

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This is not the reply ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI. What happened in the Rajya Sabha today?

[English]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : This is not the reply.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Let it go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : Now one Member from one party please. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I will submit before you that even this Interim Budget has to be objected to on two technical grounds.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. From CPM, you will speak. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is speaking as a member of CPI.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Article 79 of the Constitution of India defines 'Parliament' in a particular manner. That definition is :

"There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively..."

In the expenditure statement 'expenditure on Parliament' is one heading and 'expenditure on President' is another heading.

What I am submitting in that unless a correction is introduced in the expenditure budget that it is an expenditure on Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and expenditure on President which together make it expenditure on Parliament, this statement is defective.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not acquainted with the rules which are followed in the Finance Ministry. Though I appear to be understanding it, yet I will not continue with this discussion.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I am on a point of order. There are various items which are being ignored. For that, you have explained and we understand it. But ultimately, we are going to discuss the General Budget, Interim Budget, Vote on Account or whatever it is. We have to prepare some speeches. We have been sitting here all along without a lunch-break.

I would suggest that a break for 25 minutes may be given; we will meet at 6 O'clock, we will come prepared with the papers and start the debate. This is only a request that I am making*(Interruptions)* You also need some relief. You have been exerting too much today.

MR. SPEAKER : No. I need some respite.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Everybody is trying to pounce upon me from all sides. Please understand that all submissions cannot be disposed of at a time

(Interruptions)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: We are going to adjourn tomorrow as you said in the morning. That time can be utilised now and this time could be utilised tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, that does not happen. If you are ready to pass the Budget today itself, I can take up this matter first and later on the Budget. We can dispose of Motion under Rule 184 today and take up the Budget or if you want more time, there are some Members who would like to speak, I think they should be allowed to speak. That is why, you have very graciously accepted and we are obliged to you. Now, let this go on, let us not change every moment; it does not look nice and it is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It has been decided that the discussion on the budget will be over today then the matter under rule 184 will be taken up.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is correct.

17.36 hrs

THE INTERIM BUDGET (GENERAL) 1996
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT
(GENERAL) 1996 AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS -
(GENERAL) 1995-96

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take up item Nos 23 to 25 together, Shrimati Geeta may start

Motions moved :

"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 India on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1997 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands No. 1 to 26, 29, 31 to 58, 60 to 90, 92, 93 and 95 to 100."

"That the respective supplementary 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 India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1996 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof

1, 4 to 9, 12 to 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 31 to 37, 39 to 46, 48, 49, 51 to 54, 57, 58, 63 to 65, 69, 70, 73, 75 to 81, 84, 85, 89 to 91, 93, 95 to 99."

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Hon. Speaker, tali claims about the success of the Government that has been made by Shri Manmohan Singh in his speech have been belied by the Economic Survey that he has put here. For example, the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has mentioned that the export is increasing and the position of foreign trade is bright ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, can

they conduct themselves properly ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order in the House

....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : All of us enjoy doing our duty.

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1996 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
1	Agriculture	484,28,00,000	5,48,00,000
2	Other Services of Deptt. of Agri. & Cooperation	70,67,00,000	85,60,00,000
3	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	177,80,00,000	
4	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	97,72,00,000	37,03,00,000
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS			
5	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	134,95,00,000	21,00,00,000
6	Department of Fertilizers	3505,00,00,000	269,94,00,000
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM			
7	Department of Civil Aviation	12,33,00,000	17,73,00,000
8	Department of Tourism	32,01,00,000	4,37,00,000
MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION			
9	Ministry of Civil Supplies Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	29,27,00,000	31,00,000
MINISTRY OF COAL			
10	Ministry of Coal	56,02,00,000	137,44,00,000
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE			
11	Department of Commerce	221,29,00,000	20,33,00,000
12	Department of Supply	11,30,00,000	
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS			
13	Department of Posts	838,76,00,000	23,24,00,000
14	Department of Telecommunications	4333,79,00,000	2698,33,00,000
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE			
15	Ministry of Defence	709,34,00,000	7,89,00,000
16	Defence Pensions	1099,87,00,000	

1	2	3
17	Defence Services - Army	4460,55,00,000
18	Defence Services - Navy	622,58,00,000
19	Defence Services - Air Force	1352,45,00,000
20	Defence Ordnance Factories	501,51,00,000
21	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	-
		2978,92,00,000
	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	
22	Ministry of Environment and Forests	181,88,00,000
		2,37,00,000
	MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS	
23	Ministry of External Affairs	442,31,00,000
		20,68,00,000
	MINISTRY OF FINANCE	
24	Department of Economic Affairs	3181,22,00,000
25	Currency, Coinage and stamps	241,98,00,000
26	Payments to Financial Institutions	697,81,00,000
28	Transfers to State and Union Territory Govts	2876,23,00,000
29	Loans to Government Servants etc.	-
		98.83,00,000
31	Department of Expenditure	4,70,00,000
32	Pensions	405,72,00,000
33	Audit	149,28,00,000
34	Department of Revenue	88,49,00,000
35	Direct Taxes	157,33,00,000
36	Indirect Taxes	225,65,00,000
		90,02,00,000
	MINISTRY OF FOOD	
37	Ministry of Food	1983,00,00,000
		40,50,00,000
	MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES	
38	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	13,52,00,000
		3,50,00,000
	MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE	
39	Health and Indian Systems of Med. & Homoeopathy	431,59,00,000
		147,48,00,000
40	Family Welfare	626,05,00,000
		45,00,000
	MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS	
41	Ministry of Home Affairs	94,80,00,000
		607,00,000
42	Cabinet	29,94,00,000
		500,00,000
43	Police	1243,29,00,000
		153,98,00,000
44	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	102,91,00,000
		66,87,00,000
45	Transfer to Union Territory Government	78,63,00,000
		84,47,00,000
	MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	
46	Department of Education	1491,14,00,000
		17,00,000
47	Department of Youth Affairs and Sports	42,06,00,000
		69,00,000

1	2	3
48	Department of Culture	67,75,00,000
49	Department of Women and Child Development	291,69,00,000
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY		
50	Industrial Dev. and Ind. Policy & Promotion	150,49,00,000 51,00,000
51	Department of Public Enterprises	65,00,000 -
52	Department of Heavy Industry	5,13,00,000 72,70,00,000
53	Deptt. of Small Scale Industries & Agro and Rural Industries	218,52,00,000 98,86,00,000
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING		
54	Information, Films & Publicity	48,01,00,000 6,29,00,000
55	Broadcasting Services	474,92,00,000 104,35,00,000
MINISTRY OF LABOUR		
56	Ministry of Labour	225,48,00,000 47,00,000
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS		
57	Law and Justice	319,48,00,000
58	Election Commission	2,89,00,000
60	Department of Company Affairs	5,83,00,000 1,00,000
MINISTRY OF MINES		
61	Ministry of Mines	70,89,00,000 6,13,00,000
MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES		
62	Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources	73,61,00,000 38,36,00,000
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS		
63	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	119,00,000
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS		
64	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	37,80,00,000 97,00,000
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS		
65	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	121,00,000
MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION		
66	Planning	3501,00,000 12,22,00,000
67	Department of Statistics	24,72,00,000 130,00,000
68	Department of Programme Implementation	263,87,00,000 -
MINISTRY OF POWER		
69	Ministry of Power	189,55,00,000 806,39,00,000
MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT		
70	Department of Rural Development	838,53,00,000 -
71	Department of Wastelands Development	23,11,00,000 -
72	Department of Rural Emp. & Poverty Alleviation	3145,67,00,000

1	2	3
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY		
73	Department of Science and Technology	142,74,00,000
74	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	138,25,00,000
75	Department of Biotechnology	29,43,00,000
MINISTRY OF STEEL		
76	Ministry of Steel	201,00,000
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT		
77	Surface Transport	16,79,00,000
78	Roads	344,13,00,000
79	Ports, Lighthouses and shipping	77,71,00,000
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES		
80	Ministry of Textiles	164,79,00,000
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT		
81	Urban Development and Housing	187,46,00,000
82	Public Works	136,28,00,000
82	Stationery and printing	49,40,00,000
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES		
84	Ministry of Water Resources	155,22,00,000
MINISTRY OF WELFARE		
85	Ministry of Welfare	267,36,00,000
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY		
86	Atomic Energy	204,30,00,000
87	Nuclear Power Schemes	177,04,00,000
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS		
88	Department of Electronics	41,48,00,000
DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT		
89	Department of Ocean Development	20,19,00,000
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE		
90	Department of Space	359,97,00,000
THE PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENT, UNION		
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND		
THE SECTT. OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT		
92	Rajya Sabha	7,19,00,000
93	Lok Sabha	17,34,00,000
95	Secretariat of the Vice-President	17,00,000
UNION TERRITORIES WITHOUT LEGISLATURE		
96	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	113,56,00,000
97	Chandigarh	120,04,00,000
98	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	30,66,00,000
99	Daman and Diu	23,36,00,000
100	Lakshadweep	41,68,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		*42925,57,00,000
		10563,88,00,000

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1995-96 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

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
1	Agriculture	1,00,000	-
4	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	9,66,00,000	-
5	Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals	5,41,00,000	16,26,00,000
6	Department of Fertilizers	982,09,00,000	-
7	Department of Civil Aviation	34,58,00,000	1,00,000
8	Department of Tourism	11,48,00,000	-
9	Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	40,52,00,000	-
12	Department of Supply	90,00,000	-
13	Department of Posts	162,49,00,000	50,00,000
14	Department of Telecommunications	886,93,00,000	1389,98,00,000
15	Ministry of Defence	-	94,00,000
16	Defence Pensions	339,98,00,000	-
17	Defence Services-Army	499,64,00,000	-
18	Defence Services - Navy	300,07,00,000	-
21	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	-	686,28,00,000
23	Ministry of External Affairs	242,42,00,000	4,99,00,000
24	Department of Economic Affairs	1,00,000	-
26	Payments to Financial Institutions	1573,60,00,000	-
28	Transfer to state and Union Territory Governments	890,87,00,000	120,00,00,000
31	Department of Expenditure	1,82,00,000	-
32	Pensions	110,17,00,000	-
33	Audit	36,17,00,000	-
34	Department of Revenue	-	1,00,000
35	Direct Taxes	40,00,00,000	-
36	Indirect Taxes	31,80,00,000	-
37	Ministry of Food	250,82,00,000	-
39	Department of Health	23,88,00,000	39,98,00,000
40	Department of Family Welfare	71,63,00,000	-
41	Ministry of Home Affairs	24,65,00,000	5,80,00,000
42	Cabinet	2,45,00,000	-
43	Police	337,12,00,000	1,17,00,000
44	Other Expenditure of Ministry of Home Affairs	-	24,63,00,000
45	Transfer of Union Territory Governments	5,06,00,000	214,00,000
46	Department of Education	4,00,000	-
48	Department of Culture	5,54,00,000	-
49	Department of Women and Child Development	91,33,00,000	-
51	Department of Heavy Industry	8,67,00,000	67,44,00,000
52	Department of Public Enterprises	1,11,00,000	-
53	Department of Small Scale Industries and Agro & Rural Industries	3,69,00,000	-
54	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	12,81,00,000	1,75,00,000
57	Law and Justice	10,72,00,000	-

1	2	3
58	Election Commission	26,00,000 -
63	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	13,00,000 -
64	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	11,89,00,000 1,74,00,000
65	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	56,00,000 1030,57,00,000
69	Ministry of Power	- 3,00,000
70	Department of Rural Development	2,00,000 -
73	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	24,87,00,000 -
75	Ministry of Steel	10,79,00,000 -
76	Surface Transport	- 24,50,00,000
77	Roads	95,81,00,000 5,36,00,000
78	Ports Light Houses and Shipping	72,20,00,000 6,88,00,000
79	Ministry of Textiels	2,00,000 86,36,00,000
80	Urban Development and Housing	8,82,00,000 12,51,00,000
81	Public Works	16,99,00,000 13,01,00,000
84	Ministry of Welfare	1,00,000 -
85	Atomic Energy	13,64,00,000 -
89	Department of Space	- 27,32,00,000
90	Lok Sabha	7,35,00,000 -
91	Rajya Sabha	56,00,000 -
93	Secretariat of the Vice President	18,00,000 -
95	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	43,73,00,000 -
96	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2,12,00,000 9,00,000
97	Lakshadweep	3,00,00,000 -
98	Chandigarh	17,12,00,000 78,00,000
99	Daman and Diu	2,90,00,000 -
7383,11,00,000		3571,03,00,000

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : But the fact that has been revealed by Economic Survey is that after the introduction of the NEP in the last five years, export has increased at a much higher rate than that of import consequently, the excess of the value of import over that of export has increased from Rs. 3810 crore in 1991-92 to Rs. 11,571 crore this year. This is the biggest deficit in foreign trade since Independence. To meet this deficit, our foreign exchange fund has been reduced by nearly 10 per cent since last year.

Due to the structural adjustments programme introduced at the dictates of IMF, our country has fallen into a debt trap both externally and internally. This year, 24 paise per rupee of our exchequer will come from external and internal borrowings, and 24 paise per rupee of our expenditure will go to pay the interest on internal and external loans. Out of a total revenue expenditure of Rs. 12,84,425 crore, interest payment alone will amount to Rs. 60,000 crore. This is the situation with regard to our debt trap.

The policy that is being followed by the Central Government for resource mobilisation is becoming more and more dangerous. In the last few years huge amounts of direct taxes have been reduced while indirect taxes have

been increased. Consequently, those who are gaining from the present policy are paying less and less tax. For example, attempt to mobilise resources from those who are the major beneficiaries of the service sector led to growth of GDP and high import content, growth of manufacturing output was virtually absent.

The figure of fiscal deficit for this year is a further whopping figure of Rs 64,010 crore which is 5.9 per cent of the GDP. It is Rs. 6,376 crore more than the figure for the previous year. I have already pointed out that the main reliance on meeting fiscal deficit is on public borrowings and not on increase in the direct taxes. Moreover hundred & one avenues have been kept open in the last few years for laundering black money. Hawala is only one of them. We have discussed hawala at length and we shall again be discussing it. So, I am not repeating that. But there are many other ways also like over-invoicing, under-invoicing, the so-called bonds(Interruptions).....

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South) : Which politburo has written the speech, the CPI or CPI (M) ?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : No politburo needs to write speeches. After all our politburo has not taught us so badly that we cannot write or make our speeches. Let us come back to the subject.

Even the amount of direct taxes that are being levied are being avoided by the rich. Can you deny Murli Deoraji? You cannot. You know very well how many people are there in the country who are tax dodgers. Shri Singh's budget speech does not make a single reference to this well-known fact. He has spoken about many things but not about black money laundering, and not on how much we have lost in black money. Why is it so? Is this resource mobilisation?

No serious attempt is being made to unearth black money. Let the Minister state how much black money has been unearthed in this period. Well, it is only a tip of the iceberg and it is practically nothing. How the Finance Ministry have left the black money to grow is very clear today. It hardly needs quoting an example. The latest revelation about Chandraswami's case which appeared in yesterday's newspapers is a very small example of the situation that is prevailing. What did the Finance Ministry do all these days? Chandraswamy has very high connections and poor Manmohan Singhji was not in a position to deal with Chandraswami.

But the country would not listen to all that; but the country would naturally want that this black money be unearthed so that we can really mobilize our resources. Are there not very simple ways to start a big offensive against black money? Of course, there is. For example, it is well known that extremely expensive foreign made cars or high foreign component made cars(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think the House will continue to sit until the financial business is completed and the Kashmir subject is completed.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : For example, it is well known that extremely expensive foreign made or high foreign component made cars are being booked by many people. Those cars are of fabulous price - I need not quote the price - or how many crores. Has the Government ever gone into the account of those who have booked this car? Wherefrom they got all that money?(Interruptions) There are so many other ways of finding out this black money. But, I am sorry, that has not been done.

On expenditure side, the revenue expenditure is far more than the capital expenditure. The revised Budget of 1995-96 shows that the total capital expenditure was Rs. 21,221 crore whereas the revenue expenditure was Rs. 1,13,099 crore. It goes without saying that with such a policy of resource mobilization, the expenditure is bound to hit the country's production. According to the Economic Survey, in five years preceding the new economic policy - that is from 1986-87 to 1990-91 the annual growth rate of GDP was 6.3 per cent but in the succeeding five years - that is from 1991-92 to 1995-96 - that rate has fallen to 4.7 per cent. In the same period, the rate of increase in foodgrains production has fallen from 3.5 per cent to 1.6 per cent. In the sphere of industrial production, the rate of increase has fallen from 8.4 per cent to 5.34 per cent. Is this a success story as claimed by Shri Singh? Regarding price rise, and rise in employment, the claims of Shri Singh are really ridiculous. Ask any one in the street? Does anybody see that the prices of essential commodities, even of dal, lentil

let alone the question of medicines or cloth or books or exercise books, etc have fallen? All this has risen in this recent period. It is well known and no amount of Jugglery with figures can convince anybody. Is whole sale price index, the indicator or the consumer price index, the indicator? Why Shri Singh has to use the former instead of the latter? If it is for confusing the people, let him understand that nobody will be fooled.

Regarding employment, he claims in his Budget speech that the employment is increasing at the rate of 2.33 per cent, but why does he not mention that according to the Planning Commission, the demand for employment each year is increasing at the rate of 2.5 per cent and due to this - between 1992-93 and 1994-95 - 50 lakhs of new unemployed have been registered. It is well known that only a fraction of unemployed registered themselves. Rural unemployment and underemployment cannot be hidden with any amount of jugglery with figures. Moreover, this dismal picture of closure of factories and thereby people being unemployed is well known to all.

Moreover, the continued falling rupee price as against dollar negates all the tall claims of Shri Singh, as it is an undeclared devaluation.

In relation to sharing the income with States, the Central Government is constantly flouting the recommendations of the Meetings of the Chief Ministers of different states. Mr. Singh is silent even on the latest Finance Commission's Report which recommended increase in the share of the States. Of course, this will ultimately depend on the coming Government. But the people of the States will see to it that while forming the new Government, they keep this point in mind.

In the next General Elections, through their own experience, people will elect such a Government which will be pursuing an alternative economic strategy by massive capital construction in rural areas to create capital gains and employment, by curbing elitist consumption and by properly managing the resource mobilisation so that four people can be provided with essential commodities at reasonable prices and have the opportunity of education, health care etc., which are of immediate requirement of the people at large. This is to belie claims of success that I put it before him.

SHRI BOLLA BULLY RAMAIAH (Eturu) : Sir, as per the latest Economic Review, we see that production is not as per our expectations. We hope that industrial production and agricultural production will be much more than we are anticipating. Although inflation has reduced substantially yet in the case of generation of employment we are not able to achieve the desired results. Still, unemployment is increasing. We have to take this into consideration when we prepare our future plans. We must look into this aspect in order to see that the problem of educated unemployed is solved to the maximum extent possible.

The interest rates in the banking industry are creating an alarming situation both for agriculture and industry.

There is a shortage of finance which is affecting production, future expansion and planning. This will definitely affect our industrial production quite substantially.

As far as infrastructure facilities are concerned, we have not been able to come to the anticipated level. I am sure that it is going to create quite a lot of mobility in agricultural production and in the movement of goods.

Sir, our requirement of oil is also going up. Our foreign exchange requirement is being affected due to the fall in rupee value. In order to meet this, we must run our country properly.

Take the example of prices of cotton and tobacco. The farmers are suffering a lot because they are not able to get enough money from the Cotton Corporation and the Tobacco Board. They must get enough money in order to give support for increasing the production in the country to see that we are able to live on our own by expanding further; and also by encouraging agricultural production in this country.

Now, I will come to State Contingency Fund. It is very much required and also in sufficient quantity so that we can take care of natural calamities. We find that a number of States have suffered due to natural calamities but the Central Government were not in a position to allocate sufficient funds with the result that the States have to suffer. I request the Central Government to allocate sufficient funds.

I am sure the Finance Minister will be able to take into consideration all these aspects before preparing the final Budget.

With these few words, I conclude.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Interim Budget is concerned, this is purely and exclusively an election-oriented Budget. This Budget has been prepared with an eye on the coming elections. That is why no new provisions have been made. We find no poverty alleviation programme in this Budget.

Neither any new programmes have been launched nor have any further steps been taken in order to develop the rural areas.

Sir, I would like to point out here that while the hon. Finance Minister was presenting the Budget here, as a tradition he was making a comparison of the Budget with the previous year. But now one deviation has taken place from the previous tradition and custom, Sir, that the whole five years' performance has been taken together and the present Interim Budget has been compared with the last five years. So, a long period of time has been taken into consideration; much time has been devoted to the present Interim Budget and unnecessary comparisons have been made with different periods of other time.

Similarly, so far as the revenue of expenditure is concerned, as it has been pointed out by other persons also, that has exceeded the capital expenditure. So, this is

not going to create any sort of assets or capital in the country.

So far the infrastructural investment is concerned, that is also very much lacking and showing a very yawning gap. Had he made some provision for the infrastructural investment, it would have created some sort of assets in the country and it should have added to the increasing production also; it should have added to the potential of the country. But this sort of provision has not been made.

Similar is the case on the front of economic offences. Sir, hawala has been repeatedly referred to. I would not like to refer to that in detail.

Different aspects have been touched. That is why I want to emphasise that. But this is also a very clear case. There is an increase in the number of economic offences so far as hawala scandal is concerned, so far as black money is concerned, so far as tax evasion is concerned and so far as other economic offences are concerned. These have increased tremendously. That is why I would just appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should have taken or provided for that in the Interim Budget also in order to curb all these economic offences because on the one hand he claims that he has put forward a very brilliant Budget in the last five years which produced brilliant results also. But where are the results going? These fruits are not being reaped by the poor persons; these fruits are not being enjoyed by the peasants; these fruits are not being enjoyed by the weavers, the workers and handloom workers. That is why my appeal to the hon. Finance Minister is that he must take bold steps so far as the economic offences are concerned and he must try to curb all these offences so that the benefits may percolate to the poor people, so that the benefits may percolate to the peasants, so that the benefits may percolate to the workers and to the downtrodden people.

So far as export and import scenario is concerned, I would like to point out here that all luxurious items are being imported from foreign countries and basic items are not being imported. Other different capital components are not being imported. Other infrastructural items are also not being imported. But the people are very much interested to import all the luxurious items. That is why, it is also causing a heavy damage to the health of the economy.

So far as the flourishing of different multi-national companies are concerned, large scale industries are flourishing; multi-national companies are also coming and growing here. Different foreign companies are coming and they are growing here in this country. But the small scale industries or medium scale industries have suffered a very serious setback. Whatever may be the tall claim on the part of the hon. Finance Minister, the reality is that so many industrial estates spread throughout the country in different nooks and corners of the country are just withering away. But so far as the multi-national companies are concerned, they are just growing at the cost of these small scale industries.

18.00 hrs

There, small scale industries are not in a position to compete with large scale industries because so far as finance is concerned, so far as marketing is concerned, so far as development and research work are concerned, these cannot be carried out by the small scale industries on the same pattern and on the same scale. But the Finance Minister is not pointing out his own finger at these things that the small scale industries should also grow. There must be some sort of good atmospheric conditions which must obtain in the country for the proper and balanced growth of the small scale industries. So I would like to point out here to the Finance Minister that let there be some sort of a step in order to just improve and develop all these small scale industries also.

On the front of unemployment, after repeated assurance given by the hon. Finance Minister that unemployment will be wiped out from the country, there will be nothing short of any problem of unemployment, as he pointed out, while presenting the Budget also, that we are going to generate 80,000 employment opportunities per annum. But so far as the rural masses are concerned, so far as the rural unemployed educated youths are concerned, I would like to point out here, that there is nothing short of any improvement in their lot and conditions. They are still parading on the streets in search of employment. Wherever there is Employment exchange also, that must be treated as Unemployment Exchange. They are not getting employment opportunities. They are not getting anything as per the promises that have been made by the Finance Minister. He has promised that 80,000 employment opportunities will be generated. Where are these 80,000 employment opportunities? So I would like to just point out to the hon. Finance Minister that if you promise something to this nation, that promise must be fulfilled, that promise must be accomplished, that promise must go to the masses.

So far he has claimed that the inflation rate has been reduced down to a considerable level and it has been claimed that it has gone down to six per cent or five per cent, whatever it may be. But how is this inflation rate calculated? How are these indices just put forward here? How are these calculations just made here? I differ here. I might have been computed on the basis of wholesale prices. But the rural masses and the poor people are not concerned with the wholesale market because there are a lot of intermediaries and a number of middlemen who are coming in the way.

So far as the retail market is concerned, so far as the actual prices of the essential commodities are concerned, there is a rise in all these prices of the essential commodities. The rural masses, the rural people are not getting their essential commodities at the right price, at the just reasonable prices. So there must be some sort of a step on the part of the Finance Minister in order to just contain the rising tendency of the prices. You do not compute all these prices on the basis of wholesale index method rather there must be computation of the prices also on the basis of the retail market which is obtaining in the real market and which is just concerned with the real consumers, the ultimate consumers. So this is my humble appeal.

With these few words, I would like to say also lastly that the country is not still out of the debt trap as the Finance Minister claimed that the debt services have been just reduced down to 29 per cent or like that from 35 per cent. But so far as the external debt is concerned, if it is computed on the basis of per head basis of the nationals of the country, that goes up to 6000 per head. Every individual, every national of this country owes to foreign countries in the shape of foreign debts. So what steps are going to be taken by the hon. Finance Minister in order to relieve from all these alarming conditions? And what steps are just going to be taken by the hon. Finance Minister in order to contain all these debt traps? How will this country be just taken out of the debt trap? These are a few questions which are puzzling our minds and these questions might be puzzling the mind of the Finance Minister also because he has an eye to the coming elections. That is why he has put forward all these tall claims and promises. He has painted a rosy picture before the nation but so far as the actual condition obtaining in this country is concerned, that is not the same condition. That is very much alarming and that is very much confusing. That is why I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he must take some concrete, actual and reasonable steps in order to just alleviate the sufferings of this country and the countrymen.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Honestly, I did not want to speak on this Budget. The reason is that I shocked to see that only in the course of five years how much - should I say - degeneration can take place in the intellectual quality of a person as eminent as Dr. Manmohan Singh. It is a collection of all that we are told about *suppressio veri suggestio falsi*. We could have drawn the attention of the House, drawn the attention of the ruling party, about the relationship between what is promised and what is practised. The normal references are in terms of the earlier election manifesto, not this one as contained in the Finance Minister's speech. The earlier election manifesto promised an employment of five cores of people in the course of five years, one crore a year. Our Finance Minister does not refer to that. He is not ashamed to mention that in the case of this year he has been able to provide some 70 lakh which figure itself is a suspect. In the course of his speech - he does not refer to these last five years --he does not mention that in the course of last five years he has not been able to provide for more than two and a half crores of employment although he promised a five crore employment in the course of five years.

Then there is that promise, very famous promise, that we all referred to that, because this is going to be his farewell speech also as a Finance Minister's he will not be there as Finance Minister, Nobody doubts it, not even himself.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : How do you know ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Do you know ? And there was that other promise in the previous earlier election manifesto.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : But, will you be there ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will be there ; do not worry. The promise was that the prices would be rolled back to the days of eighties. He does not mention that. Once again, in the manner of *suggestio falsi* he refers to that he has been able to bring down the rate of inflation to even below five per cent. Why do I say that this is a false suggestion? Because this five per cent firstly is on a point to point basis. It is not an average over the years.

18.10 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Second, in the advanced countries inflation rate is indicated more often than not in terms of the consumer price indices and the consumer price indices whether for industrial workers or agricultural labourers remain in two digits. It is a false suggestion that he is trying to press before the country that inflation rate has been controlled.

Once again, Sir, look at the cleverness of the approach. In other cases he will refer to his successes for a five-year period. He will not make a reference to the five-year period for the growth in prices.

In the course of these five years, let him record, and history will record, that the highest growth rate in any five-year period has been achieved by Prime Minister, Narasimha Rao with the assistance of Dr. Manmohan Singh who remained a Finance Minister throughout the period so, on the count of employment, he does not talk of the five-year period on the question of prices, he does not talk of the five year period, on the question of industrial development also, he does not talk of the five-year period, but all this is in reference to the promises that were made in that election manifesto. Once again they are making promises. Perhaps after coming into power, though with minority support, they acted a little more realistically. Even that is not true. He registers successes. Here is another book - I do not know whether it is his rival or who, who prepares it - called the Eighth Five Year Plan, that is 1992-97, not as old as the election manifesto. There he promised certain things(Interruptions) He takes credit for agricultural growth. Look at this. They have, on table 3.1 material balance for selected commodities, and there certain figures are given. I do not know, there may be some hostilities between the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Minister of Finance because the latest Annual Plan also is unlike Finance Ministers' election manifesto is critical about what has happened. He takes credit for agricultural production but here are the figures. In 1996-97, according to this book called 'Eight Five-Year Plan', the target for foodgrains was 210 million tonnes. And what gives him pride ? A figure of 191 million tonnes in the year 1995-96, which may not be reached in the year 1996-97. Look at every other figure projected in the 'Eighth Five-Year Plan' and compare the achievements. He is silent about it. This is called suppression of truth, *suppressio veri*. So, in terms of whatever they promised, whenever they promised, this is the kind of achievements which they want to hide and say other things.

Let us take those other things also. One other thing is people below the poverty line. I know, as a young person, in the sense that he has entered politics at this age, he is likely to be misled by his friends. But he has certain intellectual integrity. Where has all that gone ? Again and again it has been pointed out that the estimates made by the Planning Commission are being reviewed by the Expert Committees and they are revised upwards. The latest that has been published - and everybody says that it is this which is true, rather than what they are conjuring up - is a survey conducted by one Dr. Gupta. He knows that Dr. Gupta.

He was in the Planning Commission. He has left it in disgust perhaps, I do not know. I also know him. He made independent estimates and has come to a very simple conclusion entirely contradicting what the Finance Minister says. This is number one. The poverty was stagnant at 39 per cent during 1987-88 and 1993-94. This is not only his estimates but something more is also imported. He says that all available indications are that after 1993-94, the percentage of people below the poverty line is increasing. This is said even about figures which the Finance Minister quoted in the budget speech.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : He has left the moment you got up to speak(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : So, this is the truth about people below the poverty line and why should it not be so ? He should have understood it that the contact with the kind of politicians that he has to keep being in the Cabinet leads to certain kind of distortions as a human-being. Those distortions are that he does not see his perception is clouded in a way which does not permit him to see the conditions of the people and what is the condition of the people barring a few areas in the country where land reforms have taken place, where a viable *panchayat* system is there. The impact of this rise in prices, the impact of this growing unemployment can mean only one thing that their life has become more miserable than what it was in the past. He takes pride in growth. It is an astonishing thing. He was there in the 80s also, not as Minister. He did not care to go into those figures, that the growth rate that he was talking of in these Five Year Plan period was already achieved in the first five years of '80s and the second five years of '80s and he takes credit. The growth rate during these two periods was no less than what he says. In fact, if we take five year period as a whole, the growth rate during the regime of Rao and Singh have been worse than what was earlier and God should be thanked for it. Why ? It is because he takes his bench-mark as the year of 1991 which is the culmination of two growth periods of '80s and they criticised Mr. V.P. Singh and others without mentioning that what happened during that year was the consequence of two higher growth periods. It is never mentioned, it is never admitted, it is never told. Why I say, thank God because we have started speaking as we spoke during the period of 80s. We have not yet done so. As soon as we do so we shall landed into, and once again they will not be there, the same kind of a crisis that prevailed in 1990-91.

inevitably we are advancing towards that situation. The same old story is being repeated only because of the relative worthlessness of the present regime. The pace is a little slower. The same expansion in imports is there in terms of luxury goods and the same rupee devaluation is there. They do not mention what they are doing. They say that the fundamentals are such that the dollar should be priced at around or plus Rs. 34/-. What does it mean? It means that in the course of three years they believed that the devaluation of rupee has become a must. In 1991-92, they devalued the rupee twice. Once again, they are devaluing the rupee. How do they do that?

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Why do you not have a discussion while going to Calcutta?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I will discuss with you because I have so many materials about you.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : No. I am not competent. He is a Bengali.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I did not want to disclose this secret. Would you mind if I say that he agrees in private with all that I say?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : No, do not ascribe anything to me.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : He hobnobs with him also.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Not with you. You want to know with whom I am hobnobbing. I want to keep it a secret.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Why do you not tell her?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I do not want to let her know.

Sir, the danger is the same in the sense that because of expanding fiscal deficit, because of expanding indebtedness and because of expanding balance of payment deficit whatever percentages that we may have do not matter. We are devaluing the rupee in order that our exports grow. That was the argument we heard in 1991 when two devaluations took place. That was the argument which we heard throughout the 1980s. The same story is being repeated. But they will not agree and they will not tell the truth.

Sir, in fact I did not want to speak. I was so shocked about it that I wanted to avoid speaking. But yet I want to speak for at least one reason. In the course of next elections, new people will come and we will be touching the next century and which kind of a century will that be for our country in terms of our economy is a question which has to be answered by the electorate and by the Ex-Finance Minister, should I say.

Sir, we are afraid that even during the 1980s this kind of a threat was not there. In the world economy as a whole,

what is happening is that the opportunity for investment is coming down because of a tremendous technological revolution all over the world and therefore, a tremendous amount of surplus funds have been generated in the advanced countries of the world. That could be put to use for the benefit of humankind. But that is not to be so because all these are getting accumulated in the hands of some 100 multinationals and a few more financiers who are dabbling in our share market for whose convenience we are passing the Depository Bill, for whose convenience we are opening our doors and the pressure is so high because of the strength of the capital. This is not a phenomenon which is very new. It is in the turn of the last century that they started controlling the economy, the financial sector.

But the power that has been achieved now is that they are seeking and they are bribing. They are seeking new market in order to have a foothold in those markets. They are bribing not only people here but also abroad. The bribe taker is the Prime Minister of Japan and the bribe taker are - even in the developed countries - the Cabinet Ministers in Italy. Sir, I was waiting to hear the solution about all these hawala transactions. There was a very simple solution. We shall arrive at that solution. I do not doubt, if they come to power ever after. What is that - eliminate FERA. All these foreign exchange transactions which are considered to be illegal are considered to be illegal because there is a Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. You take that off, all the deals are legalised. It is straight bribe giving affair. I wanted therefore to speak at least a word on behalf of the entire Left Front, on behalf of also the proletariats in the country and all those who are concerned for young in the new century that a big threat is looming large over our economy. Unless we are able to strengthen our Government intervention in the economy, we will be no match against the multinationals.

I will just mention one or two other facts. I have to write to the Minister of Commerce in favour of manufacturers who produce filter to be utilised for pollution control in industry. Now, their only point was that they produce international quality, they produce them at a cheaper price and big firms here import those a multinational without manufacturing these items and supply them having an office in our country. The suspicion of all this small scale sector product - a give and take has taken place in the political field - is taking there also. What was the reply of the Commerce Minister to my letter? This is what has to be opposed. The reply was simple that we are on a path of liberalisation and therefore we cannot create conditions for the growth of the small people whatever happens. Even if they produce good quality, even if they produce it at a competitive price, they have to be sacrificed to the altar of the multinationals. This is what makes us afraid and this is what induces us to oppose this kind of Budget proposals. I have just one more thing.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : What about Khalsa School?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, she has heard of two schools only. One school which gave here doctorate and the other is the Khalsa school. She knows nothing about that. That belongs to my constituency. But she can create problems anywhere.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I want to clarify one thing. He said that I do not know anything about his constituency. I may tell him that I want to meet a mother of a youth Congress boy who died to protect the communal riots. And these people along with others went for the communal riots.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please proceed and wind up. Please conclude now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, when we talk about the future of our country, I think, it devolves on us to indicate which kind of a possibility exist. It has been mentioned and they take credit in the fact that direct taxes are growing faster than the indirect taxes.

That is our point that it is possible to collect direct taxes to a level which will reduce our revenue deficit, which will increase our public sector savings, which will reduce our fiscal deficit and which take into account the public sector enterprises which are being thrown to the wolves.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are other speakers, and we are running against time.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : You cannot curtail a discussion in this manner.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then, you will have to sit up to midnight.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Kindly allow us even to do that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken a lot of time.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What we suggest, therefore, Sir, is that it is perfectly possible as is indicated, by the collection of direct resources, if they are careful to note their own statistics, and the Centre of Monetary Economics of Gujarat has indicated that there are 5,0000 companies which do not pay taxes although they have a profit which is more than Rs. 1 crore extending up to Rs. 500 crore.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL : It is not correct. According to ICICR report, in the case of more than 5,000 companies, the tax rate is not less than 20 per cent.

SHRI NIRMALA KANTI CHATTERJEE : I have the papers with me. Will you withdraw after that? I have got the whole list with me. Let me tell him that one of the sources of my receiving that list is his own Department and the rate of taxation is zero in most of the cases. This is a CMI publication.

There is no use of battling because it is their Department which draw my attention.

Now, I come to the banks also. What is the picture in the banks?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Earlier, you said that it was your last point.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I said, it is one of the several other points. In the banking sector, can they mobilise resources ? They have spent Rs. 11,000 crore in the course of last three years to provide capital adequacy to the banks. In the defaulters' list of 5,000 there are about 350 companies who have defaulted to the tune of Rs. 38,000 crore. The Treasury forked out Rs. 11,000 crore so that they can default. All these things are happening.

And in the case of rural banks, All-India Grameen banks, in the context of this defaulting, this non-payment of debt and provision of Rs. 11,000 crore capital adequacy, they are not concerned about the employees.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Chatterjee, at least, today you may please cooperate.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : They are not concerned about the employees both in the insurance sector and in the banking sector. The employees are unhappy about the agreement. What has happened in the grameen banks in that despite the awards and agreements, the employees are being deprived of what has been agreed to. The Government is not at all ashamed of it. They are prepared to pay for the defaulters, but they are not prepared to pay for the employees.

As we have said, we do not want that there should be a financial emergency in order to make the funds available. There is nothing to say about the Government; they have completely failed. This is their election gimmick. I do not want to say anything about income generation etc. The fact is that this is as interim Budget. We are passing the Vote-on-Account to avoid the necessity of financial emergency and to permit whatever can be done. We wish that even these amounts are not available to them and the elections are held early so that, long before this four months' period is passed, somebody else is in saddle who is much less corrupt. (*Interruptions*)

Those who are connected with the working masses, with the present masses, can come to power and take the country in a condition where 21st Century can be looked with pride for the country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an intervention in a very important discussion and it is an intervention under protest. It is a reflection upon our times, also a reflection on the fragility of this Government that as important an issue as the Budget which ought to come in the form, of an interim vote on Account, a Vote on Account sometimes for the sake of electoral politics being referred to as an interim Budget. I do not think it does justice to our very eminent Finance Minister.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I forgot to mention that in the Budget statement, they have proposed which they are not entitled, to same public sector shares to the tune of some Rs. 4,000 crores. On the receipt side, they are silent. No taxes are paid. This is part of the receipts. They have no business to include that in their Budget.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I must say that this manner of dealing with as important a subject as, whether you call it an interim Budget or Vote on Account, does not do justice to our very eminent Finance Minister. On every occasion that I have had a chance to intervene in this discussion. I have never fought shy of praising the high integrity and public spiritedness of the hon. the Finance Minister. I think it is also a reflection on the Government's management, the political management of change which I have continued to emphasise, which has been and continues to remain, the necessary concomitant of the economic change that you had undertaken when you were entrusted with this responsibility. It is a failure of political change that today compels a distinguished Finance Minister to really present his swan song, as it were, in this very inadequate fashion. I would have been much happier if hon. the Finance Minister has had a chance to really give to the nation, to bequeath to the nation, an account of his five years of labours and I think he is very lucky in one sense that he has had the stewardship of the country's economy since 1991. But not simply the stewardship. I think he is perhaps the only Finance Minister in independent India's history, if my figures are not to be an error, that has had an opportunity to present with this, what he calls, an interim Budget in which you wish to push through as a Vote on Account, without discussion, I think seven Budgets. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Six.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Perhaps, it could be six. Even then, it is more than any other Finance Minister's. I am not on the point of who would, whether there are many more to come or not to come.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : He will present another five Budgets.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I do not know.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (Phulbani) : You never know about it*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh) : Even if an opportunity were granted by the electorates, I doubt very much that you would retain him as the Finance Minister.....*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER. : Certainly, he is going to be the next Finance Minister*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I do not want to get involved in it because I am not in a....

[Translation]

aerana of wrestling to give a challenge. If you say loudly that we will win and on the other hand if we claim to win then we cannot win in this way. The victory will come in its own way and the loser will lose.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order, please. Do not disturb him.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, I would have felt much happier if he had really been able to present to the nation a fair, an objective and a dispassionate analysis of where the country's economy stands and what has been achieved in the last five years. I understand that being the election year that it is, his intervention in the House and elsewhere has to be oriented towards it. That however, does not do justice to the great service, no doubt, that he has done to the country in the last five years.

Sir, it is a matter of regret to me that the appraisal of the Five Year Plan which had been promised to the House and which would have assisted greatly in our assessment of the handing over of the baton as it were now that this Government's term is to expire and another Government is to be born through the good offices of the electorates, if that handing over of the baton had been accompanied by an appraisal of the Plan by the Planning Commission as well, we too would have been better informed about the state of the economy.

I have a few points. I have no intention of going into any detailed analysis. My first point of the points that I will enumerate here really arise from some difficulties with statistics. I have no reason to disbelieve the statistics that the hon. the Finance Minister has given to the House. But when given by a serious commentator, when I am given an alternative frame of statistics- and the statistician and my friend Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is no longer here - I am left confused. The first point really is on the question of the GDP. There is, no doubt, that the volume of the GDP has grown. That is obvious. But the rate of growth of the GDP claimed by this Government is disputed. I am informed that the rate of growth between the five year period of 1991-92 and 1995-96 has really been 4.6 per cent as compared to the preceding five years where, I am informed by statisticians, it was 5.8 per cent. Now, I do not want to reduce the discussion to the level of conflict between statistics. But as we have to have some benchmarks for identifying what is right or wrong, therefore, this figure acquires some importance.

I must also through my second observation, share with the hon. the Finance Minister some very serious worries about the state of agriculture. Notwithstanding the high office that he holds now and the international stature that he has, his roots, like mine, are rural; my home is a village, and perhaps I have a closer understanding of the reality of what is happening in the agricultural sector than the statistics that inform us.

I am concerned that we seem to be struggling despite the great boon of so many monsoons at his level of 185 to 190, 192 million metric tonnes of foodgrains. I am also concerned that the Capital investment that ought to be taking place in agriculture has not been demonstrated under the stewardship of the economy by this Government in the past five years. If the capital investment does not take place in agriculture and Heaven's forbid, if the monsoons be not as kind as they have been, the country will then face serious difficulties on the front of food. If you face difficulties on the front of food, there is no one in the world that will come to our assistance.

My third point really relates to prices. I would like to be informed and educated by the Government and the Finance Minister both on the figures that we are employing - the gross rise in the wholesale price and also the consumer price index and the rate of rise - there is a difference between the quantum of rise in the past five years and the rate of rise. I would concede to the hon. the Finance Minister that perhaps, the rate of rise has shown a lowering tendency in the wholesale price index. But the quantum of rise itself does not give me any satisfaction. I have been given the figures that in this five years period, the wholesale price index has actually moved up by something like 9.4 per cent and the comparative figure for the previous five years was 7.1 per cent. The consumer price index has on the other hand grown by almost ten per cent. Now these are worrisome things.

There is the third criteria for assessing the price index. Are my country men and women able to more easily buy their requirements of daily use or is the house wife now finding it increasingly difficult to make the two ends of monthly budget meet? I use a very unscientific method in this, and that unscientific method is my wife. I do ask her: Are you satisfied with what the hon. Finance Minister is saying that the prices are actually falling or they are not rising or that they are own comfortable? I have not yet received a very re-assuring reply from that quarter.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) : The Finance Minister's wife also agrees with that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : That depends on how much pocket money you give her

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I can only give her that much money as much my pocket would allow. I do not want to go into the details of it whether it is edible oil or vegetables, meet or grain. A common householder is having to pay much more. And this becomes extremely difficult if the common householder is having to pay much more. And if the hon. Finance Minister keeps asserting that no, prices are now falling, then I am left be wildered because I am torn between my great affection and high regard for the Finance Minister and naturally the regard that I have for my wife ...*(Interruptions)* If the hon. Finance Minister is to divide my wife and I, then he can please set this doubt at rest.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You can tell your wife to talk to his wife and then you will get many similarities.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : That might be a better way of judging the actual price index than by the statistical method.

Sir, I am on the question of fiscal deficit. I will not argue each point to exhaustion. I think the hon. Finance Minister has himself said that he is not satisfied with the question of management of fiscal deficit. That is an admission. That I do not wish to use against him as a kind of a debating point. But I am very worried about this. I am worried on two or three counts because I feel that in this fiscal deficit, though it is said largely this year, it is on account of the small-scale savings, a complex argument. But he has not addressed himself to. I think, I do not deny that. That is possibly one

of the contributory factors but the contribution to fiscal deficit, certainly to my uneducated mind, by two additional factors is very worrisome. And those are very gross failures of this Government of the past five years. These two are really the size of the Government, the cost of Government or the cost of bureaucracy. I do not want to belabour that point. And the second is really the aspect of explicit and hidden subsidy.

I can understand and I do concede that in a nation like India, whatever be the figure that we put to the poverty, that will have to be a state intervention to support sections of society who otherwise are not at par, who otherwise need support. Without that State support, they will simply not be able to cope and that State support can only be in the form of State intervention in the form of subsidy.

My difficulty is different. My difficulty is that this Government has not addressed itself at all to even initiate a debate about subsidies. My difficulty is that this Government has taken some of the easier decisions on the economic reform and on the basis of those reform, is attempting to put across a picture of having totality and entirely succeeded. I am worried, and I must share that worry, that the size of the Government, instead of declining is increasing. Also this one particular aspect of explicit and hidden subsidy. Would the hon. Finance Minister share with us the Figure, if he has any figure, that if a ratio were to be established between the GDP and the explicit and hidden subsidies, what does that figure come to? Then if a ratio were to be established between the GDP and revenue of the country, what does that figure come to. And then, if these two figures, of these two ratios, are compared, I am left with the worrying thought that this GDP : Subsidy is today almost the same as GDP : Revenue and if 'x' is being spent on subsidy and 'x' per cent is what we earn by way of revenue then, we are really earning everything to keep subsidizing and there is very little - in fact, nothing that the hon. Finance Minister is bequeathing as the success of this Government. That is a very serious situation which takes me to my next point about debt. I have various figures. There is a figures that the hon. Finance Minister has himself has given us. Rupees 60,000 is going to be our expenditure on debts. I recollect very well, sir, when I first started having this great distinction of these two letters after my name that the ratio between debts and for example, Defence used to be much healthier. I do not want to go into those figures. Today, debt is Rs. 60,000 crore when defence is just about Rs. 27, 820 and odd crore. Our Defence has fallen to less than half of what our debt requirement is.

I think it would help if the conference on railways is held outside.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have some figures here. I made the point that I wished to about the debt. I have some figures here that in 1991 roughly Rs. 986 crore - you will round it off to say Rs. 1000 crore - were used in order to retire the internal debt - the debt that matured that year. During 1996-97 I am informed that we might have to set

aside something like Rs. 8000 crore - Rs. 7921 crore is the exact figure given to me. This is an increase of almost 700 per cent. It is not an increase that leaves me feeling comfortable. The volume itself disturbs me. From roughly Rs. 1000 crore to roughly 8000 crore in the past five - six years under your stewardship, Mr. Finance Minister is a very alarming development.

So also on the front of external debt. No doubt, a White Paper on the debt position has been circulated to all Members of Parliament. But this would be a help. I spoke of bureaucracy and cost of Government. I will not labour that point. The hon. Finance Minister in his other wise very eloquent and extremely well drafted speech has also spoken of the targets on the aims or the macro economic front for the coming years. They are such aims with which very few can possibly disagree.

But in those aims, for example, is a reference made to economic infrastructure. If there is an area where I feel that this Government has really not done India well, it is in the field of economic infrastructure, by which I mean power, transport, communication and also regional imbalances.

This, if I am not mistaken, is also the criterion the hon. Finance Minister has used. I have had the distinction and honour of being the Chairman of the Energy Committee for the past so many years now. It was a field that I was not very well lettered in. But I have learnt an enormous amount in the period that it has been my responsibility to be the Chairman of this committee. Very roughly, against the original target of about 38000 MW in the 8th Five Year Plan, we would be very lucky if we achieve even 19000 MW. The pace of economic reform particularly in the field of economic infrastructure has not been satisfactory at all. So also on transport. My colleagues will no doubt speak about the state of Railways when it come to Railways. It is not a satisfactory state. So also in communication and definitely in regional imbalance. Regional imbalances in the past five years have grown. They have not lessened. This is not a plus mark to this Government.

I do not wish to refer to social infrastructure, whether it is education or health because this is an overlapping field where the States of the Union and the Union Government share the responsibility. Then it becomes a contentious issue - no we did this, no, you did not do this; that kind of argument. But in an interim budget perhaps that is not even necessary.

I do wish to refer very briefly to Defence. The hon. Finance Minister has used a stock phrase. I would have been happier if he had not even used that phrase because that phrase has now lost its total meaning and the phrase says: "Defence preparedness is vital for our national security and that the House can rest assured that we will not compromise with our country's security"

19.00 hrs.

I have no doubt about intentions. I have a difficulty only when those intentions are not translated into actions. I do not want to even go into the small point that from Rs. 25,000

crore you go on to roughly Rs. 27,819 crore, which keeping the rate of inflation at 10 per cent, not even taking into account the fall in the rupee value is really not even meeting the normal growth requirement, which will come into the fold and to the responsibility of the Defence Ministry, following upon the Pay Commission's recommendations. If the Pay Commission's recommendations are, say that, of the existing wage structure, the enhancement ought to be existing plus 'x' per cent, where will that 'x' per cent come from?

I am not on that point. I am on the point that you, Sir, Mr. Chairman, as Chairman of the Defence Committee, in your very latest Report, have pointed out. It does not do well for the hon. Finance Minister to say 'We will not let the defence preparedness suffer'. Well, almost the same day as the Finance Minister's such statement your Committee, a Committee of Parliament has been compelled to observe, 'Till today, these Defence Five Year Plan has not been finalized' - I would request the hon. Member from Manhattan to listen to this point. I would request the hon. Member from Manhattan to please pay attention to this. Sir, if your Committee, unanimously, has found it fit to observe that till today, this Government after five years in Office, has not been able to finalize the Defence Five Year Plan, that all allocations that are being made are being made on an *ad hoc* basis, that indeed when your Committee asked of the Defence Secretary - I am not doing anything other than what is already in there, I am not even quoting from the Report because I was very much struck by the fact that you have found it necessary to put the Defence Secretary's testimony there - 'Why is it that you have not yet been able to complete the Five Year Plan?', the Defence Secretary responds by saying, 'I am afraid, Sir,' - I am quoting from memory - 'to that question, I cannot give a straight answer just now'. The Defence Secretary is a very distinguished civil servant and I hold him in regard for the professional competence with which he is fulfilling his responsibilities. But for one wing of the Government to say what the Defence Secretary has said in front of your Committee and for another wing to try and delude us into the thinking that the country's defence needs are being adequately on fully met with, I am afraid, we are completely unconvinced. It is not by point and I do not even expect a very detailed response to all this. We are going through a perfunctory, a proforma exercise. It might or might not do - I tell my friends on the Treasury Benches - justice to us in the Opposition, which you yourselves do not do justice to a person, who, the hon. Finance minister, who really attempted to do the country well. This is not, Sir, the manner in which an account, stock taking as it were of the last five years of this Government's management of economy ought to be handled, now, at seven O'clock, in front of a thin House, but if you are doing it at this time and in this fashion, that, more than anything, I can say is the true reflection of your failure to meet the political challenge of the management of change that you had undertaken to. It is now time, Sir. It is time not only for this debate to conclude; it is really time for this Government to leave us free. It is time that you finally vanished(Interruptions)

We have been so seized with this thing and so enmeshed and because of this provocation that I have received from the hon Member, what I had deliberately not preferred to uptill now to go into an analysis of your saga of corruption. It would really be a demeaning exercise.

Do you know what has crippled all our efforts more than anything else? What has crippled politically and what has already crippled economically and will continue to cripple us? It is the saga of your failure to address yourself to the cancer of corruption from spreading in your Government and if it is there then it has spread downwards. This has been your single great failure.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : Sir, I am on a point of order. Sir, hon. Shri Jaswant Singh was making his observations and I did not want to disturb him. He used the expression, 'hon. Member from Manhattan'.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I do not have any objection.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : But I object to it. It is not your personal property. *(Interruptions)* I am quite serious about it. I want to know whether there is any Parliamentary constituency in this country by the name of Manhattan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He remarked in a lighter vein.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I do not change the constituency also..... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : You do not change the constituency. But are you a Member from Manhattan? ...*(Interruptions)* I am requesting him to clarify.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Take it lightly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Is there any constituency called Manhattan in this country?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You know all the constituencies of India.

The list is published in the Gazette also.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not going to answer because you are asking something which you already know.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Dr. Manmohan Singh and Mr. Jaswant Singh used the word 'perhaps'. But there is no need for that word. He is the only Finance Minister in the history of India who is continued to be the Finance Minister for the whole term presenting five or six budgets or one interim budget or one vote on account. It is not only the House but also the entire country is grateful to him for giving an economic direction during the course of these five years. I would like to say two or three points on this. Just see what was the rate of growth of GDP before he took over as Finance Minister. See what were the exchange reserves before he took over as Finance Minister and also see the percentage of decrease in the people living below the poverty line as they were in 1991 and what they are today. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not disturb please.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Joshiji, you please sit in Pune and you need not come here. I did not interrupt you. *(Interruptions)*

See the massive increase in the employment opportunities and the spurt in investment in industrial sector.. *(Interruptions)* Please see the massive growth in the capital which has taken place. I am happy that some of the international magazines, for the first time, awarded not once but twice, the best Finance Minister award to Dr. Manmohan Singh. It is not only the Congress Party but the entire country feels proud that we had Dr. Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister for the last five years. Sir. Jaswant Singh spoke on one point. I do not speak much on defence preparedness and defence budget. I do not know much about that. It is very easy for you to say about India's lack of defence preparedness. I remember before the Bombay convention of the BJP you called a Press conference in Pune, sorry in Mumbai, I stand corrected, along with some of the retired military generals.

May be you, I do not know. Some retired military Generals said about the lack of preparedness. I do not think that is a very good sign to say. We should not bring party politics in these things. We all know whether there was a Five-Year Plan for the Defence preparedness or not but the country is fully prepared at our borders.

[Translation]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune) : What has happened in Purulia?

SHRI MURLI DEORA : There are people like you.

[English]

There are extremists in our country who are responsible for such Purulia things. You know very well who they are. Whether they are from BJP or from RSS or they are Anand Margis, you know that. I am not saying that you are responsible for dropping the arms there. Do not worry.

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Sir, can you give me one minute on this preparedness of the Army? I am not saying that the Army today is not capable of defending the borders. What was said at Pune in that conference was that in spite of the Governments' inefficiency, their highhandedness, they are badly handling the military preparedness.....*(Interruptions)*

I said it myself. Therefore, we talked of the preparedness and what are the various stages which should be done. The Government of India has failed to do it in the last five years. If you want, let us have a discussion.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : We are coming to an end of the term of this Lok Sabha. This is not time to criticise now. This is not time even to suggest what we should do because there is no time. We are going to the people very soon. The people of India will judge what was the economic agenda put by the Government of Shri P.V. Narashimha Rao and what achievements we have made during the course of these five years. It is the people who

are going to judge. I am sure this economic agenda will be the issue before the electorate this time and not *Mandir, Masjid and Mandal* and what not which have only divided, which have created chaos and bloodshed in our country. I hope that in the coming election, the economic agenda would be about the achievements of the Government and what were their failures also. There is no problem. That will be the agenda.

19.14 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

I am sure, the people of India will then realise that it was a good Government. It was a Government which did well. It was a Government which was supported. Dr. Manmohan Singh did an excellent job. On behalf of the Congress Party, I would like to congratulate Dr. Manmohan Singh for this five year term.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, I am not going to make a speech as such. I just want to commend the real hard work which the Finance Minister has been doing for the past five years. I also reiterate what Mr. Murali Deora has said. We are very happy that there is stress regarding all the facets - as far as the farmers are concerned, as far as the labourers are concerned, as far as the poor in this country are concerned and as far as the downtrodden are concerned. There have been so many schemes. These schemes have worked very well. I just quote two examples. One is the Employment Insurance Scheme which was formulated. I am sure, by way of different budgets, this scheme has been strengthened. This has done a real progress in our rural areas. I commend the Finance Minister for taking up such a programme.

I would also like to congratulate the Prime Minister as well as the Finance minister for taking up a huge programme for housing the poor. I think, there has been a big revolution. I think, this was done in all fairness and in all sincerity. It has been implemented in a big way. But regarding this aspect, I would like to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister as well as the Government that though about Rs. 1,000 crore have been earmarked for housing the poor, we have just a few days more to go. There are very many applications which are pending. For example, some applications were called for through voluntary organisations, like CAPART. When the CAPART did not have facilities to be given for other sanctioned housing schemes, there was a special Committee which was formed under Chairmanship of Mr. Baker who is known for making small houses at a very low cost.

This Committee has been functioning for two to three months but I am sorry to say that so many applications are pending and these applications have to be allowed immediately. From my constituency itself, I know that more than 3000 applications are pending. I am sure that from very many constituencies also, applications are pending. So, I was trying to put a note because this is one aspect on which something can be done within a few days. In all its humility, the Government has formulated the policy and implementation is also in the offing and I think this has to be done immediately.

My last point is regarding farmers. I would like to stress about the farmers in my State. Now, regarding very many agricultural producers, especially in Kerala, they are satisfied to a great extent because there has been some policy changes which have envisaged certain real changes in this field.

MR. SPEAKER : There are so many other Budgets to be passed.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : But with regard to coconut alone....

MR. SPEAKER : You have talked about coconut and we have been discussing it for 45 minutes.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I had brought it to the notice of the Agriculture Minister but now I would like to bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister also that something should be done within a few days to the farmers of Kerala and India who are producing coconut in a big way and I would like to appeal to the Finance Minister, through you Sir, that he must give adequate attention to this sector. I thank you for giving me this opportunity at this last moment.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to express my views on the important aspects of the Interim Budget. On behalf of my party, RSP, I would like to place it on record that I do not appreciate the Interim Budget. This is only because of the fact that after a lapse of four years of globalisation of Indian economy and privatisation of Indian economy, we have arrived at this stage of crisis. It has been claimed in this Budget that we are passing through growth-oriented years and this growth has been increased at the rate of 6.3 per cent. It is my observation that the benefits of growth have not been utilised for growing employment generation. Benefits of growth have not gone to the hands of the poor people. It has gone to the hands of the fortunate people. It has also been claimed in this Budget that the rate of inflation has been brought down below five per cent. I think this is not the reflection of the actual situation and not the actual fact. So far as high prices of agricultural commodities are concerned, it cannot be treated as a fact.

Again, there is the question of fiscal deficit. This Government, during these years, have borrowed huge amount of money from the internal market and also from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. They have taken this loan from the internal market and from the external assistance only because of the fact that they wanted to cover up the deficit but they could not bring down the fiscal deficit in their Budget. So, I cannot appreciate the Budget in the actual sense. There is no sincerity in this Budget for the revival of public sector undertakings. They have become sick and the workers are thrown out of their employment. There is no attempt or sincerity for the revival of the public sector.

Again, there is one thing that I want to point out. They have invited the multinational corporations and foreign technology.

They have invited various techniques and technologies, but they have done no internal preparation. We do not

find any basic preparation for the core industries while they have already invited the multinational corporations. As a result they have invited uneven competition between the sophisticated multinational corporations and the poor indigenous system of industry. This uneven competition has created a good number of crises in our economic life.

Sir, in a very simple way, I beg to place before you that I cannot appreciate this Interim Budget.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur) : Sir, I rise to oppose this Interim Budget. Since it is only an Interim Budget, I would confine myself to discussing the attitude of the Government towards the affairs of the North-Eastern region.

The hon. Prime Minister in this very House announced that he will adopt the North-Eastern States. At that time we applauded and we were very happy thinking that some significant programmes would be taken up soon. But quite to our disappointment, no significant programme has been taken up towards the development of the North-Eastern region. Particularly in regard to my State of Manipur, up to now no significant or remarkable programme has been taken up.

I am quite disappointed to find that the funds allotted for this State are quite below the expectation of the people. The people expected that in return to parting away a very good portion of the State's territory to Burma, and considering the sacrifices made by the State, they will get some more funds. But it is quite to our disappointment that it has not been done. Most of the funds allotted for the State are spent on security purposes, for maintenance of law and order in the State. The present condition is very terrible there. The Ministers and the MLAs there cannot go out of their houses because they are being threatened to be shot by the underground militants. So, most of these funds are spent for providing security for these MLAs and Ministers.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Finance minister to consider the fact that a special and peculiar situation is prevailing in the State of Manipur. Very recently the law and order situation there has terribly deteriorated on account of the indiscriminate firing by the Police commandoes during which a student named Thokchom Neta who was studying in Johnstone Higher Secondary School was killed while waiting for a bus on the road. This caused flaring up of Imphal. Curfew was imposed and innocent people were put to terrible difficulties.

I would, therefore, like to request our Finance Minister for providing more funds for the State for developmental purposes instead of providing only for security purposes.

Sir, my next important point would be that the State cannot afford to have big or large scale industries. The State has been depending on the development of small scale industries. But very meagre fund is allotted as grants or as subsidies for running the small scale industries. We are demanding for a Paper Mill at Jiribam in the area of Manipur. But it has been snatched away by Assam. We are deprived of having this paper mill although we have all the material or infrastructure for the establishment of this mill.

Sir, lastly, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister for allotting more funds for the development of this North-Eastern State of Manipur as well as other States in that Region.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his interim budget has read an regimen of those very economic policies, which he had praised immensely in his first budget. Poverty and unemployment are rising. The real problem facing the nation is not poverty, but unemployment. Unemployment causes poverty. Unemployment problems should have been tackled with well planned way but no such schemes were formulated in the past five years. Employment avenues are decreasing in the organised sector. In the past three years, or so, the work force in the organised sector has come down to 28 million. In this sector, 40 lakh workers have been rendered jobless.

The Government had announced that employment would rise in the unorganised sector after the implementation of the new economic policy. But this did not materialise and as of now the total number of literate and illiterate unemployed persons in the country is 25 crore. The figure regarding those living below the poverty line has been juggled with. The Government claims that only 19 crore people live below the poverty line. But some economists have challenged this and claimed that the real figure is between 31 to 35 crore. The Government has assumed in its figures that all those who were targetted in its poverty alleviation programmes, have risen above the poverty line. But the truth is that, the beneficiaries of the poverty alleviation programmes remain above the poverty line only as long as they get work. But after some time, say after a year or six months, they do not have any work. Yet in the Government's record they continue to be above the poverty line whereas, the ground reality is that they are still in the same condition.

Similar is the situation of exports and imports. The Government has been making a claim that the exports have increased. False data are being produced in regard to exports. I could hold that the hawala Scandal which stands exposed now, and in which people are being arrested, is not of your period. But the policies that you have followed have also given impetus to hawala scandal. Eversince exemption has been given in export, over invoicing in exports and under invoicing in import has become a common practice. You need to reconsider it as to how a large number of fake companies have emerged in the country by putting up a sign board and with the sole aim of getting exemption in income tax. Will the Government give it a thought as to whether the exemption in income tax on export is at the root of giving impetus to false export and projecting wrong data and giving fill up to hawala scandal.

I want to know from hon. Minister as to whether the example of last three years do not confirm the fact that the value of rupee goes down against Dollar every year in January or February? What are the reasons therefor? The value of rupee stabilizes against dollar soon after the first

week of March expires. We are witnessing the same for the last three years. January and February are the month when the value of rupee starts crashing against Dollar. The reason is that Income-tax returns are required to be filed in these three months and fake exporting companies indulge in such a transaction following which the value of rupee crashes against Dollar. I think the Government of India is required to deliberate on this sordid aspect.

Third thing I want to say is that our internal debt liability keeps on increasing. Every department evolves new techniques for promoting their business. Every department launches bonds and schemes for giving relief in income tax. Everyday we go through newspapers about the tax relief offered in bonds by the various departments. Sometimes the interest offered on them is 20 per cent and some other time it is 22 per cent. We daily see such attractive schemes of offering interests on such bonds. We need to think how far we will be successful in making our country economically strong with such schemes. I want the Government to think on the system of mobilising internal loan in our country and evolving new methods for the purpose. The Government have not put forth a new offer during the last three-four years in this regard. Besides, I want to say that regional disparity is increasing and a gap between rich and poor is widening due to policies adopted by the Government. The way consumerism is being imposed on our country and foreign goods are being brought in here, is giving good fillip to corruption and individual disparity due to their availability in the market. Foreign made goods of various brands and quality are pouring in due to your schemes, following which corruption is on increase and the urge of accumulating more and more money is ever increasing. When public money gets exhausted, then definitely private capital will register increase which is good source of corruption. I do not want to go into its detail as to how costly things are available in the market but a few people are using them in their houses as a consumer item and this is proving instrumental in adding to corruption in order to attain these things.

Our growing population is the root cause of increasing poverty and unemployment. The Government of India has not taken effective steps over the last 4 to 5 years in order to check this growing population which is eating up all the growing capital of this country.

I will like to urge upon hon. Finance Minister that election are going to be announced shortly and chances of his remaining in power are bleak. Whichever Government comes to power but unless and until it formulates new policies after good deliberation on these basic things, I think the 21st century is likely to create horrible situation in our country. I conclude while drawing your attention towards apprehension and Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister claimed about the success of the New Economic

Policy. My first point is to point out to the Government, particularly to the Finance Minister, that this claim is not properly justified.

Sir, there is no doubt about the fact that there has been an increase in unemployment. In 1991, the total number of people who wanted employment and got their name registered was about 3.40 crore. Now in 1995, it has grown up to more than five crore. Therefore, you can feel the difference and the consequence of the New Economic Policy.

Sir, poverty has increased and I do not like to give the figure because it has been mentioned earlier by Shri Nirmal Chatterjee. During this period, the contrast is that the aggregate profit of 1,775 houses was about Rs. 3900 crore in the year 1991-92 and in 1994-95, those houses have earned the profit to the tune of Rs. 7,580 crore, almost double. Therefore, my conclusion is that during this New Economic Policy regime, it is some few hundred or some chosen industrial houses which have earned fabulous profits. In this case I also want to mention the names of certain companies. During the period between 1990 and 1994, which is the period of New Economic Reforms regime, ten big companies, namely Bajaj Auto has earned profits exceeding 157 per cent; Reliance 318 per cent; TISCO 121 per cent; Mahendra & Mahendra 393 per cent; etc. etc. Therefore, my conclusion is that during this New Economic Policy regime, it is not the poor, it is not the unemployed, it is not the common man, it is not the downtrodden who have got anything from the New Economic Programme. On the other hand, the big industrial houses has got immense profit and they are enjoying their profit without any restriction.

Sir, I want to mention only one point about the banks. In March 1990, according to me, the bad debt, that is the debt which cannot be realised, was about Rs. 9,354 crore. In 1994 it has risen to 1,62,000 crore. Therefore, even the nationalised banks are not properly functioning and that is also not adding to the prosperity of the nation.

Sir, the country has already entered into the debt trap. What does debt trap mean? It is known to all. As a matter of fact we may take pride that India happens to be the third most indebted country in the world. If that is our pride, I cannot help and I can only rely upon*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have to beat two more countries*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The simple thing is that the outflow is more than the inflow. This is increasing. I have got some figures but I do not like to take the time. The whole thing is that the outflow is more than the inflow taking us, leading us and pushing us to debt trap.

This Budget does not provide any assurance that we shall not be entrapped by the debt trap and we shall be able to maintain our economic sovereignty. Sir, on the other hand, there has been a continuous and an increased offensive from the multinational corporations on our basic industries, on our core industries, particularly, in the power industry and other industries which were always kept as

very strategic areas for economic development of our country.

I want to say that the difference between debt and asset is on the increase. We have got the figures and the Economic Survey also contains that. That was a great anxiety to any patriot, any democrat in our country. I am not going to quote the figures.

Sir, lastly regarding deficit, it is generally stated that 3.5 per cent of the GDP is a tolerable level of deficit. But what is the figure? In 1991-92, it was 5.9 per cent; in 1992-93, it was 5.7 per cent; in 1993-94, it was 7.7 per cent; and in 1994-95, it is 6.7 per cent. Does it mean that our economy is not being properly managed? Therefore, with all this, simply I want to mention that the policy of globalization, liberalization and privatisation is not the way out for the protection and preservation of the economic sovereignty of our country. If the economic sovereignty is imperilled, political sovereignty cannot be saved. Therefore, this is the crisis and this crisis is the crisis for the nation. I feel the people will give the proper verdict and I believe, the people will give a verdict for an alternative economic policy which safeguards the self-reliance, which safeguards our economic prosperity without relying on any of the foreign countries.

I oppose the Interim Budget proposed.

SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take much time as I shall confine my self to only those points which are often ignored by others.

Sir, the Government had introduced the New Industrial Policy and the New Economic Policy. In fact, the New Industrial Policy came into being during the tenure of Janata Dal Government which was getting our support also. Under this policy, emphasis was laid on increasing exports to get more imports and increasing imports to further push up exports. Our economy is getting entrapped in this vicious circle of import-export, but our Finance Minister considers it as an achievement of the Government. Therefore, I have already said and I once again request the hon. Finance Minister to clarify the position while replying to the debate. When we were under the British subjugation our foreign exchange reserves were based in England. At that time these reserves were in Pounds and were increasing because our economic condition was good. Famine in Bengal took a toll of 45 lakh people and ironically our Pound sterling reserves further swelled. True to the stand of his Government Shri Deora has advocated the cause of the private sector. Even the State Governments are emulating the Central Government and are allowing the foreign industrialists to enter the field of production of such goods which are not being produced hitherto.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has claimed that the stocks of foodgrains have increased. Now, it is an open secret that crores of people in this country do not afford even two square meals. Stocks of foodgrains are increasing because the people do not have purchasing power. We produce enough of cloth, yet crores of people shiver in the cold. What is the reason for this, after all? Erosion in

purchasing power is responsible for it. It will be a matter of days before the Finance Minister understands that it will lead to fall in production. No private sector will produce for dumping. It will lead to recession but prices will not fall as was the case in 1929-30. Rise in prices and recession will co-exist. This danger is looming large before us. What would be the remedy. Our media cite the examples of Singapore and Taiwan.

We are a country for 95 crore people. It is not possible for us to feed our people by means of imports only. The talents, craftsmanship and capabilities of 95 crore people should be utilised in production. They should be provided with resources and money and then pressed into production under strict discipline. Our vast power of human resource is not being put to optimum use. Some use was made under IRDP but even the funds of IRDP are pocketed by the middlemen....(Interruptions) When I say so I am not singling out any one political party. It applies to all as this malaise has afflicted one and all. Servant culture is adversely affecting our production. Bihar State is the worst affected in this regard. Some progress was made in West Bengal after land reforms were implemented there, yet that State too is not free from this disease. The New Economic Policy of the Government is encouraging the tendency of becoming servants and then aspire for becoming masters. I think, even the Finance Minister has no control over it.

I would like to thank some of my colleagues whose persistent efforts have resulted in allocation of Rs. one crore annually to each Member of Parliament for the development of their respective constituencies. During the last two years, I spent about one crore rupees exclusively on laying infrastructure for production. In all, I have provided self employment avenues for 95 people at three different places. These self employment units include T.V. and Radio assembling and manufacturing of readymade garments and shoes, etc. I had written a letter to the Finance Minister in this regard and, perhaps, he had issued a directive but the banks do not come forward to extend help. The bank officials take bribe or else they would extend loan facility to the wholeseller who can make repayment without delay. The banks rarely come forward to extend loan for production. Exceptions may be there at some places including Bihar.

A few days back, I had an occasion to visit Agartala in Tripura. I was thrilled to see a wall clock made of bamboo there. The Government of Tripura gave it to me as a farewell gift(Interruptions) I insisted upon paying the price(Interruptions) I was really glad to see that type of wall clock at four different places. Therefore, I want that our labour force, their craftsmanship and talent should be put to use in the national interest. However if a poor person fails to repay the bank loan, he too is liable to be punished. I want that production culture needs to be encouraged. Democracy makes us coward. But if we proceed in this direction without any self interest, the people will understand our point of view. Therefore, I would like the hon. Finance minister to make some amendments in the New Economic Policy and provide money and resources to the people engaged in self employment and exercise strict control over them.

We can bring about revolution in the country in the same way Japan did in 1945-46. They enforced land reforms by fixing five acres as ceiling. India has the potential to overtake even Japan.

Having laid emphasis on this point, I would like to thank all the hon. colleagues in the House and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the sickening and unalloyed eulogy of the hon. Member from Nariman Point for the hon. Finance Minister, I am sorry that the people of the country will not agree with what he said. In this mini election manifesto of the Finance Minister, he was obviously trying to bail out this Government, of which he has been the Finance Minister in the last five years. He has had the distinction of delivering five Budget Speeches but today, at the end of these five years, we know there is still unabated price rise, more unemployment, more poverty- whatever may be their statistics - and more deep-rooted and widespread corruption in this country. These have been referred to by my party colleague, Nirmal Chatterjee also. So, I need not go into all that, although the hon. Finance Minister probably avoided listening to Nirmal Chatterjee. He has spoken on behalf of the party. I shall only refer to very few points because even at this hour, the Finance Minister could respond for the remaining few days he is there as the Finance Minister of this country.

We have been speaking that this country needs a balanced development. These pockets of affluence and large areas of backwardness and poverty have not helped in strengthening the country as a whole. Mr. Deora takes pride that his constituency alone provides twenty-two per cent of the revenue of this country. Does it show a healthy sign?

AN HON. MEMBER : Why not ?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes, it is all right for you to say 'why not'. Sir, does it show a healthy sign? Even Assam which has got a distinguished citizen now by domicile - for convenience sake, somebody has become a domicile of Assam for his election to Rajya Sabha - is still crying for justice. The entire North-East India today is crying for justice. Chairman also is nodding his head in approval. Has the Government any role to play? It is all right to talk of reforms, to talk of liberalisation, globalisation, but do we not want an industrially stronger country, the most able country, where the benefit should go everywhere? Unfortunately, that is not taking place. The Government has no programmes, no policies, no special attempt to do that. Today, I find that whatever he is trying to do - I am not imputing motives to him - he is not getting the result because of the widespread corruption. One day I had asked him a simple question, not inside the House, that can there be reforms and corruptions of this magnitude together and can any country proceed. I am very sorry to say that in spite of my good wishes for the Finance Minister, I cannot help him because he has chosen a bad company. What can we do? Whatever matters are still left with the

Centre, inordinate time is being taken in clearing them. I have to so many times write to him, speak to him. I have to go and formally meet the Prime Minister and tell him that projects which are awaiting before the Central Government are taking too long a time for clearance. Till now one very major project of an oil refinery to be set up by an Indian has not been cleared on the supposed plea that it will not be viable.

I asked the hon. Prime Minister, when I met him on this issue, I gave him a booklet giving the list of industry, I also gave it to the Finance Minister and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission. The Prime Minister asked me, how are they concerned whether it is viable or not? Is it Government money? No, it is private money. I said, how are you asking me? I have come to ask you? Now what are you talking of Mr. Finance Minister, I am sorry.

Now, I am not going into the details of how does the Indian industry get their project finances. All are not rich people. There are middle scale industries, small scale industries and even large scale industries. Today, there is a tremendous liquidity crunch. Somnolent Banking Minister is quite happy, contented. I am not contented. Today the major financial institutions in this country, I do not name them, all are known major banks in this country, are aching financial crunch. I must compliment Finance Minister that I have felt that he has been trying to help them. Without prejudice to what has already been said, I am supporting whatever has been said on behalf of my party. I am trying to raise one or two questions because now he is trying to get credit for the tremendous growth, for the tremendous achievement. You are talking of capital market. Mr. Deora, I heard on the television.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What yes, you can belool yourself. Do not before the country... (Interruptions). Now how was the project going to be financed? Where is the finance available? So far as liquidity crunch is concerned, I am not saying what one of our major Ministers here, who is very much pro-reforms, said. But he also expressed a great concern at the liquidity crunch. The main financial institutions have no money. If you agree with this, why are you giving this certificate? Then, it is alright that the Finance Minister does not feel concerned. Of course, in this country, we have no possibility of knowing the views. In this country, on very many major issues, we have not got the benefit of knowing the Prime Minister's mind. He keeps totally aloof from making his views known to this country. Then, we have no other way except to go in troubling this good man. This Nariman Point has also given that certificate. Then, what is the result of this fall in the value of rupee viz-a-viz dollar? The Finance Minister very easily says, no it will not affect our reform process, it will not affect the industry, it will not affect our growth. It is very easy to say that so many people are clamouring about project viability which they had calculated has gone wrong or 20 per cent difference in the value of the dollar as compared to rupee. Then, what is being done? What is to be done? He give a fatwa that no, it will not affect. On the ground level, the reality is different.

Whether I like it or not, some response has reached me. That is why I come to know all this. I did not know. There are some good people in our country who are such patriot as some of us or all of us let us say. It is not that everybody is trying to make illegal gains. Unfortunately, some of the names have been given who are making more money. They are putting more money in their kitty. But there are honest, sincere people also. I am very happy to tell you, now-a-days, in my experience for 14 years, in the recent five to six months, many young people, technologists - unfortunately, they have not got much financial resources of their own- have come forward and they can serve and produce things better than anybody else perhaps.

20.00 hrs

But they can produce things better than anybody else perhaps. Only the other day a young man, a technologist came and saw me. He said : "we, about 10 or 12 people, have resigned from SAIL and joined different private sector companies." They did so obviously for more salary. Now they are combining to form a stainless steel unit. They said : "where is the money ?" They asked me "can you help us?" I said : "you are born in india; what can I do? Where do I go? I shall certainly speak to the Finance Minister and I shall speak to the IDBI Chairman?

SHRI MURLI DEORA : What about the venture capital?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : They cannot arrange the capital.

[English]

This is the trouble. I find that he is more an academic economist. Kindly help these people. I send these people to you. I shall happily send these people to you, Mr. Murlid Deora. Please help them.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : You know that I always help people who are sent to me.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, these are not frivolous points that I am raising.

MR. SPEAKER : Today I find Mr. Deora very active.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I believe, subject to correction, that the Finance Minister also feels disturbed. Of course, he had to prepare the speech. Although it was an Interim Budget, he mentioned the Prime Minister probably 10 times. He just thanked him for doing nothing. I think he feels disturbed. What is being done ? What is the impression that is being given to the people ? I know that your speech will be published, translated and distributed everywhere free of cost. Your television is there and so many other machineries are there in which it will be published and wrong information will be given to the people.

But that is not the reality. The daily necessities of life are not available to them. Even when you are saying that the prices have gone down their experience is different. So far as the development of this country as a whole is

concerned, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether his speech, so-called Budget speech truly reflects the real position in this country. So, what you have done was very unfortunate. It was an out and out political speech. It was an election oriented Budget speech. It was not a growth oriented Budget speech. One day, this hon. Finance Minister said on the floor of this House that the election manifesto is for election purposes, because he is a new recruit to the Congress Party. I do not know whether he was a Congressman earlier also.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He has been made permanent now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Now he is permanent. Does he pay any subscription to that ?

SHRI MURLI DEORA : You do not worry about that.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He says about his party. One day, on the floor of the House this hon. Finance Minister - finding that his party's election manifesto has been totally jettisoned in all respects particularly in respect of providing employment opportunities to one crore people per year and reduction in the prices of essential commodities - said that the election manifesto is for election purposes. The election manifesto is for election. That is not for being observed. You do not know. You have forgotten. That is why you are in trouble. You do not go near them.

Therefore, Sir, that has been his view. He has chosen to please his leader whose political office days are numbered, no doubt about it. They are trying to prop up a decrepit and stinking regime in this country. I am unhappy that Shri Manmohan Singh has fallen a prey to this.

Sir, the other thing I wish to say, last but not least is(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the Congress Party Members are interested in sitting throughout the night I have no objection. You do not realise how many Bills and how many Budgets have to be passed.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I will take one more minute about the sick industries. We had repeatedly made requests to the hon. Prime Minister, the Finance Minister to make individual review of these cases.

Many of them could be revived because of a strong insistence. Some of them have been revived and are now in your initial list of 37 companies to be wound up. They are being revived and are making profits. In NJMC and NTC, the future of 56,000 workers of independent India is doomed. Their only fault is that they are serving in Government of India concerns. It has been decided to wind up the NTC. NJMC is limping. There is no hope of its revival. ISCO's fate is uncertain. The Jute Corporation employees are suffering. These are all Central Government undertakings. Their workers were not getting any pay in the earlier months. I do not know the position about the recent months. Then so many big companies like MAMC etc. are being wound up.

Now, Mr. Finance Minister, you kindly tell the country the truth. We know what is happening. But your Budget

Speech will give a mistaken idea about the true state of affairs in this country. What is going to happen to Indian citizens whose only fault is that they are working in a Central Government undertaking ?

Now, where is your National Renewal Fund ? Where is your re-training ? Where is your re-deployment ? I was invited to address a seminar on worker's education where the Governor of West Bengal and Shri Sanat Mehta who was Gujarat Finance Minister were also present. He said that National Renewal Fund has become the biggest joke, the hoax. Yes, hoax. It adds to that because it has been used only for the purpose of payment of so called voluntary retirement amount. It is not for re-deployment. It is not for re-training at all. Out of Rs. 2000 crore most of it has been spent. It was his written speech. It is all there.

Therefore, Sir, these are matters which require a direct reply from the hon. Finance Minister. I would only request him to please do not say what you have already said. We have heard you five times. But let us have this answer so that the people could have an opportunity to give their verdict. They will give it, no doubt about it. But tell the truth to the country and how do you explain these difficulties that even honest and sincere entrepreneurs are facing in this country namely, the project financing problems, delay in clearance of the project. Some projects are not even cleared till today. They are lying for months together. You are unable to control the process of clearance of these projects. They are still under consideration.

Sir, these are the issues I wish to add to what has already been said by my colleague Shri Nirmal Chatterjee and I wish the hon. Finance Minister will deal with them.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it necessary Mr. Patra for you to speak?

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per your orders, we had given only one name. If exceptions are allowed, we too will give another name.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : If I allow you, I will be required to allow others to speak from other parties.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since you have ordered to be brief I would touch upon only a few points.

I do not consider it proper to discuss the policy matters today because the days of this government are numbered and it would be futile to deliver sermons on matters connected with policy. But there are certain points which have been mentioned by the hon. Minister in his speech. In a way, he has projected a picture of development of the country during the last five years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently a document of the National Council of Applied Economic Research has been published. Some of its excerpts have appeared in 22nd February and 6th March issues of Business Today. I am sure, the hon. Finance Minister must have seen these issues. If he has not seen them, he would certainly go through them now that he has presented the Budget. He has to go to the people to put before them his point of view. He will feel the need to make some changes in the picture which he has sought to project in the Budget.

Sir, this investigative document of the N.C.A.E.R. deals with New Consumers Classes. This document throws light on Neo consumerism that has come about as a result of the policies of the Government and also with its beneficiaries. Since it is not a full-fledged debate, I would read out only two-three sentences from this document to drive home some of my points. The first point is that this document has gone into the reasons, in details, for the rise of the rich. The cover story appears on page 90 of the journal.

[English]

"The rise of the rich : their undeclared incomes make many households richer."

[Translation]

That is to say that those among the rich who have uncounted income have grown more rich. They say that this estimate was made when we found that black money was growing with some people.

[English]

"In the first computation, uncounted income was assumed to be 20 per cent of the total personal disposable income as estimated by the Central Statistical Organisation."

[Translation]

I agree that it is a Government organisation. These are his words :

[English]

"Now, unaccounted income has been pegged at 50 per cent of personal disposable income and one-fifth has been allocated to rural households."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the achievement of the Government during the last 5 years. Earlier, only 20 percent people possessed black money, whereas now the percentage of such people has gone up to 50. This document has been prepared by the National Council of Applied Economic Research. According to them, the income of 6 lakh and 10 lakh households has crossed Rs. 10 lakh but the annual income of only 1 lakh households has crossed Rs. 50 lakh. This is also one of the achievements of the Government. The new economic policy of the Government

will further widen the gap between the rich and the poor. This is what we can expect from this Government. This is the report of the National Council of Applied Economic Research. There is no need to elucidate it further. One could get further information in this regard from "Business Today" costing Rs. 25/- per copy in the market. The Government claims that the growth rate is 7 per cent, 6.5 per cent or 5.9 per cent. The growth rate, sometimes, changes from month to month. We would like to hear from the hon. Minister as to the fields in which growth has taken place. He is just giving the details of G.N.P. and G.D.P. When the Government is linking imports and exports with G.D.P. What is its limits that we would like to know. So far as total growth is concerned, the hon. Finance Minister admits that there has been maximum production of motor vehicles being used by the rich people.

[English]

The growth of automobile production has gone up by 30 per cent in the country.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): What is the number of motor cars ?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is not the question of number. The Government is coming with a package to show that the growth rate has gone up by such and such per cent.

[English]

If the G.D.P. is growing at 5.9 per cent or 6 per cent, automobile sector is growing at 30 per cent.

[Translation]

Country's wealth is concentrating in the hands of rich people. Their necessities are growing rapidly. The Mercedes Benz is selling at Rs. 25 lakh. The Ford and General Motors of America have also entered the Indian market. None of these vehicles are made in India. In last 12 years the Suzuki Company has not manufactured a single vehicle in the country. We may call it Maruti or by any other name. I can throw a challenge in this regard. The money sent by this company abroad is far less than the amount that has come here from other countries in the last 12 years. These people only talk of export. When 2000 vehicles were exported to an East European country, the Managing Director of the Company claimed in a Press Conference that there has been enormous increase in the export of their vehicles. He should have been in jail. The Government should look into the state of affairs of that company. The company has drained out more foreign exchange than it has earned in the last 12 years.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South) : You are misleading the House. You are just saying that, Maruti or

Suzuki is important. You are shouting. Others also should talk to you.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are the spokesman of these multinational companies. I shall not use a harsh word than this. You are doing leadership for them. What I can expect from you in regard to foreign companies.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I do not need your certificate.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am not going to yield.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am replying to the point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : The entire development structure of the Government aims at inviting the foreigners and providing all sort of facilities to them. Mr. Speaker, Sir is it cricket match or war taking place in the country these days? While one says that we are only the officials, the other says that there is nothing official about it. It is nothing but war. One can notice various advertisements being made for this purpose. For everything we require foreign money. If we arrange a cricket match, we want foreign money. No sector in the country can be run without foreign assistance.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : In telecommunication?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Shri Sukh Ram is sitting here. We wished that he should speak here so that we could interrupt him, (*Interruptions*) I have all along been saying that country's telecommunication sector is controlled by the foreigners. U.S.A., which is a capitalist country, does not allow more than 20 per cent investment to foreigners. The Government did a great injustice to the country by allowing 50% foreign investment. I can not use the word 'treason' against the Government as the same will be expunged from the proceedings by the Hon. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER : It has been made 49 per cent.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If not 50% it is 49%. The external invasion on Indian culture is the 5 years' achievement of the Government. Their friendly hand is not with poor of the country. People possessing vehicles costing upto Rs. 25 lakh each and their foreign friends receiving sale proceeds of these vehicles live here.

The hon. Minister of Finance will be astonished to hear the information that I will give him. A foreign company manufactures drugs in the country. It is Rosal India Ltd. by

name. This company has 100 per cent foreign capital investment. Only the name is India Limited. Eight to ten months ago it was known as Framycetin tulle. It used to manufacture bandage in India. Its factory is located in Than near Mumbai with the advent of new economic policy the company stopped manufacturing the item in India and opened new company by the name of Sofra tulle framycetin. There is no difference in name. The company started manufacturing the same item. It is being imported and now being sold in India at 30 per cent higher cost. The same bandages were available to Indian users with 30 per cent less a cost when manufactured in India. About 50 to 100 people who were employed by this company have been rendered jobless. It is a British company. It helped providing job opportunities in England. So it also increased the cost by 30 per cent. As a result of this maximum profit of the company is now going into the pockets of foreigners. This is a glaring example of the new economic policy of the Government. I have been raising this point for last 5 years. But the hon. Minister never responded this point. The Government is in a bid to sell out the country. It is foolishness on my part to give such instances.

With the entry of the Cococola and Pepsi, the cold drink manufacturing units of the country have totally been ruined. The Government has no reply to this. There is a company called the Kellogs Company at Khan Market which produces Corn Flakes. The price of this product is shown in sterling and pound terms. In other markets of Delhi also the prices of this product is given in sterling and pound terms. This company produces Basamati rice flakes in Pune. When I was 4 years old, an old widow used to prepare 'Cheuda'. In each and every village in Bihar one can find 8-10 families preparing 'Cheuda'. Now foreign companies have been invited to manufacture 'Cheuda'. They have been allowed 100 per cent capital investment. The Government is responsible for the draining out of countries money abroad, creating job opportunities abroad and throwing the old rural ladies out of employment.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : It sells Rs. 28 per kilogram.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Where are you living? It is selling at Rs. 275 per kilogram.

[English]

When they first introduced in the market, it was sold at Rs. 250 a kilo.

[Translation]

Today it is selling at Rs. 175 per kilogram. There are some patriots who take nothing but this 'Cheuda' at the breakfast. Over and above its price is written in pound and sterling terms on the packet. Then it is but natural that its cost will be once and half times more. This is what the Government has done. This is the friendly hand. But for whose sake it has been done? Is it for the common man?

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): It is Bhasmasura's Hastha.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, the hon. Minister of Commerce is present in the House. He is making tall claims in regard to the imports and exports of the country. He goes around the world in connection with his work. But let me know the fields in which exports have increased. There is no Minister of food at present since this department is being looked after by the hon. Prime Minister himself. A deal for exporting two lakh tonnes of pulses has been struck. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know the extent of powers the Government has in this regard. If it has any powers in exercise of these powers it should increase export and deprive the common man of the country of protein.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I respect you. But you should not mislead the House. If you are saying that we are exporting lentil on a large scale, if I remember correctly, the total quota for export of lentil is only ten thousand tonnes. I think, what you are saying is utterly misleading.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will get you the newspaper clippings in this regard, tomorrow morning.....(Interruptions) If the hon. Minister is right, I am ready to accept it. I do not have any personal grudge against him. I will rather feel happy. I would like to request you.....

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Let me also tell you that we import more than a million tonnes of pulses and we export only ten thousand tonnes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will feel happy if nor a single tonne of pulses is exported from India. Then, there will be no need to import pulses. I would like to register my complaint that we are trying to export food items meant for the poor and at the same time importing cars for the rich. Today fish are not available for the common man whereas it is being exported. Food items like banana are being exported. A number of other items are being exported. The Government cannot deny this fact. The export of polished diamonds attract a lot of money. For this purpose uncut diamonds are imported. After polishing them, they are exported since the polished diamonds attract 20 to 30 per cent more price. We are exporting readymade garments and also boasting of exporting a number of other items in competition with other countries. But this is not true. On the contrary, we are importing cars, scotch whisky and cut glass items.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : In your time, it was coming through the smugglers and your friends were getting it. Now people can get it and that too by paying a duty of 250 per cent. We are collecting duty whereas your regime was benefiting only the smugglers.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the grievance that the country is being run for the sake of just half per cent population of the country. By leaving a duty of 250 per cent we are allowing big hotels to import scotch whisky. The Government claims that by doing this it is serving the country but in my view it is nothing but simply misleading the country.

Lastly, I would like to make mention about the policy of privatisation. This is also not going to fetch any good results. Tomorrow, if the Parliament is dissolved then the actual fighting will be fought in the streets. That will show its own results but what privatisation is being done by the Government. They are simply selling out the assets, which were created by the hard earned money collected through taxes during last 47 years, to the so called entrepreneurs in the name of privatisation at throw away prices. Every Indian has his share in that money which he has earned by dint of hard labour. This is the same money which has been given in the hands of local as well as foreign companies. If the Government claims that it is friendly hand then the sooner this hand is cut the better it will be for the country. We are fully prepared to meet the Challenge.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon Members who have taken part in this debate. At this fag end of the day it would not be possible for me to deal with all the points. I find my esteemed friend Shri Jaswant Singhji is away but when I listened to him, I did not get a feeling that despite all the pressures of what is called as 'Swadeshi Jagran Manch', he or his party have been able to produce a coherent view of economic policies. And, I did sympathize with him when I listened to him, because while he was appreciative of what has been done, and I recall for example, on the same question of the Cola war as Mr. George Fernandes referred to, last year when Shri Jaswant Singh was asked in a public meeting, 'what difference does it make' and he said, 'it increases the consumer choices'. But he has his compulsions he has his friends - I think we knew - he has to guard himself and I sympathize with him for his - I think - predicament.

Now, let me say that our government is committed to a policy which seeks to deal with the fundamental problems of poverty and unemployment. Whether it was Shri Somnath Chatterjee or Shri Fernandes, despite all this rhetoric, I did not hear from them a coherent counter view and whatever they may say, what the West Bengal Government does in West Bengal I judge them from that, not what they say in this House, the number of recommendations that I get from the Government of West Bengal, and I

congratulate them. I think in favour of multinationals, if that is an indicator then neither Shri Somnath Chatterjee - what he said today, nor Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee - what he said today, is really representative of the new moods of West Bengal and I congratulate Shri Jyoti Basuji and I congratulate Shri Somnath Chatterjee for having really brought about a shift in the minds of the Communist Party or West Bengal(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, no State in India is an independent State.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I appreciate your compulsions.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The question is, because of the delicensing certain benefits have come and, we have to take advantage of them.

But for question is, irrespective of national interest whether we are wooing foreign investment. Please say that. Be fair. I am prepared to discuss each one of them. Kindly see what Mr. George Fernandes has warned us and say whether we have done anything of that sort. Therefore, do not say that we are not true here. He says we are taking an attitude which is not correct, according to him.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : He is complementing the West Bengal Government and he is saying that you are more in consistence with the national thinking than any other party.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know to which party Mr. George Fernandes belongs. At one time he belonged to the Janata Dal. I had the privilege last month of sharing a common platform with the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka. This is in public record of what he said on that occasion about our economic policies. He said : "I was a Member of Parliament. I did not see the good points of the new economic policies. I now see that for the farmers of Karnataka, for the workers of Karnataka and for the rest of Karnataka this is the good policy". That is the verdict of the people.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Take him into your party.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I had the privilege of having with me in Davos last month the hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat. I think he went out of his way without any provocation to say that they are the real liberalisers, that under their regime there is going to be no change in economic policy. Whatever they may say in the House, I can see their compulsions. But I draw encouragement from what is happening in our country. I thought Parliament in some way was the mirror of the public opinion. But I feel today that the Members of Parliament are out of touch with the fast changing mood of our country. When I go for example to far away distant parts of our country, people talk of it. I do admit that there is a lot of poverty in India. We have to mount a frontal attack on problems of poverty, on problems of unemployment. When I go to the distant corners of India today, in the villages of India, I find apples from Himachal Pradesh, the northeast, the south. That is the measure of change that is coming about.

It is nobody's case that in five years time you can solve all the problem of this country. But I would honestly say that a serious effort has been made to grapple with the formidable challenges that this country faces. I can honestly say that if we had not done what we did into 1991-92 and 1992-93, India would have been in the same predicament that once the most powerful Soviet Union was. I think we prevented India from disintegrating. We converted a crisis into an opportunity to redress, to deal with some of the most fundamental problems of poverty and unemployment.

Statistics can be used in many ways. Mr. Jaswant Singh is not here ; so I do not have to refer to the statistics. If you were to take a five year period, with the crisis of 1991-92 included in it, you can compare it with the previous five years - of those five years also with the exception of one year because they were also the years of our Government. So, I am not saying that those years were bad. But I do submit to you that the fundamental reforms that we have made today have created basis in our country of a growth rate of at least six per cent. They have created in our country a base to create jobs of about 7.5 to 8 million people which is an all-time record. They have created a basis to remove poverty in a period of ten years. These are not my figures(Interruptions)

I would say that the proportion of people below the poverty line is declining. If you do not believe the statistics, you are welcome to live in a world of your own illusions, but facts are sacred and opinions can be different. And the statistics I am mentioning to you on the reduction of proportion of people below the poverty line from over 25 per cent in 1987-88 to less than 19 per cent, is the result of a consent methodology that the Planning Commission have followed for the last fifteen years.

Now, with regard to the prices, it is certainly true that in the situation that we were in 1991-92, we inherited an economy where we did not have, I think, seven days' imports. I think, we could not import kerosene; we could not import fertilizers. We were in an economy which was living from day-to-day. Now, in that sort of an environment, nobody could prevent prices from rising. Prices did rise in 1991-92. At one time, they reached an annual level of about seventeen to eighteen per cent. The danger was that India would go the Soviet way; the danger was that India would go the Latin American way, India would go the African way. We prevented that crisis gradually. We have controlled the rate of inflation. Today, it is no more than five per cent I would now, once again, say that for the last two years, the prices of food grains, both of wheat and rice, supplied through the public distribution system have not changed. If you look at the prices of vegetable oil, they have remained constant if you look at the prices of sugar, they have remained constant; if you look at the prices of kerosene, they are lower than they were in 1991. Now, the prices of essential commodities today are under better control.

I do recognize that inflation still is a problem that we have to work together to bring prices under control. But how can we bring prices under control? We have to reduce the fiscal deficit; we have to improve the productivity of the economy; we have to reduce the losses of the public sector; we have to improve the productivity of our agriculture. That is what we are trying to do.

I would also like to tell this to the House. I think, Mr. Jaswant Singh is not here. He referred to the problem of agriculture. Never in the history of India, have our farmers been given such good remunerative prices as in the last five years and we are proud of doing that despite the great difficulties, financial difficulties. The price of wheat payable to the farmer before our Government came to Office was Rs. 220 per quintal; today it is Rs. 380 per quintal. The price of paddy, before our Government came into Office, was Rs. 205 per quintal, today, it is Rs. 360 per quintal and I can go on. We are proud of our farmers. Indian agriculture has never had it so good and we will work together to give more incentives to farmers. Despite financial difficulties, we have, last year, provided a subsidy of Rs. 6,000 crore to our farmers. We will never do anything which will hurt the interest of India's farmers. At the same time, our Government is committed to protect the interests of the vulnerable sections. Last year, the food subsidy bill was over Rs. 5,000 crore. I can take the House into confidence. Last year, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, for whom I have great respect, wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and he said, Mr Prime Minister, let us evolve a consensus about these basic things like food subsidies, like fertilizer subsidies'.

I then wrote to him to ask, what would you consider as a reasonable amount of subsidy for food and fertilizer. He said if you provide a subsidy of food in the budget of Rs. 6,000 crore that would be adequate. We fully, I think, lived up to that commitment. That only shows that even Opposition leaders and responsible leaders of the Opposition, when they sit in the chairs of responsibility do recognise the good things that our Government is doing. I do not blame Shri Somnath Chatterjee and I not blame Shri Fernandes while sitting in this House on the opposite side when they have to do their duties, when we have to do our duties as well

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is he charging me of insincerity ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No (Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Sir, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has raised very valid questions about balanced developments. In my very first Budget speech I had said we want to liberalise but you would never believe that markets are an answer to all problems. In the very speech I had said in a country where millions of people live on the edges of subsistence, market signals can never reach them. And that is why the Prime Minister talks about market plus approach. That is what he calls by-pass model. While we mus:

strengthen the growth impulses in our economy. we must simultaneously strengthen the anti-poverty programmes. In this Government's life, the rural Development Programme, a programme which help the poor directly have received the amount of attention they have never received before in the history of our development experiences. We had promised to spend Rs. 30,000 crore on rural development. We are going to improve upon that We will spend actually Rs. 34,000 crore even according to the Interim Budget. Sir, we have launched a national-wide mid-day meal programme. Despite financial difficulties eleven crore children of India would benefit from that scheme. Sir, We have last year launched a programme for providing old-age pensions and to all destitutes, people living below the poverty line. According to my calculation at least seventeen lakh old people will benefit from that. *(Interruptions)* For all our pregnant women, the Central Government is going to provide for those living below the poverty line assistance of Rs. 300 for all contingencies, like pre-natal and post-natal medicines and that is going to benefit at least 50 lakh women and the children who will be born. I think this is the commitment. *(Interruptions)* We have today the Urban Employment Assurance Programme which operates in over 3,000 poorest blocks of our country in which two adult members of each family are entitled to assured employment of hundred days. Let me assure that if our Government comes back into power, we will extend this programme to cover the entire country. Guaranteed Nationwide Employment Programme is next on our Agenda. As I pointed out in my Budget speech, I had set out a division of what we will be doing in the next five years. We will have an economy which grows at the rate of 7 to 8 per cent. We will have an economy which will create an environment in the villages of Bihar and in the rest of India in which Infant mortality rate will go down to the levels that prevail in Kerala. We will work to improve the national health system in that direction. I think, that is the road that we have set for ourselves.

Let me say about corruption also. There is a lot of corruption today. I am not denying that. But we are tackling corruptions at its source.

First of all the licensing system, of which Mr. Fernandes is a great champion, was the biggest source of corruption in our country. I know why certain politicians are fond of certain industrialists. I do not want to name them for various reasons. But those unscrupulous industrialists flourished under precisely the regime which we are trying to get rid of. Today, these people do not need liaison office. Small industry is the biggest beneficiary of the new policies that we have adopted because they cannot afford to entertain politicians.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should show his finger to that side and not to us.

MR. SPEAKER : No pointing of finger.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : If you look at the statistics of small industry, small industry has grown faster than the

rest of the Indian industry. That itself is an answer to all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : You just tell us as to what are the achievements to your Enforcement department in Jain Hawala case. You have not said anything in this regard.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : The second source of corruption is smuggling. For 50 years, this country was importing gold. Who were importing it ? It was done by the smugglers and their friends. We have liberalised the import of gold.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I uphold your point of order. He will address me. I do not want to be neglected.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I was saying that for nearly 50- years, this country was importing gold. But it was coming through courtesy smugglers. That is why the smugglers came to acquire such a hold on our national life.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : To whom you are telling this. It is your party which was in power during this period.

[English]

You are the beneficiaries of this smuggling.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Our Government has liberalised the import of gold. Our Government has liberalised the import of silver. I am not saying that smuggling has been eliminated. But important steps have been taken to reduce the hold of smugglers on the national economy.

Before our Government came to office, thanks to the influence of people like Mr. Fernandes, artificially, duties were raised to 300 per cent knowing full well that they will benefit only the smugglers and their friends. We have reduced the import duties. In the process, the scope for smuggling has been greatly reduced, some ten years ago, I went to Japan and found their factories were producing sarees. I said, "Where are you exporting the sarees because India does not import sarees ? We have still a ban on consumer goods." They all laughed at me. Thousands of synthetic sarees were being smuggled from Japan to India. That was the import regime. We are changing that gradually. We are doing it in a manner that it will not hurt the Indian industry. So, ours is a programme not only of economic regeneration but a programme of moral regeneration of our country.

[Translation]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : What the Enforcement Department is doing in regard to Jain Hawala case.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I am coming to *hawala*. That is an important source of black money of all the ill-gotten wealth of the tax rates which were raised very high but they were never made effective.

So, unscrupulous Industrialists, unscrupulous civil servants and unscrupulous politicians got a field day. Our Government has a policy of moderating tax rates but with stricter appliance. The result is that, in these years, we have collected over and above the figures that I have put in my Budget, about Rs. 7000 crore more by way of taxation. I meet today hundreds of young entrepreneurs; they come to me and say, "Well, you have saved us. Now, we can accumulate and we can reinvest in industries and remain honest." I think what we are doing, therefore, is not a programme merely of economic development of social change but a programme of moral regeneration.

About *hawala* what this *hawala* business? This *hawala* business is a by-product of a system where you have tight import controls, you do not allow anything to come without going through the various paraphernalia of controls, many exchange controls, you pretend that India can live in a world isolated from the rest of the World and therefore, these racketeers flourish. Ours is a policy of striking at the root of these racketeers(Interruptions)..

SHRI RUPCHAND PÁL : All these years, serious economic offences have been committed, What has the Finance Minister been doing about it?(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : The first step towards that was the convertibility of the rupee on the current account. In the next term of our Government, we will make rupee converted on capital account and I saw an interview yesterday in which even Mr. Somnath Chatterjee has endorsed it that should be done(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, all these people are shouting at me.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Mr. Chatterjee, we do not agree with them. We support you(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I compliment Mr. Somnath Chatterjee on that account. What I was saying is India today faces many opportunities. Despite all that has been said in this House today, there is an underlying basic consensus that this country must go forward and that we must claim our rightful place in the comity of nations. The world that is now on the horizon is going to be a fresh, harsh and competitive world. And only by making full use of modern science and technology, recognising India's great inherent strength of possessing a grip, a sense of adventure and enterprise, we can realise our nation's basic economic and social goal of getting rid of chronic poverty, ignorance and disease which still afflicts millions and millions of people. In these five years, we have laid a sound foundation. I will be the last one to say that the task

is completed. It is far from complete and we need another five years to get rid of poverty for all years to come (Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he has not answered two major points about liquidity crunch and project financing.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Sir, today, there is a problem of liquidity shortage but this is a product of rapid growth.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How can there be growth without money?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Our industry is now growing at the rate of about 10-12 per cent. Let me also assure the House that this is a temporary problem. Our capital market mobilised about Rs. 27,500 crore last year and my expectation is, this year also probably, they will mobilise roughly the same amount. Because of the international interest rates, our companies were not able to go to the international capital markets and the GDR market. Now, SAIL has gone; SAIL has raised it and you will see that in the next few months, many of these companies will be able to raise a lot more money.

21.00 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is for big companies.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : In regard to smaller companies, I can assure you that our Banking system remains committed to protect the essential interests of farmers and small industrialists.

A reference was made by a friend from the North-East. Last month the Hon. Prime Minister has inaugurated a new Development Bank for the North-East with an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crore. This Bank will pay special attention to removing the regional imbalances which prevail in the North-East. But I do recognise that regional imbalances are not confined only to the North-East. Problem of Orissa, problems of Bihar, problems of Uttar Pradesh require a fresh look. We need resources but with the policies that we have adopted, if the resources now go more and more to social development, the States will have more manoeuvrability to deal with the problems of backward areas. We are not going to(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I thought your last speech will answer some of the basic problems.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I have answered all the problems(Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : He was answered every point....(Interruptions).....

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : He has not said anything about the sick industries....(Interruptions) Tell us about the sick industries.(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Companies like NTC, Jute Corporation(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I should, Sir, with your permission, like to explain our Government's policy with regard to public sector in general and the sick units in particular(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : The Minister has not said anything about the self-employed people(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Our Government will do nothing to hurt the growth of viable public sector. We will give all possible encouragement to profitable public sector to expand. As regards the non-profitable public sectors, those which can be revived, we will make every effort(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You have not done that.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : This is not true. You know yourself that it is not true. You have come to me. I can count any number of companies for which I have(Interruptions) Our policy is that wherever sick public sector units can be revived, we shall revive them. Whether(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : You are not reviving them; you are rejecting them. You are making them further sick. I can give you a number of examples.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Acharia, you know the truth. I think I do not have to remind you of that.

What I was saying is, Sir, whichever public sector unit can be revived, our Government will make every effort to revive. Where(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is this "can be revived"? What attempt is being made to revive them? This "Can be revived" is a very enigmatic thing. My charge is, you are not trying to revive them(Interruptions).... This is very serious. Sir, 56,000 workers are going to lose their jobs and the Government of India is not concerned. What is all this thumping the desks? This is shameful. This is absolutely shameful....(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Workers are not getting salaries for months together.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : People will give their verdict.(Interruptions) The Finance Minister is deliberately avoiding this, what is the good of saying "which can be revived"? What attempt has been made to revive them? I have given the names of them., Sir, there was a commitment on the floor of the House both by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister that there will be a review of every unit and that they will take us into confidence. Nothing ever has happened. Sir, there is no response from the Government.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Finance Minister should, at least, state the names of five sector units which have been revived.(Interruptions) Let the Finance Minister tell the House at least about five or six companies which have been revived by him during the last four years. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will he respond or will he not respond? (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a fact that 56,000 workers actually are having problems. Regarding NTC and NDMC, I would like to request the Minister that there must be some special package so that NTC employees all over the country should get their benefit. (Interruptions) and there should be(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has repeatedly been said that closed sick mills will be revived soon. Hon. Minister of Finance is requested to give names of at least five sick mills which have been revived since.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Will the hon. Finance Minister kindly tell us what steps you have taken to revive the sick NTC, NDMC....(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Sir, with regard to the National Textile corporation, our Government has a plan of revival by the sale of(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : For the last one year you are saying that.(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Let him complete. Then you raise.(Interruptions)

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : This is the matter which the Textile Minister should look after(Interruptions) I am not familiar with all the individual units. But if any member is interested, I will supply to him the number of sick units that have been revived. Mr. Acharia knows it and Mr. Somnath Chatterjee knows it. (Interruptions) I do not know now, I will send it(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : His Speech is a big farce. He has not even given names of only five companies.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Finance Minister is giving an excuse as the Textile Minister is not present in the House and therefore he is not replying the points made by the hon. Members. Does he not know what is happening in this country about the sick industries? Is it not the job of the Finance Minister to look after them, try for their revival? You go on thumping your desks but the people of the country will give their verdict very soon. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Since the hon. Minister of Finance has not replied any of our questions, we stage a walkout.

[English]

21.09 hrs.

Shri Ram Naik and some other hon. Members then left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Hon. Minister of Finance has not replied an important question in the House. When he assumed his office a dollar was equal to 17-18 rupees and during his five years term it increased to Rs. 38. He did not reply as to why the rupee has devalued to such an extent. Mr. Speaker Sir, I am leaving the House

21.12 hrs.

Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi then left the House.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Is it true that since the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Commerce are vegetarians, they are promoting export of fish.

[English]

I want to know whether it is a fact that because the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister are vegetarians, therefore, they are not caring for the interest of the people of this country and are allowing export of fisheries.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : The hon. Minister has gone beyond ambit of the matter. During the elections for the Ninth Lok Sabha the ruling party in its manifesto had declared to bring down the prices of essential Commodities within 100 days. Hon. Minister of Finance has not mentioned even a single word about how many folds the prices of essential items have gone up(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now this is another speech.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : He has not mentioned even a single word about the price rise. There is a constant price rise. Now I am leaving the House

[English]

21.13 hrs.

Shri Bhogendra Jha then left the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1995-96 to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective supplementary 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 India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1996 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof."

1, 4 to 9, 12 to 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 31 to 37, 39 to 46, 48, 49, 51 to 54, 57, 58, 63 to 65, 69, 70, 73, 75 to 81, 84, 85, 89 to 91, 93, 95 to 99.

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 1996-97 to vote.

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 India on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1997 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 26, 28, 29, 31 to 58, 60 to 90, 92, 93 and 95 to 100."

The motion was adopted.

21.15 hrs

[English]

THE APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 1996*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1996-97.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 1996-97."

The motion was adopted

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I introduce the Bill.**

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may move the motion for consideration.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I beg to move :**

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the Financial year 1996-97, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India