

SHRI SUKH RAM : Hon'ble Minister has said in his speech that such a big gap cannot be brought down in a year. It will take two to three years. Our efforts are to bring this gap down to less than 5 per cent. I think the entire House should appreciate and support this budget. It is said that the budget is inflationary. But do not think so because the prices of items of daily use of poor people have not been increased. It will reduce the current account deficit, budgetary deficit and fiscal deficit by reducing the money supply. Last year, the consumer price index was 13.5 per cent. It is proposed to bring it down to 9 per cent this year. Therefore, the question that rate of inflation will increase, does not arise. It is also said that the economy of the country has been mortgaged to I.M.F. But I would like to tell my Hon. friends that it is not true. The subsidy has been increased from rupees 22 hundred crores to rupees 26 hundred crores. The budget plan of this year has been increased by 11 per cent. If we were dictated terms by I.M.F. it would have also been reduced. It is also said that the Budget is not job-oriented. Alongwith increasing the budget plan by 11 per cent, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has done a marvellous job by withdrawing the excise duty on agriculture based industry, whether it is jam or jelly or dry-fruits. It will promote industrialisation and agriculture. Therefore, the Budget is job-oriented one. In the speeches, it has been said that we have tidden good-bye to the policies of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru so far as public sector and private sector is concerned. But it is wrong. Our mixed economy is based on the policy of Pt. Nehru. I would like to tell my friends that the country which has a population of 24 crores and an area of 1/6th of the total area of the world, has to import foodgrains from the European market even after 80 years of the revolution. On the other hand our country's population is 35-86 crores. We had to face a severe drought in 1986-87 but we did not import foodgrains, did not beg before any country and met the foodgrains requirement from our bufer stock. All this happened due to our policy. What more clarification do you want regarding our policies.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it seems that our friends have been influenced by misleading argument of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The population of U.S.S.R. is 27 crores and they produce 26 crores tons of foodgrains, even then they are starving. Our country's population is 85-86 crores and we have never produced foodgrains more than 17½ crore tons.

17.55½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) No. 2 Bill, 1991, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 29th July, 1991, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill".

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we sit up to 7.00 p.m.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD) : You may please take the sense of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We can continue it tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Hon. Member can continue his speech tomorrow. The House stands adjourned to re-assemble tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, July 31, 1991 [Shravana, 9, 1913 (Saka)].