was imposed earlier also following the Chimanbhai Ministry. Thereafter, this again has happened. This is because there is no stability in the situation and people are tempted to defect from one party to the other. I would, therefore, suggest that the Defection Bill which has been pending for a long time should be passed by this august House, as early as possible. Till then, the situation in the country will remain fluid and this will not help us and our democracy will not be on sound footing. In order to make our democracy sound, we must pass the Defection Bill at an early date. It has been pending for a long time.

Now, I come to some aspects of the Gujarat State. In his address to the Gujarat Assembly, the Governor of the State expressed his satisfaction by saying that "New Government has made a significant headway in the direction of fulfilling the aspirations of the people." He has said in his speech that financial resources of the State had to be strengthened and efficiently managed. He praised the Government by stating that the Government adopted several measures to effect economy in administrative expenditure and gear up administrative machinery for recovering Government dues. Ordinances were also promulgated to increase stamp duties on documents, entertainment duty and tax on motor vehicles. Several exemptions from sales tax were also withdrawn and electricity tariff was raised. Although there has been satisfactory improvement in the financial situation as a result of these steps, financial stringency continues because of past burden.

In the State, what happened during Panchayat elections. The elections were held in a peaceful and orderly manner. The law and order position in the State was on the whole satisfactory. There was nothing abnormal. The Gujarat Government also

[Shri Bhaljibhai Parmar]

took prompt and effective steps for the implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme. The outgoing Ministry of Shri Babubhai Patel not only carried out this programme, it also took concrete steps to give effect to 62-Point programme adopted by the Gujarat Government. This Government was going on very well, but due to some difficulties in the political situation and pulling of legs, the situation developed the way, we have seen. In the circumstances it will be better if we dissolve the Assembly and have fresh elections so that new Government can be formed, otherwise there will again be defections and that is not desirable for our democracy.

Anti-social evils like hoarding and profiteering were a cause of grave concern to the Government. The Government took a series of serious steps to bring down the prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities. The price trends in respect of essential commodities were being reviewed from time to time. There is a well-organised public distribution system as there are 8,942 fair price shops. In the current year, production of foodgrains has increased and cooperative distribution of essential commodities has been encouraged.

In the matter of land reforms, the State of Gujarat has done noteworthy work. Thirty land reform laws have been implemented. Intermediary tenures have been abolished and Zamindari has become a thing of the past. As a result of this, 10,42,992 land holders have become occupants in respect of 47,63,563 hectares of land.

The Governor, in his Address to the Assembly, well clarified the satisfactory position in this respect. In all 2.48 lakhs applications have been sanctioned for providing house sites,

out of which 2.12 lakhs applicants are provided with house sites.

The outgoing government has taken proper steps to give relief to the rural debtors. Minimum wages for the farm labour is fixed at Rs. 5.50 per day which comes to Rs. 2000 per annum without discrimination of male or female.

It is a matter of satisfaction that the Ground Water Resources Development Corporation has started working.

I come to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is encouraging to note that the Government has decided to provide for the reservation of posts in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the services of the State at the stages of promotion also. A Harijan Development Corporation was set up in 1975 in order to give effective representation for the Scheduled Castes.

The tribal population of the State is about 37 lakh. It is 10 per cent of the total tribal population of the country and 14 per cent of the total population of the State. Thus, there is a very high proportion of tribal population in comparison with both its own population and the population of the country. It is noticed that two decades of planning have brought little benefit to the tribal population. Now, the tribal population Development Plan which has been prepared covers 32 taluks and 15 contiguous pockets having tribal concentration. I here would suggest that the Bhils of the Saurashtra region must be given all privileges of Scheduled Tribes, as they are excluded till now due to some mistake of the government.

There must be proper representation of Scheduled Tribes in the Rajya Sabha. At least there should be two

Scheduled Tribe Members. Great injustice has been done to them till now by the State Government.

The amount of Rs. 15 crores provided in the Plan Outlay should be spent judiciously. Considering our needs this is not adequate. More funds should be provided by the Government to improve the lot of the Scheduled Tribes.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA
(Kutch): I thank you very much.

Last time, while speaking on the General Budget, I was speaking about the Plan outlay and its distribution. It is right that the Plan outlay every year is being increased, but the most important thing is its distribution. While I was speaking, I had drawn the attention of the Government at that time also. Here is a concrete case where the Plan outlay is increased but its utilisation is not done properly. Today, Gujarat, unfortunately is not provided with the increase of 31 per cent. I do not know why. May be we are unfortunate to have to come here for budget every year and every now and then, when we really want the disparity to be removed; and Gujarat is an area where you find this disparity most completely pronounced. There are two extremes. This is the State most misunderstood. Gujarat is considered to be one of the richest States, but if you go into detail, it is only 200 miles long stretch from Ahmedabad to Surat and only 20 miles wide that is being developed or where the rich people live but the rest of the whole of Gujarat is something of the extreme. You will be wonder-struck to know that there are 21 per cent Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Gujarat.

Sir, regarding the 20-point programme, my hon. friend is right when he says that it is not being implemented. I would like to mention this point. There are labourers. We have

figures of about 2.5 million labourers. These 25 lakhs of people, out of crores of population of Gujarat, are the landless labourers. The Morcha Government which was there last time did not execute the provision of minimum wages which has been fixed at Rs. 5. Nobody is giving that minimum wage. There is not a single instance where this amount of Rs. 5 minimum wage is paid to the labourers. Government has not taken any step against the people breaking the law, especially in South Gujarat, which is a most-developed part. They never pay such minimum wages to the people there. I do not know why this unfortunate situation should be there in Gujarat. No action is being taken against the rich people who defy the law.

Sir, instability in Gujarat should be ended. Instability started right from the moment Sarvochha, my worthy Morarjibhai Desai, started the signature campaign against Dr. Jivraj Mehta and his Cabinet. All these sorts of things started from that very day. Unfortunately, instability is one of the greatest ills of this State. A Government in Gujarat at present requires stability. Government should not be formed with the help of defectors. Political stability must be there and this is a very necessary for us. Those who were instrumental in breaking the democratic Government in Gujarat by undemocratic methods have now come to their senses. Now only the Baroda conspiracy has come to light. This has not come about just now, but it had been there already and this conspiracy was being laid when elections were going on. There was one Dr. Gautam who used to come to Gujarat. I would like to know from the Government as to why they keep all these things a secret. Why cannot they tell the people who is this Dr. Gautam who used to come to Gujarat. Sir, he is connected with this dynamite affair and other things. I do not know at all why you should keep this a secret. You should tell us

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who this Dr. Gautam is. Sir, the foundation for this conspiracy was laid even earlier. When the hon. Prime Minister was going to come there, this conspiracy was hatched. Fortunately it did not take place at that time. As you know, the whole atmosphere was surcharged with violence. So, the foundation was laid already. Now they go on experimenting in U.P., in Varanasi and other places.

Sir, I regret very much that whatever the deficit finance may be, it is also due partly to the apathy of the Central Government. Sir, while Gujarat State was passing through the distress of famine and flood, I am told by all the people, the Central Government struck to their guns, to the report of the Sixth Finance Commission and they did not go to the rescue of these famine and flood-stricken people of the State of Gujarat.

If the Central Government had come to their aid the condition would have been much better. Gujarat has not only given the best output of your Plan outlay but let me tell you that Gujarat—even before—had already gone ahead with the 20-point programme. On the contrary in the recent days the progressive steps are not being taken. I come from the most backward district and there is 20-point programme district committee which has not even been called. It is really these days that the progressive steps are not being implemented but on the contrary these steps were being opposed from the Government side. There is not even a trial to implement them.

As I told you if there were democratic Government in Gujarat we would not have come before you and now if I do not speak about my constituency, as to whether this constituency is being looked after well or not, I will miss my duty. I come from the most backward district of Kutch. It is a border district. The Gujarat

Government put up a committee to prepare the master plan for the district of Kutch. I will quote from that:

"Still the fact remains that Kutch is one of the 10 backward districts of the State. However, even amongst its backward districts, Kutch is still so economically and industrially backward that it comes well below the least developed of the other nine backward districts and, therefore, considerable efforts and investment will have to be made to bring it upto the least level of the average backward districts".

These are not my words. This is what Gujarat Government has written. I have always talked and emphasised about it, that is, to narrow down the gulf between the rich and the poor. I do not know whether it is only done on political strength that prevails and all the decisions are taken on that score.

Sir, if you go into the history of Indian democracy when Kutch was a Part 'C' State, it was Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Sardar Patel who never went into the parochial outlook of language got this area put under the Centre for the sake of development. They said: This being a border district it should be developed. But unfortunately we were pushed and kicked like football in spite of our protests to Bigger Bombay and then again in 1960 to Gujarat as a district. There are three units each in the three States of Andhra, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Andhra we have Rayalaseema, Telangana and rest of Andhra. In Maharashtra it is Marathwada, Vidharba and rest of Maharashtra. In Gujarat they are Kutch, Saurashtra and the rest of Gujarat. That is why it is envisaged under the Constitution and the Joint Select Committee of both the Houses and the Boundary Commission wanted that if the development of this part of the people has to be brought about there should be development boards. I am happy in Andhra when there was a

fight each unit was given a development board.

The Maharashtra Government have amicably settled it themselves. There the Chief Ministership goes by rotation. But here is a State where because we are the smallest unit—I mean in population, because we are less than 1 million, nearly 8 lakh, though in area we are one-fourth of the whole of the Gujarat State—no body hears us. That is why a Development Board has been denied to us, in spite of our asking for it. We are denied even our Plan. Let me tell you that our First Plan was Rs. 3 crores. The Second Plan was Rs. 8 crores, given by the Central Government. When it came to the Third Plan, it became Rs. 4 crores. It was a district Plan. But all the Rs. 4 crores were spent only on establishment

If we go through the development schemes, we find that gradually they have been reduced, in irrigation, in dams, in roads etc. I must say that thanks to Yahya Khan we got some roads because if Pakistan had not attacked us, we would not have got those roads. People in Delhi think of Kutch as the 'Rann of Kutch'. They do not know that Kutch is a beautiful area, a delta area. We have been having repeated famines and drought. This year, there were four continuous droughts.

Let me give you some figures which will show what is our contribution to the national wealth. In life insurance, since the last five years we are all India first in the matter of premium given by insured people. One organisation has been a *karn pati* since the last five years. What is our contribution in small savings?—We do not want this money, let me make this point. But we stood first in the whole of Gujarat. As regards fixed deposits, there is one village with only 5,000 population. It has stood all

India first in this regard. It has actually given Rs. 1 crore. As I told you, we do not want this money ourselves. We want only infra-structure. But whenever we ask for this, we are denied these things. It is not just for Kutch that I am speaking, because, if Kutch is developed, a part of India is developed, and India also develops in the process. We are people who have gone all over the world. We know what to do, when to do and how to do it.

We want only water and electricity. But both these things are denied to us. As was rightly said by Shri Chandrapan, the only solution is the Narbada project. There is no other alternative. If Narbada project does not come, you can write off that area. You can ask the people to vacate it and make it a ground for experimenting with nuclear bombs, instead of doing something else.

It is not only that. But there are potentialities also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have pleaded your case so well that I am sure it has melted the heart of the Deputy Minister.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA: One more point. I am talking about the surrounding States also, not only about my State, I mean the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. There is the question of afforestation. They required fuel in these western areas. This is the only part of Gujarat where lignite is found. If only cakes could be made out of it, it could be a good substitute for other fuel. So, far as forest is concerned, it will be there if rains come regularly. People have no alternative but to cut down the trees. I am not talking just for the sake of Gujarat alone, I am talking for all the four States. There was a plan prepared by Government. They had also agreed that if bricks could be made from the lignite, they would be better

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than Neyveli lignite. The Fuel Research Institute at Dhanbad has given a beautiful report. With this you can even start a thermal station there. I have been to Hungary and I have seen the advantage of location of bauxite and lignite at one place. Here is a place where you have bauxite and lignite. But there is apathy on both sides, on the part of the Gujarat Government and on the part of the Central Government. Nobody cares for this remote area and nobody wants to utilise its resources.

That is why through you I would request the Finance Minister to take care of these potentialities in the Plan outlay. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dmdil-gul): I convey my thanks to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

I support the Gujarat Budget. I welcome President's rule in Gujarat which had become inevitable and unavoidable to safeguard democracy in India and protect the masses of Gujarat State.

The Government of India is requested to refresh its memory and remember that Gujarat is one of the drought-affected States. Therefore, although I come from Tamil Nadu and have pleaded for more grants for Tamil Nadu, I plead for much more for Gujarat.

14.00 hrs

Sometimes to argue for Gujarat State, they compared the grant given to Tamil Nadu by the Central Government. I want that more and more should be given to Gujarat since it is affected more by drought than even Tamil Nadu. So, I welcome and support the budget.... (Interruptions)
Good things should be supported and

bad things should be opposed. It is in the interest of 55 crores of people to implement the 20-point programme of the Prime Minister, not for the people of China or the United States or some other country. We support the national cause as Indians.

My suggestion to the Central Government is this. Why not the Central government, the ruling party, form mass committees, regional parties, political parties, mass parties, mass committees for the effective implementation of the 20 point programme in the neck and corner of every State. The State Government of Gujarat also should take steps to form mass committees for effective implementation. In Gujarat what are we doing? In Tamil Nadu we have formed district committees, taluk committees, village level committees and State level committees under the leadership of Anna DMK with the support of CPI and Congress. The same thing may be done here. Certain persons are confusing issues between Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The Government of Tamil Nadu was dismissed because of corruption, mismanagement and because of misappropriation of crores of rupees by the erstwhile Ministers of Tamil Nadu. That is not so in Gujarat; Gujarat was defeated by itself; it became a minority and so that party resigned. Certain anti-national forces are saying that the Government of India is toppling opposition regimes in States. That is not the case. Within one or two hours we are going to pass a Bill extending the life of the Kerala Government. What does it mean? The Central Government is not against the opposition regimes. The Kerala Government is for the policy of implementation of certain principles. That is why we are extending its life. That is not done in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: As far as the Gujarat budget is concerned, I think you have finished your speech?

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: I am told that groundnut and foodgrains are produced in Gujarat. The poor and marginal farmers are badly affected. They should examine the cost of inputs and production costs. I am not talking for the big landlords; I am talking of marginal farmers with one, two, or five or six acres for whom we must give guaranteed prices. The government must fix a proper price taking into account the production costs. I read in the newspapers that the Government is going to fix the price for wheat procurement. Why not do so for groundnut and foodgrains in Gujarat and also for paddy in Tamilnadu? Therefore, you must safeguard the interests of the farmers in Gujarat. They are the back-bone of the rural economy. You must support them.

There is one more point. There is no drinking water in Gujarat. I have seen in the documentary films in regard to water famine which were screened in Tamil Nadu. Even the cattle were not getting drinking water. More funds should be allocated for the provision of drinking water to the rural people. The welfare of the farmers is most important. With these words, I conclude my speech.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank each and every Hon'ble Member of this House for his useful participation in the discussion. By and large, the debate has been of a very high order, and not only have hon. Members given their unstinted support with the lonely exception of the CPI(M) Member, but also they have given a very patient hearing to the speeches. I think with the exception of the Congress (O) Member here, each and every Member gave unstinted support. They threw up their very valuable suggestions which will be taken into consideration.

At the very outset, I do not know why the CPI(M) Member, who is

such a nice person otherwise, should always start with fears and doubts and suspicion. I think this is a very simple and innocuous budget. Therefore I would beg of him to see certain things not through the same repeated jaundiced view. (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATHI CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): Can anybody give a rational explanation of the exercise of powers under Article 356 of the Constitution? Can you give it? Therefore, don't say that this is jaundiced view. You have utilised that Article of the Constitution for your party purposes. You admit that. You are a small wheel in the chain. (Interruptions).

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I did not refer to you. I only referred to your senior colleague. Probably I have not used those words so far as your speech was concerned. (Interruptions). Now, I come to the budget. I will confine myself to the budget only. Sir, I would like to thank them all and I do, by and large, share the great concern which has been expressed by most of them. But there is one statement with which the initial speaker started and I think I would like to refer to that. It said that the budget is a child which has been carried away or snatched from the State Government by the Central Government. Sir, I do not think this has been carried away or snatched away. I would like to go to the extent of saying that because this child could not be nurtured in those conditions, that has been adopted for sometime by the Centre. They will see that this child is very well looked after in a healthy condition and would also see that it is restored to the lawful guardians. The other point which has been raised by some Members is about the outlay. I think they have been more or less from our Party sitting here and also the Opposition party. They have said that the outlay is not enough and it should be increased by and large. In fact, there

[Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi]

has been recently a letter also from the Governor to that effect. It is too early to act on that and therefore we will not now be able to give to it due consideration. But certainly I would like to tell the House that this matter would be brought before us in due course of time and consideration will be given to that. But it has been shown that there is an increase of 13 per cent on the current outlay. That also I would like to place on record. Now, Mr. Patel was sure of his happiness over the satisfactory budget because this budget was prepared by the Janata Morcha. Well, I think, it was prepared by the Janata Morcha in consultation with the Planning Commission and actually it is the Planning Commission which has finalised it, given top priority to all the matters which required priority and hence we find that it is the very same budget which has been finalised by the Planning Commission on the 9th January and presented to the State Assembly on the 13th February.

Therefore, how much credit one should take is entirely upto one's judgment. But about two-thirds of the outlay is for the implementation of the 20-point programme. Power and irrigation get top priority, with which I hope no one can quarrel.

Some basic problems were referred to by hon. members about food and distribution. We do agree that it is not only food production that matters but there should be a proper distribution machinery also. We think proper steps will be taken and the public distribution system will be streamlined to see that the people do not suffer.

Some hon. members raised doubts about the support price. The groundnut production during the current year is estimated at 16.60 lakh tonnes. With a view to providing price support, the Government has decided to purchase groundnut and has fixed a statutory price of Rs. 150 per quintal

of groundnut in shells. Government has decided to purchase wheat at a support price of Rs. 105 per quintal if the rate falls below that.

In almost all the basic and important items like land reforms, power, handloom, etc., the provision this year is higher than last year. The increase is marginal in some cases and more in other cases.

Every hon. member has mentioned about the Narmada project. Naturally it is a matter of vital concern, and speed is of the utmost importance. I do agree that as soon as the tribunal gives the judgment, no time should be lost in going ahead with it, because it is of great importance not only to Gujarat but to the country as a whole.

For tribal sub-plans, a total of Rs. 18 crores has been provided within the approved outlay. Along with the special Central assistance, the total comes to Rs. 18 crores. We do hope this will somewhat ameliorate the difficulties and meet the requirements of the tribal people.

Shortage of water supply has been mentioned by some hon. members. We find that priority has been given to the rural waters supply scheme. The target is to cover 2000 such villages during the fifth plan. Every endeavour will be made to see that before the end of the fifth plan every village of Gujarat is likely to have facilities for potable water in some form or the other.

The Government of Gujarat has decided to introduce the new pattern of education from June 1976. We shall see how far it is being implemented and what are the difficulties coming in the way, so that the new system can be successful.

Royalty on oil has been mentioned by a number of hon. members. The Ministry of Petroleum is already in touch with the Governments of Gujarat and Assam. This matter is under

consideration and we do hope that this will not take much time.

Mr. Jadeja spoke about the marine wealth. I think the concerned ministry will look into it from all aspects including the sales-tax and building up of the tourist industry in the fascinating islands.

Dr. Mehta made an appeal for greater outlay. We will see if that is possible. With these words, I thank the hon. members and I am sure they will give their unstinted support.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, I will put the Demands to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of Gujarat to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1977, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against:

Demands Nos. 2, 3, 5 to 12, 14 to 20, 22 to 31, 33 to 60, 62 to 69 and 71 to 77."

The motion was adopted.

14.16 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DIS-APPROVAL OF THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S (DUTIES, POWERS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE, 1976 AND COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL'S (DUTIES, POWERS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the next item, Statutory Resolution of Shri Dinen Bhattacharya

seeking to disapprove the Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Amendment Ordinance, 1976 (Ordinance No. 1 of 1976), promulgated by the President on the 1st March, 1976, as also the Bill moved by Shrimati Sushika Rohatgi. Prof. Hiren Mukerjee will continue his speech. I would remind him that he has taken 23 minutes yesterday. He may kindly bear that in mind.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am reminded that I have taken somewhat more time than usual but I plead with you that this is a subject which is almost unknown to the House and the whole matter has come up in a manner that some little relaxation in so far as time allotted is concerned, is, perhaps, called for. Besides, the time saved from other items may be given to this item.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am in the hands of the House.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Last night I objected to what I consider the bulldozing of a complicated measure through Parliament. I pointed out that very many complex questions are involved in this subject. I pointed out my feeling that the Financial Memorandum is not telling the whole story because it says that no expenditure is involved. I cannot just believe it, unless we are going into variations of the game of musical chairs, even that would mean some expenditure. From 1st April, thousands of Accountants would be moving from the Comptroller and Auditor General's control to the various Departments of Government. If it means nothing more than a redistribution of chairs in certain offices, it is an expensive variation of the parallel game, but I do not think it is there. On the contrary, I would like to know very specifically, how is it that Government avoids expenditure? Government strengthens both the sides and if the division is made, it is not