

times that I have been in this Parliament. We have had occasions, from the days of late Shrimati Gandhi, of borrowing from these international agencies. Every time I had made this point. You will borrow this money, be it 'x' billion dollars or 'x' million dollars, if three years from now this money is spent and what we had set out to achieve with this money is not achieved, are you going back to the IMF or the World Bank? And, with sickening regularity we have gone back. I would submit to the hon. Finance Minister that in this there is one great shortcoming and the one great area of doubt that I have is about the profligacy of expenditure when it comes to the Government itself. I do not think that this Government, and with due regard both personal and professional for the hon. Finance Minister, this Finance Minister can succeed in curtailing this elephantine, uncontrollable expenditure of this bureaucracy, that is India. The bureaucracy, that is India, is not merely an expenditure it is also like the weeds that are clogging up the free flow of water. It is some kind of clogging of veins and arteries of India. Unless you address yourself there, we will not cut down expenditure, we will not achieve efficiency.

I will conclude with just one thought which I shared with the hon. Finance Minister earlier in a different context. Uptill yesterday we were told that the economic gods that we are to worship are the Gods of centralised planning. It is almost a sacrilege even to utter about them. For the last two years we have been told that now the God that we have to worship is free market economy. I do not mean it personally at all, Sir, but I treat all economist with great suspicion. I have seen the god of centralised planning perish. I am also not sure in my mind that the God of free market in the economy is the God in which we will find all answers and it is the panacea that we are looking for and it is the God that will provide salvation to India. I would be happy if the hon. Finance Minister share his thoughts on that subject.

I submit again that the 315 million Indians who live below the poverty line do require State intervention but they require State

intervention from a State intervention from a State that is just, from a State that is caring, from a State that is compassionate and above all from a State that is honest and a State that is able to efficiently deliver what is required to be delivered to those 315 million Indians. I am also not so sure that for those 315 million Indians these reforms, welcome as they are, will serve the purpose of lifting them-however fudged the figures of lifting them up are from that absolute tethering of poverty.

Sir, I am grateful to you for the time that you have given me to speak. thank you, Sir.

17.55 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): I beg to present the Tenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.56 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Present Economic Situation in the country with reference to the Steep rise in Prices of Essential Commodities in recentd months, deficit Financing, the foreign exchange crisis and the Conditionalities Sought to be imposed by the International monetary fund -Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since, we have got